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Peter Holmes: [00:00:06](#) Welcome to episode one of This Catholic Life. This is a podcast where we have conversations about life's ups and downs, big and small, how we deal with every situation imaginable, whatever life throws at us and still managed the sensible, practical and joyful. Today's show is going to be appropriately named new in town. As we are in fact new. I'm your host Peter Holmes. I'm joined today by Renee Kohler Ryan and Ryan Galliot or as we both know him and we can have trouble not calling him box because that's been his nickname for some time.

Rian Galliot: [00:00:38](#) That's how most people know me.

Peter Holmes: [00:00:40](#) You have to tell us why? Why box? I've known you as box for donkey's years.

Rian Galliot: [00:00:45](#) Yeah for years. Look, honestly, it started with the ministry. I was involved in a lot of youth ministry when I was younger, and my Filipino name is Bokyo [crosstalk 00:00:54]. So I had a lot of people saying, hey, we're going to call you Baza. And I said, no, no not Baza. So it was shortened to box.

Peter Holmes: [00:01:03](#) Yeah, good choice.

Rian Galliot: [00:01:05](#) It was a good choice I think. It was a good trade off.

Peter Holmes: [00:01:06](#) So what it was Bok...

Rian Galliot: [00:01:08](#) Bokyo.

Peter Holmes: [00:01:08](#) Bokyo.

Rian Galliot: [00:01:09](#) So it's Tokyo with a B.

Peter Holmes: [00:01:10](#) All right, so what does it mean?

Rian Galliot: [00:01:12](#) Apparently in one of the dialects in Philippines, it means crazy one.

Peter Holmes: [00:01:17](#) We picked well. It translates well Boks yeah that works. So we can't put you in a box, but it's worth saying a little bit about who we are. I'm Peter Holmes as I said. I lecture in scripture and in ancient languages and marriage and sexuality at Notre Dame. Renee is a professor in philosophy at Notre Dame. I forgot to mention that Ryan's an artist and has many things.

Rian Galliot: [00:01:42](#) Struggling artist.

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- Peter Holmes: [00:01:43](#) It kind of sounds like the beginning of a joke, doesn't it? The theologian, the philosophy and the artist. What [crosstalk 00:01:50] anything.
- Renee Kohler: [00:01:51](#) It's really catholic.
- Rian Galliot: [00:01:52](#) Any occupation you can think of that doesn't earn money, that's what I do.
- Peter Holmes: [00:01:56](#) So moving into... I mean we've come here, why are we doing this podcast? What's, what's going on with this podcast? Why would we bother recording a conversation about life, the universe and everything. Most people get on with this and their normal lives. So why are we doing this podcast? God.
- Renee Kohler: [00:02:17](#) Why are we doing this podcast Peter?
- Peter Holmes: [00:02:19](#) Excellent. Excellent question Renee. Why are we doing this podcast? Because we wanted to have an extended conversation thinking about life, the universe and everything is an essential element of living at life and living life well. So we wanted to have that conversation and podcasts are one way in which people in the modern world are having extended conversations, not just with each other but with their audience and we want to engage the audience. We want to, we want to hear from you guys about this, but we're going to start the discussion if you like and prompt you to respond to us through various ways. I want to begin by congratulating the people who put together this studio, the equipment for the podcast and particularly our producer Mike for the hard work that's gone into this so far.
- I know personally we've been going back and forth on this for some time. It's been almost a year now since we started sort of...
- Michael Lynch: [00:03:01](#) It's been a long time and we're finally here.
- Peter Holmes: [00:03:05](#) and then you hear the voice of Mike there. He'll be pulling us back into line when we get out of-
- Renee Kohler: [00:03:09](#) Control.
- Peter Holmes: [00:03:10](#) -out of control were designed to be a series of conversations about daily life. But we're also going to have a lot of fun doing it because life should be fun. It should be joyful. And joyful is not just being giggly or happy. It means actually finding meaning in what we do. So we're going to muddle through everyday life

with you guys as we talk this through. So let's start with ordinary life. What have you been up to this week, Renee?

- Renee Kohler: [00:03:36](#) What haven't I been up to? That's the real question here.
- Peter Holmes: [00:03:36](#) It's been packed.
- Renee Kohler: [00:03:39](#) It has been packed. So last weekend it was great because one of our sons was confirmed.
- Peter Holmes: [00:03:39](#) Oh Wow!
- Renee Kohler: [00:03:45](#) And that was just so joyful. So he's generally a little bit reserved, but you could just see the holy spirit made some kind of powerful impact there because he was giggly and joyful.
- Peter Holmes: [00:03:56](#) So let's not assume that our whole audience understands what confirmed as a card carrying Richmond supporter or?
- Renee Kohler: [00:04:03](#) Yeah. I forget the confirmation means lots of different things. So confirmation for Catholics is basically, as I said to my son when it was all said and done. I said, "now you have confirmed that you are a Catholic, you have renewed your baptismal vows, you've gone through all of this acronyms of initiations that you've been baptized, you've received first communion and now you're confirmed." And I can see the theologian to my left nodding at this. So the philosopher has gotten it right, which isn't always the case.
- Peter Holmes: [00:04:03](#) It happens occasionally.
- Renee Kohler: [00:04:30](#) It does happen occasionally, yeah. So that was wonderful. I've had family in town. I've been teased mercilessly for going into a state of panic and baking eight Lasagna's a couple of weeks ago [crosstalk 00:04:42].
- Peter Holmes: [00:04:42](#) Is this the way you normally deal with panic?
- Renee Kohler: [00:04:43](#) Yeah, exactly.
- Peter Holmes: [00:04:43](#) Lasagna's?
- Renee Kohler: [00:04:44](#) I bake. No, just bake. It doesn't matter what it is. You just bake.
- Peter Holmes: [00:04:48](#) So this was an eight lasagna panic. Is that the measure [crosstalk 00:04:51].

- Renee Kohler: [00:04:50](#) Yeah that's right.
- Peter Holmes: [00:04:50](#) Is that the measurement?
- Renee Kohler: [00:04:54](#) Well and then I had to bake a cake on top of that because you've got to bake. No, it's been a pattern in my life. Baking, just take care of things and has a beginning, a middle and an end. Unlike philosophy, which is endless.
- Rian Galliot: [00:05:06](#) So you eat Lasagna's and a cake, it's serious.
- Renee Kohler: [00:05:09](#) Basically. And of course we didn't eat all of them because we had everyone brought things and it was just wonderful. So now, which is a very catholic way of celebrating any sacrament. It's just this sort of over abundance of everything including Lasagna is in this case. So that was the last weekend and then this week, we've had various things going on from our youngest being ill to our oldest stating in the middle of the week that, oh my gosh, she had to be at rehearsals two nights in a row because she'd signed up for a showcase at her new high school.
- And we had no idea what a showcase was. I was racing home and then my husband was like tearing around, taking kids everywhere. And we're always wondering if our car, which was about to die, was actually going to do it one of these runs. And then in the midst of all of that was some fairly serious business in that I was helping to teach the bioethics program over at the medical school, which meant that we were dealing with huge life issues. So it was beginning of life issues, embryonic research. And everything that goes on with maternal health care and then we ended up talking about trans humanism at the end as a kind of end point to it all.
- Peter Holmes: [00:06:16](#) In the middle of all that. Do you ever wonder, like you were talking about trans humanism and an end and the beginning of life ethics and then you come home and you're looking at your car going, you're not allowed to die. I've got things to worry about, I have other things to worry about. This is not happening.
- Renee Kohler: [00:06:29](#) Yes, I do.
- Peter Holmes: [00:06:31](#) Well, I had some car troubles of my own. My son managed to get in an altercation with another car and came off second base. So we're trying to replace a car. And I have to say that the insurance that I pay to have a peace of mind actually gave me more trouble than the actual accident itself. So it's still an

ongoing thing. And I won't mention any names yet. You're on notice insurance company. Boks, what have you been up to?

Rian Galliot: [00:06:54](#) Oh, I've spent parts of the last week showing around some relatives who's now gone back to the Philippines, but it's funny [crosstalk 00:07:02].

Peter Holmes: [00:07:01](#) Did you scare them off.

Rian Galliot: [00:07:03](#) Yeah, I think so. No, it's funny because in the Philippines we have these bicycles with side cards called petty cabs or motorbikes with sound cards called tricycles. And usually if you're going for a walk that's further than [crosstalk 00:07:15].

Peter Holmes: [00:07:15](#) So if you call the motorbikes tricycles.

Rian Galliot: [00:07:17](#) Yeah. It's an interesting thing, but petty cabs, usually if you wanna walk somewhere, maybe up the block or a couple of blocks away, you take a petty cab, you just don't have to walk. If you're going further than that, you might catch a tricycle. And so they're not used to doing a lot of walking. You come to Australia to Sydney and I'm showing them around and anything longer than a five minute walk is a long walk.

Peter Holmes: [00:07:41](#) Right. And so they're trying to hail a cab?

Rian Galliot: [00:07:44](#) Yeah. Well, no. They'd ask me how far is this. I'm like oh, from the station, it's about three blocks away. Three blocks. Can we take a break? So it was an interesting experience. I think we...

Peter Holmes: [00:07:57](#) We kind of assume that in the city where the unfit ones, right?

Rian Galliot: [00:08:00](#) Yeah. And I forget constantly just how much more exercise I get living here.

Peter Holmes: [00:08:05](#) Although it sounds like some of the guys in the Philippines where they pedaled a lot, so they're the fit ones.

Rian Galliot: [00:08:12](#) They're the fit ones, that's what I'm saying. So it was an experience, just showing around because these are more older folk. And just, just having to relearn and remember, how to show them around with that exhausting everyone's patients.

Peter Holmes: [00:08:28](#) Indeed. Since this is the first podcast, our topic is new in town. Now we wanted to spread that topic out a little bit and talk about all the ways we can be new to something. Now obviously this is a new podcast. So our experience this morning has been

checking out the place, finding out the cool studio. It's still got that new car feel to it, the smell. And but there's other ways we can be new. All of us I think. Were you born and raised.. You weren't born in Sydney were you?

Rian Galliot: [00:08:51](#) No I was born in the Philippines.

Peter Holmes: [00:08:53](#) So Boks was born in the Philippines, Renee doesn't come from Sydney originally.

Renee Kohler: [00:08:56](#) No I do not.

Peter Holmes: [00:08:57](#) So where did you come from originally?

Renee Kohler: [00:08:58](#) I come from the town of Yarrawonga in Victoria.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:01](#) Yarrawonga.

Renee Kohler: [00:09:01](#) So in Northeast Victoria.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:04](#) Northeast Victoria.

Renee Kohler: [00:09:04](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:05](#) What would be the nearest big town around there?

Renee Kohler: [00:09:15](#) Yarrawonga. Well, it's interesting [crosstalk 00:09:16].

Peter Holmes: [00:09:16](#) Let's discuss you're definition of [crosstalk 00:09:16].

Renee Kohler: [00:09:15](#) A lot of people know Aubrey. New south Welsh peoples hint to know Aubrey we're about an hour away from there, but also about an hour away from Shepparton. Those were the biggest centers.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:15](#) Well my uncle lives in Shepparton.

Renee Kohler: [00:09:26](#) Okay.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:26](#) Actually in place called the ring? A ring. A ring, a look? [inaudible 00:09:31]

Renee Kohler: [00:09:33](#) Well, our family lives on the [inaudible 00:09:35] road.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:35](#) Whenever I say that name, people think I'm taking the Mickey out of them.

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Renee Kohler: [00:09:38](#) Yeah [inaudible 00:09:38].

Peter Holmes: [00:09:40](#) I was born in a town called trail Rogan.

Renee Kohler: [00:09:41](#) Oh yeah, that's a hard one.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:44](#) Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:09:44](#) You have to get all the eyes in the right place.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:46](#) Except that most people just being Ozzy's. Trail Rogan.

Renee Kohler: [00:09:47](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:09:48](#) Actually I lived in Gourmando, which is southeast Victoria, in those 10 houses in the town. And we were another seven kilometers up into the Bush from there, near Bulger Park, which is one of the national parks down the bottom and about maybe 45 minutes from the southern most tip of Australia. So it was quite a, country area. Very cold. New in town though. That means we all came here. So why don't we talk about coming to Sydney as part of our first newness. So when did you arrive?

Rian Galllott: [00:10:14](#) I arrived when I was six, so it would've been, what, 1988.

Peter Holmes: [00:10:20](#) You're giving away too much.

Renee Kohler: [00:10:21](#) Yes, spring chicken. You are making me feel uncomfortable.

Peter Holmes: [00:10:24](#) Oh my God.

Renee Kohler: [00:10:24](#) Its good to have a range [inaudible 00:10:27].

Rian Galllott: [00:10:27](#) Yes, it's good because I look a lot younger than I actually am. Azar so, I get that a different generation.

Peter Holmes: [00:10:40](#) You can fit in anywhere. You'd be a great spy.

Renee Kohler: [00:10:40](#) Well you do, you have friends of, of various ages. My son is actually counselors was one of his good friends.

Rian Galllott: [00:10:46](#) Awesome so that's, that's a treat. He doesn't make friends easily, so that's a good thing. I would try to be a good influence.

Renee Kohler: [00:10:54](#) No comment.

Rian Galliot: [00:10:56](#) He's just 21, he doesn't know anybody. So do you remember coming to Sydney?

Michael Lynch: [00:11:04](#) Yeah, vaguely because we'd lived in Africa for a little while before that.

Renee Kohler: [00:11:09](#) Wow. sorry, hang on. Philippines.

Michael Lynch: [00:11:11](#) So I lived in Philippines until I was four, then we moved to Africa.

Renee Kohler: [00:11:16](#) Of course. Why not?

Michael Lynch: [00:11:16](#) Why not? My Stepdad at the time was working as a civil engineer.

Renee Kohler: [00:11:22](#) [inaudible 00:11:22].

Peter Holmes: [00:11:23](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Michael Lynch: [00:11:23](#) We lived in a combat compound in a Somalia.

Peter Holmes: [00:11:26](#) Wow.

Michael Lynch: [00:11:27](#) Yeah. So, from there we moved to back to the Philippines for a little while then to Sydney when I was six.

Peter Holmes: [00:11:35](#) So you've had quite a lot of experience of being new in, into literally not as a town but a country. What's, what would you say is the experience that really stands out for you in that experience?

Michael Lynch: [00:11:45](#) Really the colloquialisms.

Peter Holmes: [00:11:47](#) Yup.

Michael Lynch: [00:11:47](#) And the little things, I see it with a lot of Filipinos that, that are new to Australia now and try to, we tend to be a quieter culture in some ways. And so I come off as really in your face and obnoxious and I speak to my Australian friends, and they tell me you're very quiet.

Peter Holmes: [00:12:08](#) Right, yeah.

Michael Lynch: [00:12:09](#) And so it's an interesting, interesting thing, and it's just something I remember struggling in kindergarten and primary



school. Just trying to understand the culture in that way before I felt confident enough to really step in.

- Peter Holmes: [00:12:22](#) Hmm.
- Renee Kohler: [00:12:24](#) Would you say your accent's changed significantly?
- Michael Lynch: [00:12:26](#) Oh yeah. It's funny because I still pronounce a lot of my r's and other letters. And so Australians say, I don't sound Australian, but Filipinos say that I sound in Australia. So.
- Peter Holmes: [00:12:36](#) The R is actually, one of my things is I teach language and the R is one of the hardest things to get Ozzie's to say. There's some words that you have to say R on. Otherwise, they mean something completely different.
- Michael Lynch: [00:12:47](#) Hmm.
- Peter Holmes: [00:12:48](#) And getting ozzyness to say you have to say sound Irish or go American or something because we just don't have it.
- Michael Lynch: [00:12:53](#) Well, at the same time, I've been on a lot of trips overseas for pilgrimages and World Youth Day. And I find those at a times that a lot of us immigrants that have come into Australia and then gone on these trips, we tend to really become OKA.
- Peter Holmes: [00:13:11](#) Its funny when it comes out. But is that an exit? I mean, do we hear that in Sydney streets? Because, I mean, I don't hear it too often.
- Michael Lynch: [00:13:19](#) No.
- Peter Holmes: [00:13:19](#) But, but yet we have it somewhere. It's primal. It's the acinus. But when I spend two very different places, so where have you been?
- Renee Kohler: [00:13:27](#) So, it's 17 I went to the United States.
- Peter Holmes: [00:13:27](#) Right.
- Renee Kohler: [00:13:31](#) And I did an undergraduate degree. Over there.
- Peter Holmes: [00:13:33](#) In saying Rs.
- Renee Kohler: [00:13:34](#) In Rs, Yeah. In fact, every time I came back, every year I came back, my dad would say to me, this is good. You're here for a few months. Rehabilitation time. We've got enough those out of

you. Pretty much. So that was for four years. I had the privilege of being over in the United States. I was at a liberal arts college that had a run program. So I actually lived for three months in Rome, which was just life changing. It was amazing.

Peter Holmes: [00:13:59](#)

Yes.

Renee Kohler: [00:14:00](#)

And then I went and did my masters in Belgium in philosophy.

Peter Holmes: [00:14:00](#)

Okay.

Renee Kohler: [00:14:06](#)

And my PHD. So I ended up spending 13 years in Belgium because while I was there, got married, had three kids. When we moved back to Australia, to Sydney, I'd never been, I've been to Sydney really briefly when I was a teenager.

Peter Holmes: [00:14:21](#)

Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:14:22](#)

When we moved to Sydney for the job at Notre Dame. I'd been away for 17 years. So I left when I was 17, came back 17 years later. So now the balance is firmly within Australia

Peter Holmes: [00:14:33](#)

I was going to say congratulations on keeping your accent because that is a solid time away.

Renee Kohler: [00:14:37](#)

Speaking of that though, it can, it comes and goes sometimes if I'm really tired or if I'm in a very stressful academic situation. It's like all of my training of trying to help people to understand what I was saying back when I was in graduate school comes to the fore and all the eyes come out and people say, what are you like? You don't sound like.

Peter Holmes: [00:14:53](#)

Do you find that it depends on what you're talking about. Because I've, I've talked to some other colleagues who've moved around and I find that when I'm talking to someone about the topic they studied in Ireland.

Renee Kohler: [00:15:03](#)

Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:15:03](#)

Or in us, their accent from that place will come out, come back again.

Renee Kohler: [00:15:07](#)

Yeah. It's funny, isn't it always associations.

Peter Holmes: [00:15:10](#)

It's funny. I could not understand myself in a recording of myself when I was eight. I recently heard a recording of myself because I had such a country Victoria accent.

- Renee Kohler: [00:15:22](#) Yeah.
- Michael Lynch: [00:15:22](#) Yeah.
- Peter Holmes: [00:15:22](#) And when I call up some old mates, occasionally I have to stop and realign my head just to get into that accent. And yet it's there. Now I can, I can throw it out there, hopefully not on this podcast too much. What was your experience with coming to Sydney. What was the overwhelming sort of take takeout?
- Renee Kohler: [00:15:38](#) Well, actually it has very much to do with language because I could not understand a lot of people when I came here. And it's not because of the Australian accent.
- Peter Holmes: [00:15:45](#) Was it idioms or?
- Renee Kohler: [00:15:46](#) No, it's because Sydney is actually a really culturally diverse place and I'd become very used to being in fairly, I don't know. But when I was in America, it was all Americans. When I was in Belgium it was all Belgians. And if they spoke in English, there were particular idioms. And now, I was just at my daughter's school last night and I came home and I said to my husband, oh my gosh, I think she's only the, the only blonde possibly in the school. And I actually asked her the next day and she said, no, there is one other. And I thought, oh, okay. So we had people from the islands there. We had.
- Peter Holmes: [00:16:19](#) What a turn up in Australia to say she's the blonde one. You can recognize her.
- Renee Kohler: [00:16:24](#) You could probably spot her. So a couple of funny stories actually. So one, when we first arrived, we didn't have a washing machine and so we, and we had a really small family and we didn't have anything in the house. We had no fridge, we had no washing machine. My husband, we knew he was going to have to go to New Zealand to get his permanent residence. Didn't see visa, fixed up. That was all very complicated.
- Peter Holmes: [00:16:48](#) That's a really strange thing, isn't it? [inaudible 00:16:50] your works.
- Renee Kohler: [00:16:50](#) Gosh. Anyway, that was nightmarish. We didn't have a car. We were waiting for all of our stuff to come over from Dallas.
- Peter Holmes: [00:16:56](#) The reason he didn't have a car in Australia is that they cause.
- Renee Kohler: [00:16:59](#) Yeah, I know we didn't have a car, Peter.

Peter Holmes: [00:17:03](#) Yeah, go on.

Renee Kohler: [00:17:03](#) So, and we certainly did not have a washing machine. So, and all this laundry for these kids who are in nappies. Anyway. So one day we thought, well, what are we going to do? We're sitting around in an empty house with a phone. And my husband said, well, I'm just going to call around. So he called this laundromat. And he said, could you just tell me, is he, is your laundromat somewhere where we deliver the clothes and you wash them when we take them away or do we stay there and wash them? And the response was, I called police go away.

And he said, I just don't think that we'll be going there. That's fine, but what do we do now? So we ended up finding somewhere else. But even I remember being somewhere and calling to out some information about the place that we were staying while we were looking for a place to live. And just turning to my husband and saying, I have no idea. I don't even know what accent I'm dealing with here. I'm in Australia.

Peter Holmes: [00:17:59](#) Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:18:00](#) I'm Australian. What is going on? So always this kind of panicked moment. Cultural.

Peter Holmes: [00:18:07](#) Some of that. I mean I grew up in the country so it was very homogenous and very much the same across the board. And occasionally, I mean there were a lot of aboriginal people around us. And there were a lot of like we had, once we got to university, there were a lot of Asians coming through and it was still very distinct.

Renee Kohler: [00:18:22](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:18:23](#) I'm in the great people and I had lots of friends amongst them, but it was very distinct accent.

Renee Kohler: [00:18:23](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:18:27](#) And what our family in Melbourne is that the tends to attended to blend a bit more. Like people tended to hang out and sort of blend the accent. It got really weird because you'd have people picking up the, the Somalian and you'd pick, pick up the Vietnamese look idioms in a workplace. Whereas in Sydney there still seems to be segments of the community that strongly re sort of keep the accent in a, in that particular area.

- Renee Kohler: [00:18:52](#) Yeah.
- Peter Holmes: [00:18:52](#) And at 10, I can tell you which kids might, my kids had been playing with at school when they come home. And tell me your name and stuff today was fully sick. Okay. I know you were hanging out with today and that's fine. It's just, it's really interesting. It's so strongly preserved in very different areas.
- Michael Lynch: [00:19:07](#) It's funny you say that because I find that it's, it's who you talked to as well. Not just topics of conversation. I know my cousins that were born here in Australia, raised in Australia, have Australian accent slightly Americanized, but when I got used to when I was talking to them and they were kids that, when you grow up and let me turn to this Filipino accent because that's how their parents, my aunties spoke to them in that happens.
- Peter Holmes: [00:19:29](#) And you get this, and you'll get this when you open your mouth and your father comes out that you can even hear the accent and go, oh my God, [inaudible 00:19:37] this. I swore I swore this would never happen. And now I'm sort of rambling and I'm in that sort of middle edge going, yeah, I'm just going to go with this grumpy old man hero come. In terms of doing town though, that was your experience with Sydney?
- Renee Kohler: [00:19:51](#) Yeah.
- Peter Holmes: [00:19:51](#) Mine was that when I arrived in Sydney, I think I had a plane ticket and we flew in and I had two days to find a house and then I was going to fly back and then bring the family about two weeks later. So I made about a hundred calls to Sydney, different real estate agents and that's a fairly broad spectrum of the accents landed in Sydney, had hired a car and it hadn't occurred to me to get an automatic because I drive manuals. That doesn't really bother me. But like they gave me this little thing, one of those cars that it's barely a strip of metal around you and it was a manual and I had a, back then we didn't have the iPhone sort of directions thing.
- So I had a Sid way open on my lap, which is massive a four size book open in my lap, the changing gears and driving. And that those three days when I first came to Sydney was one of those torrential, some around all three days, just absolutely pouring down. And I was squinting the portal, windscreen wipers could barely see it. I was moving my head with the windscreen wipers to try and look through them. And I saw, I think I drove past about 30 houses and I saw inside of 10 that day in the, over

those two days and put in an application for a couple, got back to Melbourne and they said, and a couple of real estate agents rang me and said, would you like to house? And I couldn't remember which one was which. So I just said yes to one. And we got there and my wife's saying things like, well, how big is the house? What's the measurements? I don't remember.

I would remember it. And my wife has architectural training, so she literally has mapped out to the last centimeter where every piece of furniture is going. Whenever we moved. She was very frustrated. So we arrived and, and I started working I think within like four days of getting here. And I was already, my job at that stage was to drive all over Sydney, so I got to know it very well. I remember the rules being, one of my best friends told me at the time, the first rule of Sydney traffic is never drive on paramedic road. The second rule of traffic is back streets are your friend. The third rule is never driving paramedic road. The fourth rule, there is no fourth rule in the fifth is don't drive on paramedic. And I laughed about it at the time until I got onto paramedics.

Renee Kohler: [00:22:03](#)

Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:22:04](#)

It's just my him and they haven't improved. Although it'd be really interesting when they, the tunnel that's going up just on the, where does it come up? It comes up just before Lewisham

Renee Kohler: [00:22:14](#)

I think that's right.

Peter Holmes: [00:22:16](#)

Somewhere just in the suburbs before Lewis on there. It'd be interesting to see what that does to it. What I notice though is that Sydney has an attitude that's a bit different to the rest of the country. I've lived in all kinds of places in the country, but I lived in Adelaide for a while and Adelaide thought there was this big rivalry thing happening with Melbourne, right. Versus Melbourne. It's because Melbourne took the Grand Prix and Oh, it was a big rivalry back then. And Melbourne didn't care.

Michael Lynch: [00:22:38](#)

Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:22:38](#)

But Melbourne thinks it has a big rivalry with Sydney. And I'd have to say-

Renee Kohler: [00:22:42](#)

Sydney does not care.

Peter Holmes: [00:22:42](#)

Sydney doesn't care.

Renee Kohler: [00:22:44](#) That's right.

Peter Holmes: [00:22:45](#) And Sydney has this attitude. And the best way I've heard it described as Paul Keating came out once with them. If you're not living in Sydney, you can't be out if it's kind of the outskirts of Sydney. And then there's the outback, and what parts of the app Becker called Melbourne and Perth, Darwin. But generally it's the outback and yet pretty much civilization. I've spoken to many people in Sydney and they're getting desperate about house prices and they'll say, oh, we've just got to move out of Sydney. And this is terrified. Look in their eyes as they look. But where, and for them it's the same with weather in Timbuktu or Melbourne.

One of the other experiences about being new in town is not just about countries or places, it's about a job. So when you started a new job, the jobs most of your life, so you're spending all this time on a new desk, whatever, the new colleagues. So when you've jumped out around a few different occupations [inaudible 00:23:34],

Michael Lynch: [00:23:34](#) Yeah, a few different jobs, I've been very blessed in that field because I found that a lot of times I've gotten jobs through connections.

Peter Holmes: [00:23:43](#) Right.

Renee Kohler: [00:23:43](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Michael Lynch: [00:23:45](#) And so I already had a familiarity. It was just familiarizing myself with the mechanics of the job. So I've been very lucky there. But learning how to get along with the same friends in a different frame of mind.

Peter Holmes: [00:23:57](#) Yeah.

Michael Lynch: [00:23:58](#) That's

Peter Holmes: [00:23:58](#) Just because you know them doesn't mean it's gonna work.

Michael Lynch: [00:24:00](#) That's right. And I had to learn very quickly how to separate professional relationship from that personal relationship.

Peter Holmes: [00:24:09](#) Yeah.

Michael Lynch: [00:24:09](#) I think that's probably the thing that a lot of my friends struggle with.

Peter Holmes: [00:24:12](#) Right. And in terms of dealing with you?

Michael Lynch: [00:24:15](#) Everyone, myself and they come to me a lot about talking about the jobs they have or where their struggles are.

Peter Holmes: [00:24:21](#) Yup.

Michael Lynch: [00:24:22](#) I have to constantly remind them just gently that, hey is this in the capacity of it, of the old boss.

Peter Holmes: [00:24:28](#) Which hat am I wearing today?

Michael Lynch: [00:24:29](#) Yeah. It's a difficult thing to discern sometimes.

Peter Holmes: [00:24:33](#) Sometimes. And to be honest, even though you're wearing different hats, you're still the same person.

Michael Lynch: [00:24:36](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:24:37](#) But advice comes from different angles depending on which hat you're wearing.

Michael Lynch: [00:24:40](#) That's right.

Peter Holmes: [00:24:41](#) And it's, some people say, I don't want you to hear this in the capacity of this.

Renee Kohler: [00:24:45](#) Hmm.

Peter Holmes: [00:24:46](#) You can't do that. I can give you advice from that capacity, but I can't not hear it as, as the person in charge of this person. So Renee, in terms of jobs.

Renee Kohler: [00:24:55](#) Yeah. So it's funny if I can throw in a little philosophical concept here, Peter, I don't, I hope that's allowed.

Peter Holmes: [00:25:03](#) Absolutely, bring it on.

Renee Kohler: [00:25:04](#) Okay, good. So I talk to my students about moral philosophy, often one of the concepts I bring up is ethos. And the term ethics comes from ethos.

Peter Holmes: [00:25:04](#) Sure.

Renee Kohler: [00:25:15](#) And I think that at different institutions, different countries, different cities, that they, they have an ethos.



Peter Holmes: [00:25:15](#) Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:25:20](#) It's has something to do with the way that everyone relates with each other and somehow with what they do. And that all feeds into what they believe. So Alistair Macintyre, we'll talk about this a lot, but the different practices that we have, tell us who we are. And I think that's really important to thinking about what it means to be Catholic.

Peter Holmes: [00:25:20](#) Just the way they think comes from the same base?

Renee Kohler: [00:25:38](#) Yeah. I think it does.

Peter Holmes: [00:25:39](#) So ethnic is described.

Renee Kohler: [00:25:39](#) I think so. Just don't hold me to that because I haven't dealt with that part of it.

Peter Holmes: [00:25:45](#) Ethos, no I think ethos as the same where [inaudible 00:25:45] remains the culture of a place.

Renee Kohler: [00:25:47](#) Yeah. Or ethnicity does. And it takes a while to kind of get the ethos. It's like the vibe of the place.

Peter Holmes: [00:25:56](#) Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:25:56](#) So when I first started working at one university.

Peter Holmes: [00:26:01](#) Yup.

Renee Kohler: [00:26:01](#) Which was over in Belgium it was very different from when I came to Notre Dame.

Peter Holmes: [00:26:04](#) I bet.

Renee Kohler: [00:26:06](#) And Notre Dame has grown a lot since we've been there.

Peter Holmes: [00:26:08](#) Yeah.[inaudible 00:26:09].

Renee Kohler: [00:26:09](#) And so that means that the youth, those changes as well. And then we have, I now have longstanding relationships with alumni. My children, it drives them crazy.

Peter Holmes: [00:26:19](#) Alumni, what's an alumni?

Renee Kohler: [00:26:20](#) Someone who has graduated from a place, I have one of my right.[crosstalk 00:26:24] Boxes. One of my favorite alumni as I

tell all of you alumni, you're all my favorite alumni, but you happen to be one of my favorites.

Peter Holmes: [00:26:20](#) We are all favorites.

Renee Kohler: [00:26:31](#) That's right. You're all favorites-

Peter Holmes: [00:26:32](#) Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:26:32](#) ... In your own unique ways.

Peter Holmes: [00:26:34](#) Yes. Very modern of you.

Renee Kohler: [00:26:35](#) Yeah. That's right. So my.

Peter Holmes: [00:26:37](#) I have specific favorites.

Renee Kohler: [00:26:38](#) That's right. I'm more liberal with my favorites right here. You could say. More Catholic perhaps.

Peter Holmes: [00:26:45](#) Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:26:45](#) I don't know. So I think that's been, that's been something that's been quite interesting to deal with in different places. So whether it's been waitressing, I remember once a waitressing in two different places right next to each other one place. It's a bit like the Sydney, Melbourne or Sydney and the rest of the world thing. Like one place didn't really care that the other one existed. The other one was intensely furious, but then the one next door existed. So I had to somehow negotiate these relationships. I'd be sneaking in the back door at night to waitress in one and hopefully the other ones see me. And then to go from different universities and different neighborhoods and different cities.

Peter Holmes: [00:27:24](#) I've worked in a huge number of different things. I think somebody mentioned in an article about 10 years ago that the average person will have seven careers these days. Because that's just what happens. You don't tend to stay in the same thing for very long. But I was a, well, I did some work in a restaurant. I, when I was a young fellow, I did Hay carding, which isn't really a job. It's just how to kill someone's quite quickly.

Renee Kohler: [00:27:46](#) What?

Peter Holmes: [00:27:46](#) Then what have you done? The High County?

Renee Kohler: [00:27:49](#) Yes. But obviously I was doing a different kind of [inaudible 00:27:52]

Peter Holmes: [00:27:53](#) I said you're a young fellow, you can get down the Bottle men heave this, bale of Hay.

Renee Kohler: [00:27:59](#) No, We have family doesn't believe in that kind of thing. You've got machines for this kind of thing.

Peter Holmes: [00:28:04](#) No. So this tells me.

Renee Kohler: [00:28:04](#) I'm from a farm, you get machines.

Peter Holmes: [00:28:07](#) Almost from a farm and they clearly thought we've got all these young guys around [inaudible 00:28:10]

Renee Kohler: [00:28:10](#) Wrong ethos.

Peter Holmes: [00:28:14](#) I think they honestly just said, these guys are going to kind of get into trouble. We'll just wreck their entire body. Making them lug hay around and then they won't get up to any mischief during the holidays. I met them out of money out of it, but gosh, it was hard work. Leaving that aside, I've tried to avoid hard work most of my life since then.

Renee Kohler: [00:28:29](#) I noticed that I must say I haven't had a-

Peter Holmes: [00:28:32](#) In terms of physical specific way.

Renee Kohler: [00:28:34](#) ... oh okay.

Peter Holmes: [00:28:34](#) So yes, the disc was a good one for me. But yeah, during, I was at Lutheran seminarian for a while, six years and during that time I worked in radio, also as a library assistant. So I did very different world library is, and radio is, is as loud as you can be, in various ways. Yeah. And then I was a minister for a while, which is very different again, because your relationships with everyone. A very shaped by how you're the minister or you're the minister of the local parish or interesting story about when I went into a local Catholic church to pray and the priest come up and he saw my color and he said, oh no, would you like to do the reading here? I'd love to, but I'm a Lutheran. Oh, Rachel. Rather than yes and no, and okay, let me see. Very generous. He said, he said, oh, we have a lovely ministers fraternal around here. And I said, oh really? I haven't seen you there. And he said, no one ever goes to those places.

Excellent, really beautiful. It was, it was about 79, 80 when I met him. And he was one of those, well, those old priests used to walk the neighborhood and just walk neighborhood every Saturday morning. And he knew all these parishioners and much to the chagrin because that'd be in the garden waiting and going, oh crap. He comes father. And they would go, oh, I haven't seen you and must for a while. And he knew them and he set up the front and he wants to everyone like a hawk.

Michael Lynch: [00:29:55](#) Quick look busy.

Peter Holmes: [00:29:56](#) Yeah. He was a great person. They all loved him. And a now moving on, sorry I've been was in counseling for a while. People with long term any employment, marriage counseling and then got into education. So I was teaching scripture for, Gee, that's a long time. It has been a long time.

It's nearly 20 years now. I'm teaching languages scripture. And then in that capacity I came to Sydney and worked in Sydney, eventually ending up at Notre Dame. I'm coming up to my 10 year anniversary there.

Renee Kohler: [00:30:24](#) I know.

Peter Holmes: [00:30:25](#) Good grief.

Renee Kohler: [00:30:25](#) I get all of these records.

Peter Holmes: [00:30:27](#) Yes, of course. That's a conversation for another time.

Renee Kohler: [00:30:30](#) That's right.

Peter Holmes: [00:30:31](#) So, but new jobs, I'd have to say it's about the people. I mean, you can have all the fancy stuff, you can have all the fancy gear, you can have an amazing job. And if the people are obnoxious or if the people are hard to work with, it makes life unbearable. Whereas you can do a really crap job and you actually have good people around you and it actually makes it worthwhile. It's really good. You want to go to work because it's about community. And whenever I see those business slogans about basically let's make more money, let's try and trick you with another slogan that's about making more money.

I was thinking that if you get a good feel and people trust each other and they trust each other to have each other's back, then you're going to get good results because people want to be

good for their friends. They want to be the best version, they want to be respected by people they respect. And yeah.

Renee Kohler: [00:31:17](#) That's actually social capital rather than economic capital.

Peter Holmes: [00:31:20](#) And it's clear that you get better results when new all invested in it.

Renee Kohler: [00:31:24](#) That's right.

Peter Holmes: [00:31:26](#) I mean some of those companies, we should have a podcast on this, but there's a Mon dragon Corporation where they actually all own part of the company. So all invested physically and financially. Sorry, so moving from the jobs, what about, I mean if the three of you played in sports teams?

Rian Galllott: [00:31:40](#) A long time ago.

Peter Holmes: [00:31:42](#) Yeah.

Rian Galllott: [00:31:42](#) High School, long time. How old were you in high school?

Renee Kohler: [00:31:47](#) How old are you?

Rian Galllott: [00:31:49](#) If you can figure it out.

Renee Kohler: [00:31:49](#) If we could do that.

Rian Galllott: [00:31:50](#) Yeah, no, I played rugby. Believe it.

Peter Holmes: [00:31:53](#) Wow.

Rian Galllott: [00:31:53](#) That was a fullback.

Renee Kohler: [00:31:55](#) Oh my gosh.

Peter Holmes: [00:31:56](#) League or union?

Rian Galllott: [00:32:00](#) Would have been union.

Peter Holmes: [00:32:03](#) Okay, yeah. The world game.

Rian Galllott: [00:32:05](#) It was interesting having to go through that. And, I was a very skinny guy.

Peter Holmes: [00:32:10](#) Yes, but in union you can do that and you can, if you're the fullback, you can run.

Rian Galllott: [00:32:15](#) I did a couple of good tackles. That's probably all I did, actually. I did two fingers. no, I remember that was interesting. Just having to, I wasn't, I'm not a very sporty guy.

Peter Holmes: [00:32:29](#) Yup.

Rian Galllott: [00:32:29](#) And to be there with, I'm, lovingly saying this [inaudible 00:32:34] heads.

Peter Holmes: [00:32:35](#) Yes.

Rian Galllott: [00:32:35](#) It was interesting because I didn't, didn't with the culture. I didn't connect with the culture and I found it difficult. Because of the.

Peter Holmes: [00:32:45](#) I've heard a comedian describe rugby's, they say, why don't you play? He goes, wow, we've only just learned human means have just gotten off out for Fridays to stand up. I don't need someone end or pushing me down every other day. It depends. If you're really not into it, if you don't get why you're doing it, then it's hard to justify why you're running around. We've got a point. Congratulations, but I'm-

Renee Kohler: [00:33:06](#) Can someone explain to me what it means to get a try.

Peter Holmes: [00:33:08](#) Yeah its-

Renee Kohler: [00:33:09](#) [inaudible 00:33:09]. What was he trying?

Peter Holmes: [00:33:13](#) [inaudible 00:33:13] it sounds like one of those trophies you give kids at the end of the year. Good on you for trying.

Rian Galllott: [00:33:16](#) Look, all I knew is I had to tackle anyone with the ball running my way. I was small enough to get people as knees together.

Peter Holmes: [00:33:25](#) Actually in rugby you're allowed to do that. So I played soccer and AFL. They don't like you're taking out someone's knees in either of those sports. So I played a bit, actually. I played competition, table tennis, basketball, soccer. I Have ozzy rules, not AFL. I was, he rules at a very low level ozzy rules. And what else have I done? Oh, laser skirmish. I was actually a try a backup for the Victorian laser skirmish team at one stage.

Rian Galllott: [00:33:52](#) I never done that before.

Peter Holmes: [00:33:53](#) Really fun stuff. Really intense stuff cause it's basically in pitch black and you're, you're going by ear and shooting people. Back

then it was a different game. But yeah, it was really intense and full on. It was great fun. Except my bugs night, everyone got sick of me. My friends didn't play as much as I did, so I would beat them when we played casually.

- Rian Galliot: [00:34:11](#) Yeah.
- Peter Holmes: [00:34:11](#) So on my box night they dressed me in a dinosaur costume and gave me a gun and then made me run around the maze and they all shot me. They thought it was great fun.
- Rian Galliot: [00:34:20](#) It wasn't for you.
- Peter Holmes: [00:34:23](#) Especially It wasn't because I ran headfirst into a wall.
- Renee Kohler: [00:34:26](#) Ah.
- Peter Holmes: [00:34:26](#) And my glasses cut yet you can't see it. But as a great big scar under my right eyebrow and blood was pouring down because it's all strobe lights and all sorts of other stuff. Nobody could see that I was hurt, but I was lying on the ground bleeding and they, I actually have the record, like the, they give you a record of who shot you. They all came through and shot me at some stage while I was lying on the ground.
- Rian Galliot: [00:34:47](#) To quote Ian home as a Bilbo Baggins, it was a night to remember. And we insisted on, I was not Catholic back then. We insisted on no alcohol at the bucks night. Still, a good idea, even if you're Catholic, but it was quite a wild, I shudder to think what would have happened if had we had a drink. So speaking of not being Catholic, I became Catholic. So that was a new, a whole new experience of becoming Catholic. Now were you guys born Catholics?
- Michael Lynch: [00:35:17](#) Yes.
- Peter Holmes: [00:35:18](#) Your not so sure man.
- Renee Kohler: [00:35:18](#) Interesting.
- Michael Lynch: [00:35:22](#) Well I was born into a Catholic family, and as many people can attest it, a lot of my Catholic friends, so it's, it's something that you, it's sort of your parents' faith.
- Peter Holmes: [00:35:30](#) Right.

Michael Lynch: [00:35:31](#) And I went because my family did. And it wasn't until after high school when I actually to decide for myself.

Peter Holmes: [00:35:40](#) Yup, sure, so the confirmation thing.

Michael Lynch: [00:35:42](#) Yeah. Well, and I had a confirmation before I remember actually I remember going up to a bishop Crimmon long after my actual confirmation as a Bishop, I didn't pick a saint's name when I became confirmed. Oh, that's okay. You don't need to. I said, no. I'm serious about it now. And, and I think, I think I know a saint.

Peter Holmes: [00:36:02](#) Right.

Michael Lynch: [00:36:02](#) So the Bishop said to me, okay, who are you thinking? I said, well, I can't decide between John the Baptist or Paul the apostle, both of who are evangelists.

Peter Holmes: [00:36:11](#) Right.

Michael Lynch: [00:36:12](#) He said, well, John Paul, and he slapped me in the face and said done. I don't have it on any paperwork, but apparently my, my name now is-

Peter Holmes: [00:36:21](#) John Paul.

Michael Lynch: [00:36:22](#) John Paul. There you go.

Renee Kohler: [00:36:23](#) That's fantastic.

Michael Lynch: [00:36:24](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:36:25](#) So your name, how did you choose your confirmation saying,

Renee Kohler: [00:36:28](#) Oh, actually that's a pretty good story. I chose my confirmation saint because I thought he was awesome, and I had to fight my parish priest to have him as my confirmation saying.

Peter Holmes: [00:36:38](#) Because it was a him or?

Renee Kohler: [00:36:39](#) Because it was a him.

Peter Holmes: [00:36:39](#) Wow.

Renee Kohler: [00:36:40](#) Yeah. So he was just throwing all of these women's saints at me, and I was like, nope. Thomas Moore. It's just Thomas Moore, that's the one.



- Peter Holmes: [00:36:46](#) Tell us why Tomas Moore.
- Renee Kohler: [00:36:46](#) I want Thomas Moore, Tomas Moore was in his own way, quite radical. So not, I mean, we all know the Thomas Moore who you see in the whole band portrait and.
- Peter Holmes: [00:36:58](#) Let's assume you haven't seen him.
- Renee Kohler: [00:36:59](#) All right. So he's sitting there with his big chancellors robes on because he was the second most powerful man in England. And he got into a row with Henry the eighth basically about people's supremacy. But also really about marriage. And to me Thomas Moore is the man who refused to be on record or even just to tell a lie about what was actually true concerning the king and, and his wife. So that's sort of the fundamental.
- Peter Holmes: [00:37:28](#) Its just that before that he had established himself almost universally in England as being absolutely fair. Even their enemies. He was absolutely fair. Even when these enemies were, we're going to get away with something. He refused to bring the law to get them anything. He was absolutely. He had a man of integrity. Everyone trusted him, et Cetera.
- Renee Kohler: [00:37:45](#) And a real family man. What's often not known about Thomas Moore is that he educated his daughters to a really rigorous level. So he's one of his best friends. Harassment's was a great scholar of the time and he claimed that Margaret, who then beat Margaret Moore, who became Margaret Roper, could outdo him in languages.
- Peter Holmes: [00:38:04](#) Wow.
- Renee Kohler: [00:38:04](#) I thought that was pretty impressive. And Henry the eighth was so taken with what Thomas Moore was doing with his daughter Margaret in terms of education that he actually educated Elizabeth. So the Queen Elizabeth the first we know-
- Peter Holmes: [00:38:17](#) Wow.
- Renee Kohler: [00:38:18](#) ... had the same academic program as Margaret Roper or Margaret Moore Roper. So I found all of that really impressive, but there was just something about his honesty, his integrity and his sense of humor.
- Peter Holmes: [00:38:31](#) That is important, isn't it?

Renee Kohler: [00:38:32](#) Yeah. And he had this huge household, so he had a very magnanimous sense of family. He had his immediate family, but then his extended family, he was always kind of bringing strays and he had lots of pets. So, and his, one of his favorite things was to bring home a new exotic pet, including a monkey. And so all of this, just a lot of fun and lots of joking around practical jokes, academic jokes, which is always really fun.

Peter Holmes: [00:38:59](#) Who's the Priest. Dumb Saint who is a-

Renee Kohler: [00:39:02](#) He died at the same time as him?

Peter Holmes: [00:39:03](#) No, He's the Phillip married the, the guy who is a clown basically. And anyone who was trying to be quite serious about their faith, he would stand on his head or do something stupid.

Renee Kohler: [00:39:12](#) Yeah that's right.

Michael Lynch: [00:39:13](#) I did not know that.

Rian Galliot: [00:39:14](#) Philip Mary is it?

Renee Kohler: [00:39:15](#) Yeah. You, you were telling me this the other day.

Peter Holmes: [00:39:17](#) Yeah. I'll have to look that one up and then put it in the show notes. But there's a priest who when he thought a particular seminarian was being too serious about his faith, he stood on his head until the guy laughed.

Renee Kohler: [00:39:25](#) Yeah. Laughter is very important.

Peter Holmes: [00:39:28](#) It's a huge part of Catholic life and to be able to laugh at yourself, start to start with and then at the world, the absurdity of it, et Cetera. Is a really important part of being joyful.

Renee Kohler: [00:39:38](#) Yeah, that's right. It comes right back to being joyful.

Peter Holmes: [00:39:40](#) Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:39:40](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:39:41](#) So in terms of the patron saints, my story is that I became a Catholic at 30 and they told me you've got to have a saint. And I had, okay because I was baptized as a Lutheran 20. And so I didn't have a saint and I was thinking around and I actually researched a whole bunch of things because I'm sort of like that. And I came across this saint who I admired so much

because he was a teacher. He was a lecturer. He was so brilliant at many things. In fact, he's regarded as the, the last polymath, which means he was the master of many disciplines. In fact, I think he had read every book published because they were all handwritten back in those days.

Renee Kohler: [00:39:41](#) It was easier.

Peter Holmes: [00:40:17](#) It was much easier because it would let solve them. And nowadays they publish anything on the Internet. Basically. He'd read everything, every book on the subjects that he had. He was a master level at least of all academic disciplines, including two that don't exist anymore. And he, some of his books in botany are still the cutting edge texts in that area. But this was in the, I think, is it 11 hundreds or 12 hundreds Elbert, the grade.

Renee Kohler: [00:40:40](#) 1200.

Peter Holmes: [00:40:40](#) There you go.

Renee Kohler: [00:40:41](#) He taught Thomas Aquinas.

Peter Holmes: [00:40:42](#) He did. And that's the key, because Thomas Aquinas was one of these slower students who plodded through the work and everyone else called him the dumb ox because he was slow and Elbert had the insight to realize I might be called out with a Greater Mayan lifetime. This guy is going to shake the world.

Renee Kohler: [00:40:58](#) Well, he said, just wait, this ox is going to roar.

Peter Holmes: [00:41:01](#) Yeah.

Renee Kohler: [00:41:02](#) [inaudible 00:41:02] they were making fun of him.

Peter Holmes: [00:41:03](#) You call him the dumb ox and I say this ox will Belo-

Renee Kohler: [00:41:06](#) That's right, belo.

Peter Holmes: [00:41:06](#) ... and he's role will shake the world. And after Thomas died a very early age, Elbert dropped his own work and committed himself to defending Thomas's work.

Renee Kohler: [00:41:06](#) That's right.

Peter Holmes: [00:41:16](#) And I admire that so much in him that he wasn't interested in his own greatness, even though in his own lifetime he was recognized. He committed himself to the greatness of your

students. We just kind of an inspiring thing for me. But the freaky thing for me was when I told the bishop who my patron was, he said, oh, of course because of your birthday. I mean, what?

Renee Kohler: [00:41:16](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:41:34](#) He's my birthday, so he's the guy. Whoa. Okay, good.

Michael Lynch: [00:41:38](#) Didn't he also have a nickname? Mr Boots?

Peter Holmes: [00:41:42](#) I didn't know this one.

Michael Lynch: [00:41:43](#) He likes to just walk everywhere.

Peter Holmes: [00:41:45](#) Really?

Renee Kohler: [00:41:46](#) Ah.

Michael Lynch: [00:41:47](#) I mean, I can't remember Tim actually, but so correct me if I'm wrong, but I think he was on his way. He was summoned for a [inaudible 00:41:54].

Renee Kohler: [00:41:54](#) That was Thomas, Thomas Aquinas was hit on the head by a tree branch and that's why he's buried in Toulouse.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:02](#) Really. Is that the boots reference or you think that's from?

Michael Lynch: [00:42:02](#) I don't know. I'd probably have to-

Renee Kohler: [00:42:08](#) Look into that one.

Michael Lynch: [00:42:09](#) Relearn how to study.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:10](#) That would be an awesome nickname for a saint.

Renee Kohler: [00:42:11](#) That goes back to all that walking around the city though, we forget how much they walked in the Middle Ages. They were just walking all the time. We tend to think of them as just staying in one spot and being really boring and staying in one spot.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:21](#) Yup.

Renee Kohler: [00:42:21](#) But actually there were probably more cosmopolitan than a lot of us out today.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:24](#) Is it, that's an interesting point. We should do a podcast on that where the technology has actually made us more or less busy and whether it's actually made us better at what we do.

Renee Kohler: [00:42:32](#) Or even what busyness is.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:33](#) We've got machines that do what they used to spend weeks doing and now we're busier. How does-

Renee Kohler: [00:42:39](#) How does this work?

Peter Holmes: [00:42:39](#) We're just sort of-

Michael Lynch: [00:42:40](#) [inaudible 00:42:40] to technology.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:43](#) Yes. So in terms of the new church though, I wanted to talk about that a bit because becoming a Catholic is a massive culture shift.

Michael Lynch: [00:42:48](#) Hmm.

Renee Kohler: [00:42:48](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:48](#) And I've had the experience of coming in from, because I was actually born and raised in evangelical, spent a little bit of time as a Pentecostal. That's the AOD sort of movement.

Renee Kohler: [00:42:57](#) What's AOG? The assembly of God.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:57](#) The assembly of God.

Renee Kohler: [00:42:57](#) Okay, yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:42:59](#) So basically it's like Hill song, but in the country it's less slick. So it's kind of just at the happy club you sort of thing.

Renee Kohler: [00:42:59](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:43:06](#) With my apologies to my relatives who are still JC.

Renee Kohler: [00:43:09](#) We like happy and crappy.

Peter Holmes: [00:43:10](#) We do like those in their appropriate context. You can clap and you can have the, my sister actually still goes to Hill song and loves it very much. I'm not so keen. I think it's still a flashback to my experiences in the AOGs back then. And then I spent some time as an atheist, my first year of Uni, which is, seems to be the

appropriate place to be an atheist in my first year of Uni. And then caught up with some Lutherans and spent 13 years as a Lutheran before I became Catholic. So I've had a broad experience of different church cultures and there is a massive difference. And what I've noticed is we talked about accents and language before you can say the same words, exactly the same words and you people will think you're saying the same things.

Renee Kohler: [00:43:54](#)

Hmm.

Peter Holmes: [00:43:54](#)

But they're not like so there's a document that Lutherans and Catholics agreed on justification and when you read it, I'm thinking my loofah and head on, I see what they're saying the Catholic had on, I can see what they're saying. They're not in agreement here. They're just saying the same word. And it includes a different meaning. And because where do we learn meaning from like.

Michael Lynch: [00:44:12](#)

It's a tradition, right?

Renee Kohler: [00:44:14](#)

Through a practice.

Peter Holmes: [00:44:14](#)

I didn't say to my mum what's forgiveness? And she sat me down and got the Oxford dictionary out and showed me, you learn it from the experience.

Renee Kohler: [00:44:14](#)

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Peter Holmes: [00:44:20](#)

You learn it from your context and it's just not the same. And what I found with Catholics is that they're not there. They like Sydney against the rest of the world because if you're not careful, you're of the other weirdos outside of there. And when you come in, that's all right. We look, we'd like you to come in, but just you have to kind of find your own way. Like in Sydney trafficking, you have to find your own way. Like in Protestant churches, everything's about the parish.

You go to your local parish Bible studies there, the witness, the mission, everything's there. At least that was my experience of quite intense Protestant parishes then and became Catholic. And two minutes after mass and sometimes two minutes before mass ends, everyone's gone. And I'm checking my deodorant game. What do i do?

Michael Lynch: [00:45:02](#)

Tumbleweed.

- Peter Holmes: [00:45:03](#) Tumbleweed. The priest is blessing half the congregation were there 10 minutes ago and we're done. And everyone's gone because they're all go off to other activities and other missions and the Catholic world is so diverse and people are at Saint Vincent DePaul, they're at Vinnie's, they're off to doing the Legion of Mary. They're doing all kinds of things, just ordinary life. And it's much more organic in the way they express their faith. And they don't just give to one's body that they give them time and everything to everything. That's really hard to get used to when you don't know where those places are.
- Renee Kohler: [00:45:32](#) Yeah.
- Michael Lynch: [00:45:32](#) Yeah.
- Peter Holmes: [00:45:32](#) And if you're not involved in the, you feel really out of it because nobody sits you down and goes, here's how you be Catholic, because there's not one way to be Catholic. It's so many different ways. And when someone does tell you this is the way to be Catholic, watch out because he usually telling you a very restrictive version. Maybe I could ask you guys this question. Have you had an experience where you've come across something even having grown up in Catholicism, you've come across something new and you've gone, what this is in the Catholic Church?
- Michael Lynch: [00:46:01](#) Oh Gee, I'm going to have to think about that. I don't know. I remember my introduction to saints.
- Peter Holmes: [00:46:10](#) Okay.
- Renee Kohler: [00:46:10](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Michael Lynch: [00:46:10](#) I guess I'd chosen to be Catholic already for a few years and I still had no idea what saints were.
- Peter Holmes: [00:46:16](#) Right.
- Michael Lynch: [00:46:16](#) And, I remember being at World Youth Day and someone decided let's start a group prayer, so we did one, then they said, oh, maybe we'll just all off rapper saint and ask the saint to pray for us and everyone starts going through saints. And I was, I guess I must've been visibly nervous because the guy next to me said, are you okay? Do you know a saint? And I said no, what are saints? And so he quickly mission to meet maybe Thomas Aquinas and I said yeah. And then someone else mentioned Thomas, [inaudible 00:46:52] really [inaudible 00:46:54].

Renee Kohler: [00:46:54](#) What am I going to do?

Michael Lynch: [00:46:57](#) I can't remember who I eventually went with, but I just remember thinking, wow, maybe I should look into this.

Peter Holmes: [00:46:57](#) Hmm.

Michael Lynch: [00:47:04](#) And all these things that are attached to saints then became something really on the deep end. Like it made me very uncomfortable talking about Incorruptibles learning about them.

Peter Holmes: [00:47:15](#) Yeah, the physicality of, it's really weird.

Michael Lynch: [00:47:17](#) And relics.

Peter Holmes: [00:47:18](#) When I was first at Catholic, one of the first months I was a Catholic, the relics of centuries of Lisu came to town. And then our parish was one of the ones they visited and I was given, the priest thought he was that great on it any was, but I didn't quite understand what was going on. He chose me amongst three other guys to be the porters of the-

Renee Kohler: [00:47:18](#) Oh my goodness.

Peter Holmes: [00:47:37](#) ... the massive, I don't know what it's called, but the relique

Renee Kohler: [00:47:40](#) Relia query.

Peter Holmes: [00:47:42](#) Of this relic of centuries. Sorry, what was that?

Renee Kohler: [00:47:45](#) Should the IOB in there or should not be in now? I don't know how to get back.

Peter Holmes: [00:47:49](#) I've been teasing you, but I'm actually a big fan of the R,

Renee Kohler: [00:47:53](#) Ah.

Peter Holmes: [00:47:53](#) Just-

Renee Kohler: [00:47:53](#) We are just not sure whether, [inaudible 00:47:54] were just not sure if it belongs in that word or not, am sorry, that was an A not an R.

Peter Holmes: [00:47:59](#) Yes, I noticed but in Australia. So I was carrying this very heavy because it was made of gold relique. And coming from the Protestant perspective, there's all these things about Catholics.



Oh, they get the gold and the indulgences and the saints. And all this stuff and you'd get the suspicion about it. And it didn't this a bit didn't help carrying this relevant was so heavy and they had lined the path with school children who are throwing petals into the air over us. And I found myself, I'm a very cynical person about emotion, but I'm also an emotional person.

Renee Kohler: [00:47:59](#) Hmm.

Peter Holmes: [00:48:34](#) And I found myself responding emotionally at the same time as my head was going, don't trust it, don't trust it. It was a really bizarre experience. As I'm carrying this thing and getting hit by rose pedals, I couldn't, I didn't know the connection of the rose petals. Like we took her into the church and I made some flippant comment, Oh gee, she's heavy. And I was looking at it things, she's a small lady because it's only a small relique and it, and the priest turned to me with all innocence and said, yeah, I think it's quite a sizable part of it.

I think it's her arm, and from a participant perspective. I went ewe, what are we doing with that? And I'm okay. There's just no other place in the world. I can think of with a carry around bits of someone's body and go, Yay its her arm. And I couldn't understand. I just couldn't get my head around it. So I sat and watched in the Pew. I didn't approach after that. I watched people approach and there was this cue that went, cause this was the only place in the west side of Melbourne that where people were coming. So there was a cue that went on for two days and this cue just kept going and I was watching all these people approach and the emotions and the response from their face. So I was trying to see what was going on and I didn't get it until I jumped in the queue.

I walked through and I inexplicably, and I don't even, I've read this woman's writings, it didn't resonate with me. Like I just did nothing for me. Now that's a personal thing. But as I approached the actual rally, I was just overcome with the sense of occasion. The fact that this is a real person who we know is with a cross in heaven and this is our connection with heaven. This is a physical connection with the really, and that means me, this body at some stage please God, it will be a nod of the Cross and heaven. And that was just, it just hit me so hard. And it was almost like an excellent thought experiment because I had no personal response to this person. I had no joy, their writings. It was just a physicality of it. And I remember it, we put rose pedals to the relique and walked away and everything.

It was just an incredible experience. Being new and sorry, there's another funny thing that happened. Some common lot nuts were coming in and selling merchandise, right.

Renee Kohler: [00:48:34](#) They could have.

Peter Holmes: [00:50:46](#) They came out of [crosstalk 00:50:47] closed normally.

Renee Kohler: [00:50:49](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:50:50](#) Normally just pray and break bread. They come out with all these pictures of centuries live as you and all these terrifying. But again, it was definitely their moment and they were selling this stuff. And a friend of mine who was also a partisan minister who just converted about the same time as I did, was holding court holding the door open for them as they came in and out with all this stuff. And I had this horrified look on his face and I said, oh, you got caught there David. And he said, I keep telling him this is what started the reformation.

Renee Kohler: [00:51:16](#) Opening the door [inaudible 00:51:17].

Peter Holmes: [00:51:17](#) No, that am selling things they shouldn't be.

Renee Kohler: [00:51:17](#) Okay.

Peter Holmes: [00:51:21](#) [inaudible 00:51:21] telling it's not indulgence. He's now an ecumenical affairs officer. Melbourne. He's still, he's obviously very joyful Catholic as well and a lot of fun. So we've talked about new churches and about that. What about other people who've become new? Like we're, if we're on the inside and new panel come, how do we make them welcome? I mean, it's not just in jobs in cities and other places, it's an overall thing. How do we make people welcome when the news, right.

Michael Lynch: [00:51:47](#) It's interesting you say that because I've actually, I'm helping to lead a Bible study at the moment in my parish. And one of the.

Peter Holmes: [00:51:56](#) This is a Catholic, sorry.

Michael Lynch: [00:51:57](#) Catholic.

Renee Kohler: [00:51:59](#) Catholics read the bible too.

Peter Holmes: [00:52:00](#) There you go.

Michael Lynch: [00:52:02](#) And no is one of the older gentlemen in my group who, not that old, but he just recently came back to the audience last year. He just started to learn about it and, and talking to him, I realize that a lot of the, the ministry have had before talking to teenagers and young people, we forget that they're people.

Peter Holmes: [00:52:25](#) Yes.

Michael Lynch: [00:52:26](#) Not just [inaudible 00:52:27] them and an age, but to actually first and foremost invite them as people to be friends.

Peter Holmes: [00:52:35](#) Yes. And to be themselves too.

Michael Lynch: [00:52:37](#) Yeah to be themselves. They don't have to put on different hats.

Peter Holmes: [00:52:40](#) Your here are now here is the uniform.

Michael Lynch: [00:52:41](#) Yeah. And to allow them to be themselves and know that they're accepted. Regardless.

Peter Holmes: [00:52:49](#) It's an interesting word. You use there acceptance because there's a lot of talk about tolerance and acceptance and you kind of, people confuse the idea of accepting a person with saying that everything they've ever done or will do is okay.

Michael Lynch: [00:53:01](#) Is okay, Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [00:53:02](#) And so we can actually say we accept you as a person along with the rest of us who are learning to be the best version of ourselves, of the, the full version of ourselves that we're created for. But it's not a rejection to say, well actually this is probably not doing them any favors. In fact, a really good friend will tell you that's not making you a good person. That's not helping you out. I think we'd need to be careful, especially when people are though that we don't jump straight to things that are quite hard to take. Saying to one of my classes recently, think about how many people you would be comfortable with coming up to you and saying, let's have a talk about your sex life. Lets, let's have a talk about something. It's really deeply meaningful to you or your family. There's very few people I would tolerate that from.

Michael Lynch: [00:53:02](#) That's right.

Peter Holmes: [00:53:46](#) And why would then I expect someone else to tolerate me entering into that sphere in a conversation when I've just met them. It needs to be, you need to have a friendship that can bear up to that. You need a relationship. And often that means

practically convincing people that you care. And there's no way to fake it. There's no way to fake that. People know. So you have to actually care. One of the, I think one of the more problematic things, and this isn't unique to Protestantism, but I saw it very prevalently when I was a protestant, is that people would make friends with people so that they evangelize them. And when it became obvious the person didn't want to become a Catholic, they stopped making an attempt to make friends.

- Rian Galllott: [00:54:26](#) Flirt to convert kind of thing.
- Peter Holmes: [00:54:27](#) Oh, I've never heard that before.
- Rian Galllott: [00:54:27](#) Yeah.
- Peter Holmes: [00:54:30](#) If you want to expand on that a little bit.
- Rian Galllott: [00:54:31](#) No, I'd like.
- Renee Kohler: [00:54:31](#) There supposed to be something in the youngest circle.
- Rian Galllott: [00:54:34](#) It's just something that.
- Renee Kohler: [00:54:34](#) Okay.
- Rian Galllott: [00:54:36](#) Yeah. Maybe it is. I just remember hearing it a lot when I was in, in ministry and just people would, would use the term flirt to convert you just become.
- Peter Holmes: [00:54:45](#) But that's a very much a romantic thing is it?
- Rian Galllott: [00:54:47](#) Yeah. I'm using the pool of all the pool room and then, and then, try to convert that way. And there was this an interesting approach I never really bought into myself.
- Peter Holmes: [00:54:56](#) You know the number one reason that people become Catholic as they marry a Catholic.
- Rian Galllott: [00:54:59](#) Oh really?
- Peter Holmes: [00:55:00](#) I'll read that as you in terms of numbers.
- Renee Kohler: [00:55:01](#) Hmm.
- Rian Galllott: [00:55:01](#) Wow.

Peter Holmes: [00:55:02](#) But, Getting married is a bit different to flirting, married means you're serious about quite serious about the person and.

Rian Galliot: [00:55:09](#) It's,[inaudible 00:55:09]. I just found out, I was on an easy with this thought that, the underlying reason was to convert.

Peter Holmes: [00:55:16](#) Right. Yes, absolutely.

Rian Galliot: [00:55:19](#) Instead of them as a person.

Renee Kohler: [00:55:20](#) I just think that there's something with conversion that's so far beyond us as well. Like there can be this real temptation to think I'm going to convert as many people as I can. But actually I think that is Catholics. My approach is you just try to live the best Catholic life you can and be open to questions. And then if someone comes and says, can you just tell me about these weird thing you did, like be the kind of person that someone could come up to you and say, why do you do that strange thing with your knee when you walk into a chair?

Rian Galliot: [00:55:48](#) What's wrong with your knee?

Renee Kohler: [00:55:49](#) What's up with that? Yeah. And, and why do you keep making jokes? Yeah, I know. What is this water here? So that they can start asking questions because things that are quite natural to cradle Catholics. I'm a cradle Catholic. So, I don't remember never having holy water or genuflecting or knowing I had this one. I've joined the reference check.

Peter Holmes: [00:56:08](#) Actually, I was dating my wife at the time. She was my wife then obviously, but I was dating her and I refuse to stand up when the Lutherans all stood up and she was embarrassed cause I was having a pew when it was her home church. And I said, I'm not standing up until someone tells me why we're standing up. And the trouble was, is that nobody knew and that they had to get the pastor into telling me what was going on. And I got it. That's how I got into theology. I stopped to ask, why are we doing this? Why is all the brethren a very anti institutional. And now I'm a Catholic, so I'm almost the opposite of everything I was taught. But the whole reasons for doing things, I have to have a reasons. And I fought every single thing.

And so every Catholic thing I can tell you that I do, like I've thought about it and actually said, do we really need to do this? And almost always the answer is yes. Sometimes it's not. It's just something that we've picked up along the way. But most of the time it comes from something quite meaningful. How we

actually implement it though, we're coming back to that new person. If we gently encourage people to understand what the Eucharist is about, for example, or what's going on in a mass that's different to crash tackling them when they take communion and we think they're not worthy. It's just, it's not, it doesn't even matter what the theology is at that point. You have demonstrated a lack of genuine love and care and the program, the journey that that person's on. So I think that's important.

I even don't like the word conversion.

Renee Kohler: [00:57:27](#) Oh come on.

Peter Holmes: [00:57:28](#) I don't, because people call to talk about me as a convert because I've become a Catholic now. I didn't change religion.

Renee Kohler: [00:57:36](#) Right.

Peter Holmes: [00:57:37](#) I was raised a Christian. I was baptized 10 years before he became a Catholic and I was raised a Christian Long before that. I knew the Bible very well in terms of numbers of verses and everything before I became a Catholic. And if anything, I call it a completion because it's rounded out all of the gaps that I had given up. 99% of what I had been teaching and was taught as a Lutheran is Catholic.

Renee Kohler: [00:58:00](#) Hmm.

Peter Holmes: [00:58:01](#) 99% of it. There're some bits. The pope's, the antichrist, we don't quite go with that as Catholics, but I guess it depends on definitely let's do, let's just assume that the pope is generally okay.

Renee Kohler: [00:58:14](#) He's catholic.

Peter Holmes: [00:58:16](#) His Catholic, and pope is Catholic, but I didn't change religion and to be honest, there's a lot of people who conversion doesn't really apply because they will already that it's just one particular formal step on the journey. They've been coming a long way along the journey, so.

Michael Lynch: [00:58:32](#) Well, I came to understand conversion really as encountering Christ and then coming into a relationship with him. So sure. When I chose it myself, it wasn't this one light switch moment that, ah, this one moment changed my life forever. It was, it was more of this gradual, it's likely people flicking small light

switches along my life. Sure. I can get to a point where suddenly it's a big light switch and I realized something and it's every day. Is that, that, that relationship, that conversion experience where I'm at.

Peter Holmes: [00:58:59](#)

It's that either or thing, isn't it? You're either in or out. It's like Jesus isn't going to say to someone what you didn't formula, say no to it for you, so good reference Seinfeld. But the experience of being Catholic is to, is to come round it out to complete it. That's at least from my perspective, it felt like I was in a very neat little room as a Lutheran and everything was in orderly fashion and they will, the theology seem to be an order until you tested it and there were holes all over the place. And then when I felt like it wasn't stepping into a bigger room as a Catholic, I felt like I was stepping out into a landscape where it was just wild and unruly and not real by, and it was chaos and we're not in control.

I knew most of the theology in the Lutheran church or I'd read almost everything that was, to be read and I can't become Catholic. And it was a horrifying moment when I realized I'm never going to read everything that's Catholic. I'm never going to understand anything. And people even joke. Now, one of the three things the Holy Spirit doesn't know is how many female religious orders there are. Because I keep coming every year. I come across a new one again, what do you come from? What was your story anyway?

Renee Kohler: [01:00:02](#)

Can I just add something about conversion there? So one of the things I spend a lot of time with as Augustan and what's always fascinated me about his understanding of conversion is we think, oh yeah, Augustan led a terrible life and then all of a sudden you converted and everything was AOK. But his, his whole theory about conversion is that Christians constantly convert. So we go toward God, we mess up, you sort of back a little bit and then we have to come back again and we had to come back again and we have to come back again. And that's, so as Catholics we have these sacraments that allow us to do that. So there is actually a definitive way in which you fall away and then you re group. And reassert your life in end with Christ.

Peter Holmes: [01:00:43](#)

Would you say Agustin's journey begins when he starts questioning why he's doing this.

Renee Kohler: [01:00:47](#)

Yeah. And one of the most fascinating parts of the confessions I find is that it's like when he's just about to convert, he feels like he's so far away from God. Like he'll never make it. And about

five minutes later, boom, he's there. So, so the actual experience, it's like what I was saying earlier, we don't convert people. It's actually God working in their lives and we might be occasions.

- Peter Holmes: [01:00:47](#) And its a long life thing.
- Renee Kohler: [01:01:10](#) ... Yeah. And it's alive. Well.
- Peter Holmes: [01:01:11](#) I'm still being converted. So the whole idea of being able to not shop a new, this one's mine. It takes, firstly, we're not doing it where we walk onto this drama of life and we say a few lines and we walk off and Christ does all the work, right?
- Renee Kohler: [01:01:11](#) Yeah.
- Peter Holmes: [01:01:23](#) But we're not being, we're not converted just because we happened to have formally associated ourself with the church. We're still being converted.
- Renee Kohler: [01:01:23](#) That's right.
- Peter Holmes: [01:01:30](#) There's still a lot of rough edges and, and some other lumps on me that need to be knocked off and that'll be for the rest of my life. So evangelization happens all the time. And I think in some respects there's been a, I don't know, maybe this is from English period is, or maybe it's just the fact that we kind of had this image of Holy Joe, we tend to look over the floors of Christians until it's too late and then they really big floors and they become a problem. We'll talk about that in some other podcasts. But that, what about acknowledging the small ones? The hard bits, the reads that of struggle because we know we're talking about suddenly you're there. I've had moments where I felt like I'm absolutely United with God and I feel really deeply in love with God and everything's great. And I wish I could grab this moment because the next week. [inaudible 01:02:19].
- Is there a God, it's really quite hard because then you think, hang on, how did I get to that? That peak of sort of emotion is, was it just emotions or was it actually, and the relation, it's like a relationship with a spouse or with a friend it comes and goes. But a lot of it comes from hard work of actually putting in the time to talk and to listen and to talk and to listen, So.
- Michael Lynch: [01:02:43](#) Actually going back to being in the new in the church, that's one thing I found with a lot of young people, young adults especially that were coming into the church. It was all



emotional. And the big danger I found there and something that I just kept my island is when that emotion falls away, it's so easy for them to say then am I not faithful?

Am I a bad. And so I have to tell them that and that's come with it.

Peter Holmes: [01:03:09](#) That's exactly right because you don't want them to go to the other way and reject emotions completely.

Michael Lynch: [01:03:13](#) That's right. So the emotions come with the understanding of the love and joy we had. But just like in any relationship sometimes where you're upset with someone.

Peter Holmes: [01:03:22](#) Yup.

Michael Lynch: [01:03:22](#) It doesn't mean that you don't love them.

Peter Holmes: [01:03:24](#) No, that's right.

Michael Lynch: [01:03:24](#) I think its.

Peter Holmes: [01:03:26](#) In fact, people who you love can upset you much worse than strangers, honestly.

Michael Lynch: [01:03:30](#) Yes.

Peter Holmes: [01:03:31](#) The people who are hardest to get along with are the ones that are really close to you and you just can't use this. Stop doing that.

Michael Lynch: [01:03:36](#) Yeah.

Renee Kohler: [01:03:37](#) I love you so much. You'd just be perfect if you'd stop doing this to stop it.

Peter Holmes: [01:03:42](#) Just one.

Michael Lynch: [01:03:44](#) It's funny because in the ministry. We used to do a, we used to do a testimony sharing just our lives and how Christ is impact our lives. And I remember I think as a deacon somewhere was asking me why I think that was the most impactful moment of a other retreat because we used to run retreats and reflection days. And I would tell him, because it's, it's us telling our not imperfect story, our imperfect story. Showing that we're imperfect. We keep trying and we have our ups and downs, but we're still trying. And we have faith.

- Peter Holmes: [01:04:17](#) That's true in a lot of cases. I mean, I remember I took heart, this sounds really counterintuitive, but I took heart in my academic life when someone told me they struggle to write. I went, yes, I'm not the only one.
- And yet it's still not something that people openly talk about because it's vulnerable and we don't want to open up about that. And often, and often people will look at somebody else and say, they've got it right. They know what they're doing, everything's fine. And if we can be a bit more raw and honest about our struggles, we could probably help them out. It's the time of the show when we wrap up the podcast. But before we do, we're going to have a segment called one minute wander. One minute wonder is a segment where and what, no matter what we've been talking about, we will actually talk about one thing has to be within 60 seconds. One thing that's made us wonder be joyful or just think or reflect or just, or in or at God or his creation or something through this week. So box, I'll hit you up first. What's your one minute? Wonderful time.
- Michael Lynch: [01:05:17](#) I'm unapologetically a geek. I love Sci-Fi, fantasy, comic books in, it's been a really good time to be alive with the Marvel Universe, all that happening in the cinemas. But I remember just, I love video games and, and, and having to defend the concept of story and mythology and me being as slow as I am. I just finally encountered a video last week, that, summarize a conversation that happened between Tolkien and Lewis.
- Peter Holmes: [01:05:47](#) Wow.
- Michael Lynch: [01:05:47](#) About mythology-
- Renee Kohler: [01:05:47](#) Hmm.
- Michael Lynch: [01:05:49](#) ... and Lewis saying, well, isn't mythology just a lie? Isn't it just, falsehood.
- Renee Kohler: [01:05:54](#) Wow.
- Michael Lynch: [01:05:54](#) And token comes in and says, well, no, we connect with the mythology because it points us to the true mythology.
- Peter Holmes: [01:06:02](#) Yes.
- Renee Kohler: [01:06:02](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Michael Lynch: [01:06:04](#) And how the divine mythology is what we're living now.

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Peter Holmes: [01:06:07](#) Right.

Michael Lynch: [01:06:08](#) And just that we talk about Catharsis In the Greek.

Peter Holmes: [01:06:13](#) Because normally when people say myth.

Michael Lynch: [01:06:14](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [01:06:15](#) They, they think they mean it's not true. But actually it can be a way of, of telling the truth, which is much more profound.

Michael Lynch: [01:06:21](#) That's right. And talking points out that's really something that came from materialism.

Renee Kohler: [01:06:26](#) Yup.

Michael Lynch: [01:06:26](#) Did the understanding that it's only not true because we can't touch it, feel it.

Peter Holmes: [01:06:32](#) So is that empiricism?

Renee Kohler: [01:06:35](#) Materialism, empiricism. Yeah. It depends. We could have a long conversation about that, but probably not for this podcast.

Peter Holmes: [01:06:40](#) No, not today.

Michael Lynch: [01:06:42](#) That's just been blowing my mind. I'm trying to really enter into that because it's what I talk about is pop popular culture.

Renee Kohler: [01:06:49](#) Mythos Poe sis Catholics are very good at Mythos Poe sis yeah.

Peter Holmes: [01:06:49](#) There you go.

Renee Kohler: [01:06:52](#) A deeper wisdom within assuming fiction.

Peter Holmes: [01:06:57](#) What about you Renee? What have you got?

Renee Kohler: [01:06:58](#) Yesterday we invited in a micro, oh, sorry. Not a micro and neuro surgeon to the bioethics program. And we were talking about trans humanism. So the idea was this was the last section we had on bioethics, what's going to happen in the future. And he came in and he talked about something that I had not really thought about, which is fractal geometry.

Peter Holmes: [01:07:21](#) Okay.

- Renee Kohler: [01:07:21](#) Fractal geometry is that there are these really intricate patterns that repeat themselves in nature. And so he was showing us different images of trees and the way that tree branches for him. And then he was showing us images of the human brain and the same patterns were in the human brain.
- Peter Holmes: [01:07:21](#) Okay.
- Renee Kohler: [01:07:37](#) And then what he's doing with that, he's Macquarie University is actually amazing because what they're doing is that they're giving lots and lots of patterns or lots and lots of images to a particular program, which can then pick up tumors in brains more readily because it's able to read what's going on. It reads the pattern so it picks up more. So you'll never get, you'll never get rid of the, human, the in the medical practitioner being able to read what's going on in a particular situation, but it gives more information.
- Peter Holmes: [01:08:08](#) Wow.
- Renee Kohler: [01:08:08](#) And it's actually helping surgery to become more accurate because he was showing his how he put fluoride into a particular patient and that immediately showed all the parts that weren't of the pattern. And so he could target the tumor more accurately.
- Peter Holmes: [01:08:23](#) Wow.
- Renee Kohler: [01:08:23](#) That was just mind blowing. So it was kind of like, for me, it was one of those humanities, I understand patterns and geometry. Oh my gosh, this is not including geometry. And I was really getting it. This is awesome. And I can see how it works. So that was my moment of wonder. Yeah.
- Peter Holmes: [01:08:37](#) It's pretty awesome. Diverse. Some we are fearfully and wonderfully made comes to mind at that point mine is less academic.
- Renee Kohler: [01:08:47](#) I didn't think it was academic at all.
- Peter Holmes: [01:08:49](#) I'm actually, we were banned from listening to radio when I was a kid at brethren. We're really against all this sort of modern music stuff. And I had to sneak away with a little radio. I'd sort of stolen.
- Renee Kohler: [01:09:00](#) Now you have a radio podcast.

Peter Holmes: [01:09:02](#) And date it. Notice we're not playing any of it. So a rock and roll. I got really into music once I got to about 16 because of that. And I went, but that was, 86 so we're talking, late eighties, that the peak of the 80s, which was absolutely amazing. Music Style and vacuous lyrics. So which just pretty much sums it up. It was hedonism at its peak and then nineties got very cynical and basically we've been near list ever since.

Renee Kohler: [01:09:26](#) And boring.

Peter Holmes: [01:09:27](#) And boring. It's so boring. I'll tell, I was telling my daughter, two men wrote half the top 50. It might be the top 20, but the two men have written the songs who are in the half of the top 20 yet. It's because they've got a formula. It works. It sells. They go bang. And well Reese, I'm telling you, 86 is that I was long, long past the era of the sixties, but when I saw the ad for yesterday, the movie, just the short, for some reason it grabbed me and I went and because I'm thinking thinker, I just went, why is this grabbing me? I wasn't ever into the Beatles.

Michael Lynch: [01:10:03](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [01:10:04](#) And I listened to it. And the concept of the movie is that this guy is a freak of nature. Of course, they magically happens that everyone else forgets the Beatles except one guy. And then he becomes known as the best songwriter cause he's just repeating the songs. It's actually an idea from a British sitcom a long time ago, but the, it's really well done in the short at least.

And I can't wait to sue it then I just couldn't figure out why. And then I realized there's something very simple, it's not complex, simple about the composition of the Beatles. They grab you and its taps into where they, one of the first bands to really tap into ordinary emotions, ordinary life, and be a little bit silly with their stuff. And so I've gotten right back into the Beatles.

Renee Kohler: [01:10:42](#) Yeah.

Peter Holmes: [01:10:42](#) I was never at, and when I say back, I was never into them in the first place. But I'm watching, this is even more fascinating. I'm watching my kids' reactions because their initial reaction was oh sixties and now because I've consistent and playing it a few times, they're all gone into it and all the different emotions. It's really fun to see. Anyway, got my to say that. We might talk about it later if it's any good at all.

That's it for this week's podcast. If today's discussions got your thinking, arguing or upset with us, tell us where we want to hear from you. We genuinely want to hear from you. We actually interested in talking about what you say, how your feedback, you can contact us directly on info at this Catholic life. One word, this Catholic life.com. Dot IU. You can subscribe to the podcast on our website, this Catholic life.com. Dot IU and on that site you'll find links to all the usual social media, Facebook discord, Twitter, Olivia, others. And we want to hear from you. So get on our Facebook page, get involved with the discussion. If you, if you send us something we'll talk about it. We'll probably, we better be careful saying that we'll have a go at talking about it. We'd love to hear from you and get involved because this is actually supposed to be about ordinary Catholic life.

And that means you guys, it means everybody out there. It's not just what I think or what I'm interested in, especially if you like today's podcast, make sure you write a review on iTunes page. That's really important for getting the word out there, letting people know we exist and bringing other people into the fold. We genuinely want to hear a broad range of views, not just ours. And we want them discussed and we're quite prepared to have a Dingdong argument about something if that's, if it's a really important thing and there's lots of things to talk about which have differences of opinion legitimately and they sh people should be respected and listened to. So that's what we're about. Before we go, it's time for shout out. So, Brunei, have you got a shout out for anyone?

Renee Kohler: [01:12:32](#) I have a shout out for my friend and dare I say colleague Matt Tan, who has an awesome blog and it's called awkward Asian theologian. And he always has something really interesting to say. So I would encourage anyone who wants to see someone writing knowledgeably with a wonderful sense of humor about what it means to be Catholic and dealing with everyday life. I found it one of his more, one of his posts fairly recently, really helpful in, talking about the absurdity of life is something that we can actually embrace. That actually being Catholic is not a rosy picture all the time.

Peter Holmes: [01:13:09](#) No.

Renee Kohler: [01:13:09](#) And.

Peter Holmes: [01:13:10](#) And it doesn't always make sense to us.

- Renee Kohler: [01:13:12](#) No. And he uses the psalms to talk about this. So those sums where you have the psalm is saying, come on God, what's going on? I don't understand what's going on. Where are you? And I just found that really helpful.
- Peter Holmes: [01:13:22](#) The sounds a quite vigorous about that. Really angry language. And we've tended to fluff them up a little bit in English translations, but yeah, really angry.
- Renee Kohler: [01:13:29](#) I know. Another reason to learn Hebrew.
- Peter Holmes: [01:13:32](#) Yes, We'll come back to that. You can count on it. Come back to that. On another note, I teach Hebrew Ryan shout outs.
- Rian Galliot: [01:13:39](#) Yes. I want to shout out to all the Catholic creatives out there, especially here in Sydney. I know that I'm trying to form a Catholic community and business going forward. So, anyone out there who I know and I've invited shout out to you. But if any artists or creatives out there want to be involved, I can't really reveal too much now, but if you want to be involved, please find me on Facebook.
- Peter Holmes: [01:14:03](#) Sure. That's your Facebook is?
- Rian Galliot: [01:14:05](#) Ryan Galleon, so that's R.-I-A-N-G-A-L-L-I-O-T-T.
- Peter Holmes: [01:14:11](#) We'll put that in the show notes as well.
- Rian Galliot: [01:14:11](#) Thank you.
- Peter Holmes: [01:14:13](#) But I'm on Facebook as well. If you're interested, if you're not, that's fine, but if you're interested, I'm just simply Peter Holmes at, it's with an L as in Sherlock. And feel free to hit me up. It's much better. However, if you hit up this Catholic life website, and you get in contact with all of us and in building this discussion, my shout out is to those people who think that Catholics are weird.
- Renee Kohler: [01:14:35](#) We love you.
- Peter Holmes: [01:14:36](#) We love you, and we are, you're right. You're absolutely right. We're just a biggest bunch of Weirdos. Somebody that's accused me of going, oh, you're, you're just going to a place where everything's perfect. Detention. Catholics have the biggest share of Weirdos and nutcases and interesting people, and that's what makes it so beautiful. So if you're thinking Catholics are weird, you're right. And shout out to you.

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Renee Kohler: [01:14:57](#) [inaudible 01:14:57] everyone.

Peter Holmes: [01:14:57](#) [inaudible 01:14:57] or what's the book? Come on in It's awful?

Renee Kohler: [01:15:02](#) I don't know, but it rings true.

Peter Holmes: [01:15:05](#) So next week we'll be talking about another topic. Hopefully it will be a topic about living life. When Catholics have a bad name, we'll call it you give love a bad name. And a talk about all those Catholics who give us a bad name or the bad press that we get and how to live with it. How much of it's genuinely earned, what we can do about it, that kind of thing. That's all for now. Thanks for listening to this Catholic life.