

New Boys on the Block

We welcome Fr John Paul Escarlan from Parramatta Diocese, Fr Michael Lanzon and Fr Kim Ha from Sydney Diocese to our team, each will be offering their services in different ways to support the Catholic Deaf Community of greater Sydney. We are very excited and can't wait for you to get to know them. In the coming weeks and months you will see them around in the community but until then we asked them a few questions - here is what they had to say about themselves.

See pages 4 and 5 to read more about these lovely men!



“That by His poverty you might become rich...”

Here is an edited version of Pope Francis' Lenten message to us for Lent 2014:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some thoughts inspired by the words of St Paul: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich'. What do these words of St Paul mean for us Christians today?

It shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty. God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for this is His love. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus 'worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart'.

It is His way of loving us, his way of being our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbour to the man left half dead by the side of the road. What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of His love. Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus' wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant.

May this Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to the Gospel message of the merciful love of God. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty. Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves

what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty.

May the Holy Spirit sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility so that we can act with mercy. I pray that each individual and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe.

To see the full version go to: <http://ncronline.org/blogs/francis-chronicles/full-text-pope-francis-lenten-message>





FROM NICOLE, ACTING DIRECTOR

Hello everyone and welcome back to 2014.

It has been a busy year already and Lent will be upon us very soon. I hope that you all are making plans to join a Lenten group, the program this year will be a little different and I am sure you will enjoy it.

Stephen is still enjoying long service leave and will be back with us very soon, I am sure he will have many stories to tell us all about his travels around Tasmania.

2013 ended with a whole lot of goodbyes for our community. We said goodbye to dearly loved people, given to God's care, we all need to now find a new way of living without those people, this can be very a difficult and slow process. We are fortunate to have a close and supportive community, there are no doubt going to be challenges ahead for all of us who are missing the people we have lost, my prayer is that we will all find a way to support each other during the months ahead.

Our goodbyes also extended to Fr Peter who said his last Mass for our community, at the Christmas Vigil. Fr Peter began working with us over 12 years ago and has retired due to his

illness progressing to the point that he was finding it difficult to continue work.

Fr Peter has been a wonderful support to our community while dealing with his own hearing loss and later the development of his illness, Peter is now undergoing tests to assess his suitability for a heart transplant while taking on some responsibility around his parish in Rydalmere. I am happy to report that Peter is doing as well as is expected and is grateful for your prayers. He is always happy for a visitor now and then too! We will always be very grateful for all that Fr Peter has given us.

With ends come new beginnings, let us always remember that God answers all prayers – and in this case God has given to us generously.

This year we welcome Fr Michael Lanzon and Fr Kim Ha

as part time Chaplains to the Ephpheta Centre, the Bishop of Parramatta has given approval for Fr John Paul Escarlan to say one Mass per month in the Parramatta Diocese for us and of course we have all come to love Mass with Fr Adrian Horgan, although he is retired, he has told us he enjoys spending time with us as much

as we do with him.

These four men follow in a line of good and dedicated priests that have come to work with the deaf community. I am confident that like all of our other priests including Fr Bob, Fr Peter Fitz, and Fr Peter W, they will be welcomed into our lives.

It is important that we encourage and teach them how to use our language and know our ways. I encourage you all, as you did for our previous priests, and as you did for me – invite them to your homes, into your lives - that is the best class room for them to learn in! I will tell them all to expect dinner invites very soon.

May our journey towards the season of Lent be one of peace and awareness that God has his hand on all things.

Pax,

Nicole

Heartfelt Thanks to Fr Peter Woodward

We give thanks to Fr Peter Woodward for his duties at the Ephpheta Centre.

We will always be grateful for the work that Fr Peter has done with the Deaf Community. He will remain in our prayers, as we ask God to give him a swift and full recovery.



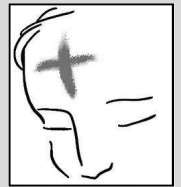
Fr Peter Woodward would appreciate your continued prayers for his health.

EASTER MASS TIMES & INFORMATION



Ash Wednesday - 5th March

We will have our usual two Ash Wednesday Masses this year.



Punchbowl - Ash Wednesday morning

When: Wednesday 5th March, 12.00pm

Where: Ephpheta Centre,
4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

Penrith - Ash Wednesday night

When: Wednesday 5th March, 7.00pm

Where: St Nicholas' Catholic Church,
326 High St, Penrith

Lenten Groups

The Lenten groups will be very different this year. Lenten group meetings will begin after Ash Wednesday. Each group will have a leader for small groups of up to 8 people, in your homes. Leaders will get a DVD with Auslan Gospels, stories and discussion questions for your group to use. No Ephpheta Staff will be there.

If you would like to be a Leader for 4 meetings with your friends who live close to you, or if you would like to join a group, please contact Nicole. DVDs will be given out after Punchbowl Mass on 2nd March.

Contact Nicole about any questions or information about this Lenten group by email on nicole@ephpheta.org.au or sms on 0438 201 707



HOLY WEEK PROGRAM

– 13TH APRIL TO 19TH APRIL

This year, we have our usual Easter timetable and everyone is welcome, even if you only like to come to church at Easter time!



Sunday 13 April (Palm Sunday)

Time: 10.30am

Where: St Mary's Catholic Church,
6 Raglan St, Manly
(Integrated Mass)



Thursday 17 April (Holy Thursday)

Time: 7.00pm

Where: St Nicholas' Catholic Church,
326 High St, Penrith. (Integrated Mass)



Friday 18 April (Good Friday)

Time: 3.00pm

Where: Good Friday Service at Ephpheta Centre, Chapel of St. Francis de Sales,
4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

Please join us for hot cross buns & tea/coffee after our Service.

Saturday 19 April (Easter Saturday Vigil)

Time: 6.00pm



Where: Ephpheta Centre, Chapel of St. Francis de Sales,
4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

Please bring a plate to share for supper after Mass & spare change for the wonderful Easter Raffle.

Fr John Paul Escarlan, Diocese of Parramatta

1. Where were you born and how long have you lived in Sydney?

I was born in Cebu, Philippines in 1983. I arrived in Australia on 04 October 2006.

2. When and where were you ordained?

I was ordained as a priest on 13 September 2013 at St Patrick's Cathedral, in Parramatta. I was very grateful to see many people from the Deaf Community who attended my priestly ordination.

3. Do you have brothers and sisters? Nieces nephews? What do you love most about your family?

I have one brother and two sisters. I am the third child. All of my siblings are married and have their own family. I have two nieces and two nephews. What I love most about my family is the love and support that we have for one another. Even if we are living very far from each other, we are constantly keeping in touch by calling and exchanging messages in Facebook.

4. Do you have a favourite Saint and if so why?

My favourite soon-to-be Saint is Blessed Pope John Paul II because of two reasons: firstly, I was named after him; and secondly, his great examples in faithfully following God's Will by serving God's people, especially as a pope.

5. Do you have a hobby? What do you do in your spare time?

I play Basketball and Tennis during my spare time.

6. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

I think the most adventurous thing I have ever done in Australia is driving a motorbike during a very cold winter morning (around 5:30AM) from St Marys to Glenwood just to play a social game of basketball in 2008.

7. How do you feel about coming to work with the Deaf Community?

When I was told that I will be working again with the Deaf Community, I was very happy that I will be given a chance once again to serve and work with the Deaf Community, now as a priest. I am hoping and praying that this will be a great time for me to know more about the great culture of the Deaf Community and to learn more Sign Language.

8. What teams do you follow – NRL, AFL, NBL or A league?

I don't really passionately follow any team in an Australian sport but I do have a team which I follow in National Basketball Association in USA, which is the 'Miami Heat'. However, when I first arrived in Australia, I started following 'Parramatta Eels', and I have had a chance to enjoy watching the 'Western Sydney Wanderers' playing.

9. Tell us one interesting or unusual thing about yourself.....

Maybe one unusual thing about me is that although I have been in Australia for a substantial period of time now, I still don't like to eat 'vegemite'.



Fr Michael Lanzon, Diocese of Sydney

1. Where were you born and how long have you lived in Sydney?

I was born in central Queensland and have lived in Sydney since 2007.

2. When and where were you ordained?

I was ordained at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney on 4 August 2012, the feast of St John Mary Vianney.

3. Do you have brothers and sisters? Nieces nephews? What do you love most about your family?

I had an older sister who passed away before I was born, three younger brothers and two younger sisters. One of my brothers is married and he and his wife have four children who are all incredibly cute.

4. Do you have a favourite Saint and if so why?

Choosing your favourite Saint is like choosing your favourite sibling (I try to avoid it), but I do feel particularly close to St Therese of Lisieux, because I read her autobiography at a young age and I felt I understood her (even though we were very different).

5. Do you have a hobby? What do you do in your spare time?

I like soccer (and most sports), programming, philosophy, sci-fi, and computer games.

6. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

Coming back to my faith and setting out to be a priest, because in some ways both those events meant trusting in God and stepping out into the unknown. In other ways, I knew that in some areas both those decisions would require a lot of growth and change in me. For example, I was very shy and knew that to be a good priest, I would have to be a little more confident in public.

7. How do you feel about coming to work with the Deaf Community?

I love the idea and can't wait to start learning Auslan and meeting people.

8. What teams do you follow – NRL, AFL, NBL or A league?

I usually prefer to play sports rather than watch them. I will watch NRL occasionally with friends, but I worry about the injuries. I don't want people getting brain damage for my entertainment!

9. Tell us one interesting or unusual thing about yourself.....

I once made a computer game. It was a semi 3-D, top-down scrolling, space invader style game which ran fantastically on my family's PC, but not on anyone else's. *blush* Sadly, I lost the game when my family's PC got a virus and had to be formatted, and my backup floppy disk failed. L (I know, I know... It sounds like "it was THIS BIG", but I have witnesses!)



Fr Kim Ha, Diocese of Sydney

1. Where were you born and how long have you lived in Sydney?

I was born in Saigon, Vietnam in 1973. I am an only child. I came to Sydney by Boeing 747 but escaped Vietnam by boat to Malaysia. I was sponsored by a Jewish family (the Greens) at Paddington.

2. When and where were you ordained?

A convert to the Catholic faith, I was baptised, confirmed and received my first Holy Communion in November 1997 at St Andrews, Malabar.

I was ordained as Deacon in November 2009 and was ordained to the Priesthood on the last day of the Year of the Priest on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on 11 June 2010.

4. Do you have a favourite Saint and if so why?

My favourite saint is St Paul the Apostle because he is so passionate and knows Jesus and the faith really well.

5. Do you have a hobby? What do you do in your spare time?

I have 2 sea kayaks, so I do some kayaking and fishing. I have seen dolphins, turtles, stingrays, penguins, sea lions, and of course lots of fish but thank God no sharks! I fish and kayak mainly in Port Hacking, Sydney Harbour, and Botany Bay.

6. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

The most adventurous thing I have ever done was to leave everything and do missionary work in Cebu, Philippines for one and half years.

7. How do you feel about coming to work with the Deaf Community?

It will be interesting to work with deaf people because learning a new language is like entering into another dimension.

8. What teams do you follow – NRL, AFL, NBL or A league?

I am a NRL Tiger fan. I am not very confident of this year though.

9. Tell us one interesting or unusual thing about yourself.....

I have 16 chickens, 4 rabbits, 3 ducks and soon a goat and lamb.





Noticeboard



Deaf Cafe

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people!



Deaf Café is for anybody, no need to book just turn up, we will have the coffee hot and the cake and biscuits waiting!

You can meet & chat with new people or catch up with old friends over a cuppa.

Tea & coffee available all day! Gold coin donation. Bring your own lunch or you can buy your lunch for \$3.

The next dates are:

14th March, 11th April & 9th May

(always on the 2nd Friday of the month)

Time: **10am to 2pm**

At: the Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl. See you there! ☺



500 Club

If you like playing cards & (of course) chatting with old & new friends, you're welcome to join this group - 500 Club! On once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month.



When: Fourth Tuesday of the month, 10.00am-2.00pm

Next Dates: 25th March, 22nd April & 27th May

Where: Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl

More information:
Morning tea, coffee & biscuits provided.
Please bring own lunch.



Ephpheta Centre - Closed after Easter

As we usually do in past years, the Ephpheta Centre will be closed for 1 week, from **Monday 21st April and will re open on Saturday 26th April**. Mass will be as normal at Revesby on 26th April.

Central Coast Deaf Cuppa

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people! For everybody, just turn up! There are a few coffee shops around the food court at Erina Fair shopping mall. Bring your money if you want to buy a drink or morning tea.



CC Deaf Cuppa is a great place to meet & chat with new people or catch up with old friends over a cuppa. Meet at middle of food court. Always on the LAST Friday of every SECOND month. The next date is:

28th February & 27th June

Where: ERINA FAIR, 620-658 Terrigal Drive

Time: starts 10.30am til 2.00pm

Contact: Donovan SMS: 0408 697 773

Email: donovan@ephpheta.org.au

See you there! ☺

Communion for the Elderly or the Sick in your home.

If you are sick or find it hard to get to Mass, Ephpheta can arrange to visit you and give Holy Communion to you in your home or hospital.

Please contact Donovan if you would like to know more.



Interpreted Theatre Shows/Musicals!



The Lion King

When: Sunday 18 May @ 6.30pm

Where: Capitol Theatre, Sydney

Interpreters: Daniel Hatelly & Susan Emerson

Language/Cultural Consultant: Medina Sumovic

Tickets: \$118 plus \$7.95 Handling Fee

Go to link to book tickets and use Auslan as password
http://www.ticketmaster.com.au/disney-presents-the-lion-king-australia-haymarket-new-south-wales-18-05-2014/event/13004A96BFFC89CF?artistid=820969&majorcatid=10002&minorcatid=207&tm_link=artist_msg-0_13004A96BFFC89CF

Limited tickets are available!



Strictly Ballroom

When: Thursday 18 September @ 8.00pm

Where: Sydney Lyric

Interpreters: Michelle Maguire & Mike Webb

Language/Cultural Consultant: Andrew Wiltshire

Tickets: \$100 plus \$7.95 Handling Fee

Go to link to book tickets and use Auslan as password
<http://www.ticketmaster.com.au/event/13004AFAC314A3BC>

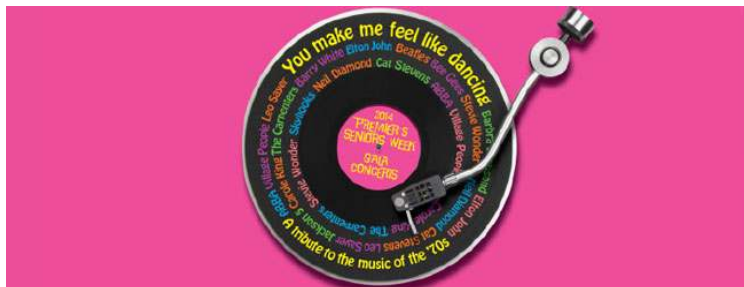
Limited tickets are available!

2014 Premier's Seniors Week Gala Concerts

The 2014 Premier's Seniors Week Gala Concerts will be held from 18 - 20 March 2014. There will be an Auslan sign language interpreter on stage!

The concerts will be held at Qantas Credit Union Arena the same place as the Sydney Entertainment Centre. (Please note that the Entertainment Centre name has changed.)

All concerts are free for NSW Seniors, aged 60 years or over. There are four concerts for you to pick:



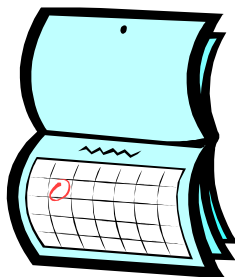
Tuesday 18 March - 4.30pm 1.
Wednesday 19 March - 10.30am 2.
Wednesday 19 March - 2.30pm 3.
Thursday 20 March - 10.30am 4.

Please pick which concert you want to go and let us know. You must have the ticket first before you can go to the concert.

Please contact David Parker on email: david.parker@ephpheta.org.au text: 0408 669 672 or TTY: 02 9708 6904 or Phone: 02 9708 1396

Save the Dates

Some very important things to book in to your diary now so you don't miss out! See below for more information...



27th February - Men's Day Out

2nd March - Commissioning & Blessing Mass

6th March - Women's Day Out

9th March - Gosford Mass CANCELLED

3rd May - CWF Mass (Location & Time TBC)

Easter Mass Times & Information:

5th March - Ash Wednesday Masses

7th March to 12th April - Lenten Groups

13th April to 19th April - Holy Week (see page 3 for more information)

Men's Day Out - 27th February

We will have a tour of the The Rugby League Museum. The museum shows the rich history of the game through a wonderful selection of unique objects and artefacts from the Australian Rugby League Collection.

When: Thursday 27 February 2014, starting at 10am.

Where: Rugby League Central Driver Avenue, Moore Park

RSVP: David Parker on **0408 669 672** or email **david@ephpheta.org.au**



Commissioning and Blessing - 2nd March

(for those who help at Mass)

We will be having a special blessing and commissioning of all the people who help during Mass at Punchbowl on the **2nd March**. This is for our Eucharistic Ministers, readers, collectors and interpreters.

For our Eucharistic ministers we ask you to arrive 20 mins early to have a brief training on the correct way to give out Holy Communion. This will only take 10 mins but we will do it 20 mins before Mass starts.

Women's Day Out - 6th March

Come & join the next Women's Day Out at a beautiful location - Manly! Check out the Art Gallery & Museum, walk along the scenic beach & enjoy lunch at one of the cafés in lovely company!

When: Thursday 6th March 2014, 10am till 2pm.

Where: Meet at Circular Quay, at 10am, to catch the ferry together.

Cost: \$2.50 (for Pensioner Excursion ticket) & money for lunch, cuppa etc. Art Gallery & Museum entry is free.

RSVP: To Danni 0410 567 621 (sms only) or email **danni@ephpheta.org.au**



Gosford Mass Cancelled - 9th March

North Gosford Mass is **CANCELLED** on Sunday 9th March because all the Ephpheta Centre Staff will be away on a Staff Retreat. No other Mass will be replacing this one, our apologies.

INTEGRATED CWF MASS - 4TH MAY

The Ephpheta Centre gets some funding from the CWF (Charitable Works Fund). There are 3 CWF weekends a year. So come & support us at this CWF Mass! The time & venue of this Mass is to be confirmed. Please watch out for updates in the Bulletin, email & Facebook updates.

When: Sunday 4th May. Time to be announced. **Where:** To be announced.

Because of this Integrated CWF Mass, **PUNCHBOWL Mass at Ephpheta Centre is CANCELLED** on 4th May.



Community Presentations, Workshops and Retreats



An Information Session About FUNERALS

A Community Education Program presenter from White Lady Funeral will deliver an information session.

The session will give you a clear idea what to do if there is a death of a relative or a friend.



When: Thursday 1st May 2014

Time: 10.30am—12.00pm

Where: The Ephpheta Centre
4 Turner Ave, Punchbowl

Cost: Free but must register!
Lunch will be provided by the Ephpheta Centre at \$3 per person (Optional)

RSVP: tclews@deafsociety.com or danni@ephpheta.org.au

Catholic Deaf Community Retreat

"Let us pause and call to mind God's presence within and among us, today and always....."

Date: Thursday 10 April 2014

Time: Arrive 9am

- Start Retreat 9.30am
- Lunch 12.30 – 1.30pm
- Conclude Retreat 2pm
- 2pm – 3pm (Reconciliation)

Fr. John Pickering will attend at 2pm to offer the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation to those who are interested.

Venue: St. Thomas More' Catholic Church (Hall), 43 Acacia Avenue, Ruse, NSW

Bring: BYO Lunch. Morning tea provided.

Cost: Free

Other Info: Open to all Deaf people, their family and friends. Interpreter provided.

R.S.V.P – by Friday 4th April to Rebecca Miller

email: rebecca.miller@dow.org.au or

SMS:

0419 152 310



Getting to know your Saint - St. Mary MacKillop, of the Cross Retreat - Presented by Kath

Evans and Pat Egan rsj.

You can attend for Friday only or Saturday only or the whole time (including accommodation and meals). Day visits include meals only.

When: Thursday 27th March

2014, 4.00pm until Sunday 30th

March 2014, 9.00am (Or come for the day!)

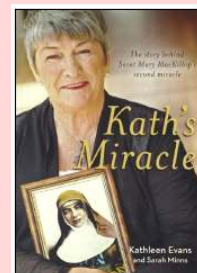
Where: St Josephs Spirituality and Education Centre, 8 Humphreys Rd, Kincumber South

Cost: Full 3 nights (all inclusive) \$350 or Day Visitors \$75 each day

More information: Come and hear Kath's journey with St. Mary MacKillop, Time to reflect on the life of both St. Mary MacKillop and Fr Tenison Woods, Come aside and experience with others, the beauty of the surroundings at Kincumber South

Contact: Email Nicole at

nicole@ephpheta.org.au or contact Nicole at the Ephpheta Centre as soon as possible.



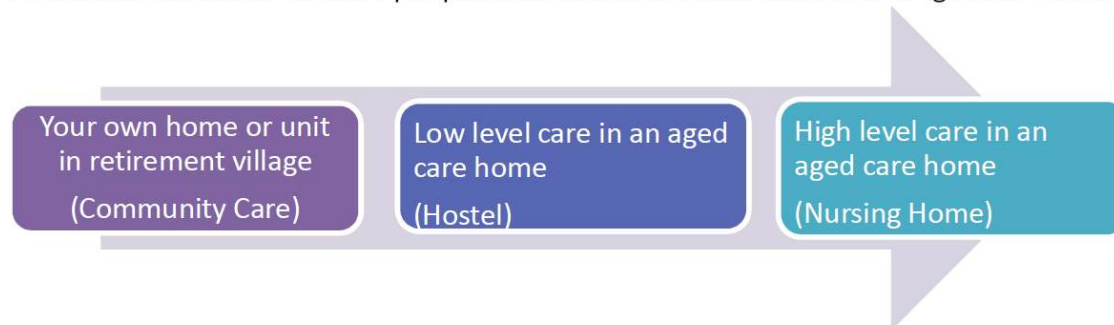
Deaf seniors - Planning ahead...

Did you know that the Australian population is ageing and more people need aged care services.

For many people, growing older means it can be more difficult to manage day-to-day living activities. Most older Australians want to stay living in their own homes as long as they can. This is the same for Deaf and hearing seniors. There are many types of aged care services available to support you.

What about Deaf people?

Services are available to older people who live in their own homes or in aged care homes.



Community Care (Northern Beaches), an organisation which specialises in services for older people, is working with the Deaf Society of NSW to:

- Make sure that Deaf people can access information and education about different types of aged care services available
- Educate organisations so they know more about the needs of Deaf people

More information?

Come to a **WORKSHOP** which will be presented in Auslan by Linda Warby and Rebecca Ladd.

Where: Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl

When: Sunday 6th April 2014 after Mass (workshop starts at 1pm)

RSVP: Danni Wright Email: danni@ephpheta.org.au

Afternoon tea will be provided and there will be a **LUCKY DOOR PRIZE**

What will I learn at the workshop?

- Planning for your future
- What help can I get?
 - Living in my own home
 - Low-level care in an aged care facility
 - High-level care in an aged care facility
 - Taking a break for a short time (respite care)
 - Transitional Care (services in your own home after leaving hospital)
- How do I get these services? – eligibility and assessment
- Next steps - Future options



Deaf Mother's Club of the West

Happy New Year to everyone!

On 6th April 2013 eleven ladies visited the Justice and Police Museum at Circular Quay. We enjoyed looking at the many interesting displays of criminal weapons, reading historical stories and seeing photos of offenders inside the historic police and court building. After our visit everyone enjoyed a delicious luncheon at The Ship Inn.



For our annual Mother's Day outing on Sunday, 5th May 2013 twenty seven ladies turned up to visit Cockatoo Island. Our guide, Renee McPherson led us on a very informative tour of the Island where we saw solitary confinement prison cells, hand carved silos and inspected the many buildings there. That Island has a rich



history that dates back to the time of the first settlement and the many shipbuilding activities that occurred on the Island. We were very lucky

to have beautiful weather during our visit.

On 27th August 2013, a representative from the Legal Aid Office visited Deaf Mothers' Club of the West gathering at Marayong to give a talk about Powers of Attorney and Wills. Everyone who attended found the topics interesting as it made us aware of the importance of updating our legal papers.

Beautiful sunny weather greeted nine ladies on 22nd September 2013 as they walked from Balmoral Beach to Chowder Bay through natural bushland. Whilst at Middle Head, we saw some tunnels, inspected the sandstone gun pits, the fort and enjoyed the amazing views. We had lunch at Chowder Bay before



continuing our walk which finished at Taronga Zoo before catching the ferry back to Circular Quay.

Deaf Mother's Club of the West held its last gathering at Marayong on Tuesday, 22nd October 2013. We

were notified that due to the closure of the Children's Centre where we had been meeting, we are now without a venue to meet. Also, as the number of members attending our monthly gatherings had

reduced, it was decided that Deaf Mother's Club of the West will no longer meet at Marayong.

However, Deaf Mother's Club of



the West will continue to meet at many different places for luncheon every two months with outings on the other months. Please see next page for the 2014 luncheon and outing dates.

On Saturday, 16th November 2013 fourteen ladies turned up at Circular Quay for Deaf Mother's Club of the West Christmas Outing to Shark Island. What a wonderful time we all had as we had the whole island to ourselves – many people stayed away due to the forecast of the wet weather but luckily for us, the sun shone on



us at Shark Island. Everyone brought along a plate of food to share and we all enjoyed a lovely luncheon which was filled with lots of

laughter. Just as the day was ending, the heavens opened and down poured the rain.

Please note that **Deaf Mother's Club of the West** has its own Facebook page and you need to like the page so to be updated with its coming events. Should you have any query or request information, please comment on our Facebook page.



By Margaret Johnston



Out and About in the Deaf Community

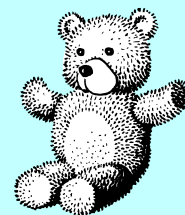
Congratulations to Wollongong Chaplain to the Deaf

Following the retirement of Fr. John Pickering in 2013, the Diocese of Wollongong has appointed a new Chaplain to the Deaf Community. The Catholic Deaf community at St. John's Campbelltown were joined by family and friends to welcome Rebecca Miller to this role at 9am Mass on Sunday 9th February. Bishop Peter Ingham offered his prayers and a special blessing, demonstrating his ongoing commitment and care to the Deaf Community throughout the Illawarra. Rebecca is humbled to be asked to take up the role of Chaplain and hopes she will be able to provide greater opportunities for Deaf people to strengthen their faith and participate in the life of the Church.



Thank you from Vinnies

For Advent last year, some of us went next door to St Jerome's church to help St Vincent de Paul in Punchbowl support poor and disadvantaged local families during Christmas. Food Donations from the community were sorted & wrapped into hampers. We received a Thank You card from them with a cute P.S. "P.S. The little girl who received the big white teddy bear was over the moon."



Deaf Mother's Club of the West

We look forward to our 2014 gatherings as follows:

Tuesday, 25th February, 11am Luncheon at The Mean Fiddler, Corner of Commercial and Windsor Road, Rouse Hill

Saturday, 29th March Barefoot Lawn Bowls Outing at North Sydney

Tuesday, 29th April, 11am Lunch at one of Windsor's many pubs. Please meet at the Waterwheel on Baker Street, Windsor

Sunday, 25th May Mother's Day Outing and Luncheon at Manly

Tuesday, 24th June, 11am Luncheon at Flower Power Garden Centre, 25 Rowood Road, Prospect

Friday, 25th and Saturday, 26th July White Christmas Weekend at Blue Mountains (to be confirmed)

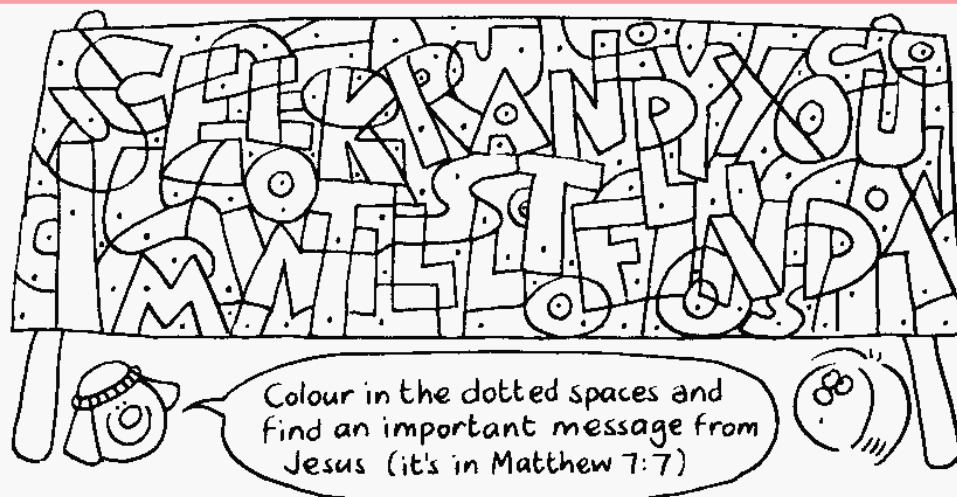
Tuesday, 26th August, 11am Luncheon at King Henry's Court Restaurant, 74 Henry Street, Penrith

Sunday, 14th September Coastal Walk (to be confirmed)

Tuesday, 28th October, 11am Luncheon at Mamre Homestead Tea Rooms, Lot 1 Mamre Road, St Marys

Saturday, 15th November Palm Beach Outing

Please check Deaf Mother's Club of the West Facebook page for any events and updates.



CRAFT CORNER



Deaf Craft

20 years Anniversary

When: Saturday 22nd March 2014

Invitations have been sent to all Deaf Craft Group members (current & past).

Please don't forget to RSVP with payment before 11th March 2014.



History Corner

By Brian Johnston



Father Dominic Phillips, C.M. was the first Chaplain of the Catholic Deaf in NSW (and in Australia) from 1935 to 1937. He was the first Catholic Priest in Australia to give regular spiritual instruction to the Deaf in their own sign language.

He gave a Mission to the Catholic Deaf Adults at Strathfield in January 1932. He travelled to Melbourne, Newcastle and Brisbane giving Missions and Retreats to the Deaf. It was Fr Phillips who brought the needs of the Deaf to the notice of the Catholic Women's Association who formed the social sub-committee which provided the Deaf a club room on Friday nights. Fr Phillips'

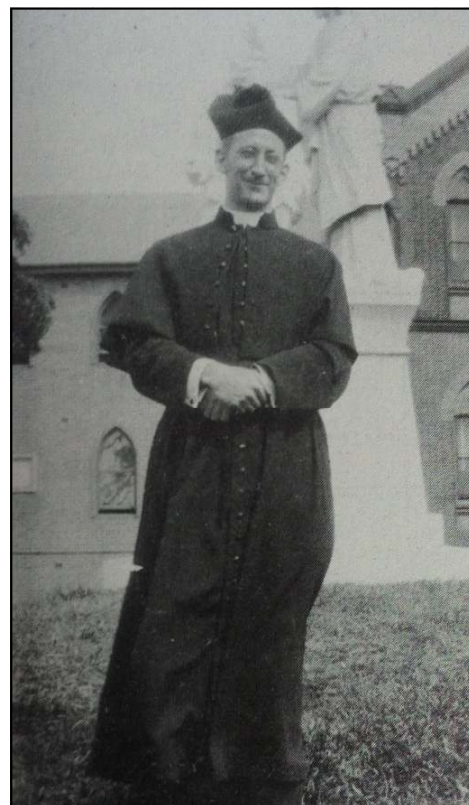
sister, Norah Dyer was one member of the devoted band of hearing ladies headed by Bella Thornton and then Jeanne Crowe, known as the Ladies Auxiliary.

Fr Phillips was born in Sydney on 30 August 1903, one of seven children of Joseph and Bridget Phillips. Besides three siblings who died young, he had three sisters, Norah (Mrs Dyer), Mary (Mrs McDonald) and Margaret (Mrs Briscoe, Deaf). Fr Phillips was an uncle of Molly Strano and Paul Briscoe, both Deaf.

Fr Phillips entered the Novitiate of the Vincentian Fathers in 1922 and was ordained in 1927. In 1937 he became the Spiritual Director at Mosgiel College in New Zealand and his withdrawal from the Deaf of Australia was a severe blow, for it was due to his interest in them that the Adult Deaf became firmly welded together into united groups for their spiritual and social benefit. Fr Phillips was succeeded by Fr G. Templeton in 1937.

Fr Phillips later worked in Victoria 1953-1955, Queensland 1956, South Australia 1957-1964 and Queensland 1966 until his death on 7 February 1970 at the age of 66. He was buried in North Rockhampton Cemetery.

Sources: Australasia Adult Catholic Deaf and Dumb magazine 'Past & Present', 'History of Catholic Deaf Education in Australia' book, 'Open Minds Open Hearts' book and 'The Silent Messenger' newsletter.



Father Dominic Phillips about 1935

In Memory

Grant Kent



I remember when I was a little girl, Mum and Dad (Eva and Grant) took us all to Deaf Mass. Like other children our age we would always ask if we could stay home. I remember Dad would always stick up for us and also want to stay home! When we got older, Mum and Dad were able to spend more time doing things together and they enjoyed every moment of each other's company.



Dad really enjoyed going to the Ephpheta Centre on a regular basis. He was happy to be by Mum's side. Whilst living overseas, I would Skype chat with Dad and he would tell all sorts of stories about friends that he had seen at the Ephpheta Centre, and he would constantly nag me to come home so he could

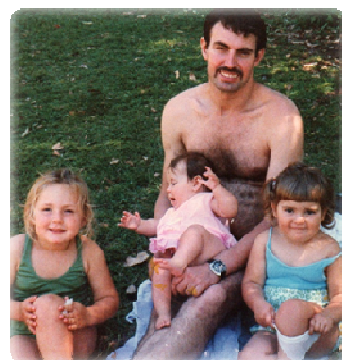
introduce me to a wonderful bunch of people. During the last couple of years of Dad's life, I reunited with many old faces from the deaf community who I grew up with, and also had the pleasure of meeting new people who dad would talk about on a regular basis.

It made him so happy to show off all three of his girls to his closest mates and I loved watching him glow and be so proud of us. In the last few months before his passing, Dad continued to strive to go to mass. He continued to go because of his faith, his friendships and Mum's joy in spending time with him. It was all of these things that made Dad's time at the Ephpheta Centre so special.

The love and kindness that continues to pour from the Catholic deaf community is overwhelming. Without their support Dad would not have had such contentment in his heart, and this contentment has greatly helped my family and I deal with his passing. For that, we will be eternally grateful.

Thank you all.

By Tara Kent



Jeanne Crowe



Jeanne was born on 6th August 1916, the eldest of 7 children.

Jeanne taught near Adaminaby in the 1930s and in 1939 married Rowley Crowe. They lived at Dry Plain Station where Rowley worked and Jeanne ran the Post Office and Telephone Exchange. They had two daughters, Patricia and Lynette. In 1943, the year that Lynette was born, Jeanne's husband was diagnosed with chronic lymphatic leukaemia. Rowley died in 1948.

In 1950, Jeanne and the girls moved to live in Mascot where she joined in the parish and Legion of Mary. In 1962, Patricia was professed as a Sister of Mercy. In 1967 Lynette was married but sadly in 1968 she and her husband were killed in a motor accident.

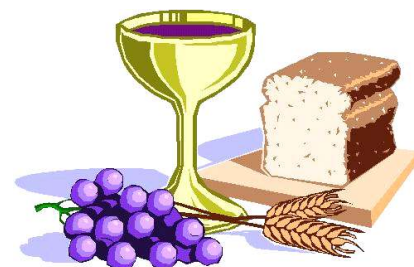
In 1951, Jeanne became active in the Catholic Women's Association (now Catholic Women's League). Her work was with the Catholic Deaf Community. This continued until 1984 when the Ephpheta Centre moved to Lewisham, then Flemington.

Jeanne worked for many years at Prince Henry and Prince of Wales hospitals. When she retired, Jeanne did voluntary work for the Catholic Enquiry Centre, as well as the Catholic Deaf Association.

In 1968, Jeanne moved to South Maroubra and was an active member of the Communities of St. Andrew's Malabar and Holy Family, Maroubra. In 1994, Jeanne moved to the Maroubra Gardens Retirement Village. From 2004 Jeanne was involved with the charity "Wrap with Love". Jeanne was an Associate of the Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart since July 1966.

A special thank you to Jeanne for all her work with the Catholic Deaf Community – may she rest in peace.

Mass Times



FEBRUARY

22nd Saturday 6.00pm
REVESBY

MARCH

2nd Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL

Commissioning & Blessing Mass
(for more information, see page 8)

5th Ash Wednesday 12.00pm
PUNCHBOWL

5th Ash Wednesday 7.00pm
PENRITH

9th Sunday 9.30am
~~GOSFORD~~ **CANCELLED**
(for more information, see page 8)

16th Sunday 11.00am
SEVEN HILLS

22nd Saturday 6.00pm
REVESBY

APRIL

6th Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL
& Community Presentation
(for more information, see page 10)

HOLY WEEK

13th Palm Sunday 10.30am
MANLY

17th Holy Thursday 9.00am
PUNCHBOWL (St Jerome's)

17th Holy Thursday 7.00pm
PENRITH

19th Good Friday Service 3.00pm
PUNCHBOWL

20th Easter Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
PUNCHBOWL

26th Saturday 6.00pm
REVESBY

MAY

4th Sunday TBC
PUNCHBOWL CWF Mass

TO BE CONFIRMED (Integrated Mass)
(for more information, see page 8)

Church Addresses



Chapel of
St Francis de Sales
4 Turner St
Punchbowl



Our Lady of
the Rosary
92 Glennie St
North Gosford
Integrated Mass



St Mary's
6 Raglan St
Manly
Integrated Mass



Our Lady of
Lourdes
7 Grantham Rd
Seven Hills



St Luke's
1 Beaconsfield St
Revesby
6pm
Integrated Vigil Mass

Campbelltown Mass Dates:

At: St John the Evangelist, 35 Cordeaux St,
Campbelltown

When: 9th March, 13th April,
11th May, 8th June **Time:** 9am

We pray...

For those who have died

23 July 2013 - Kevin Scott (Helen Lloyd's (nee Scott, ex-St Gabriel's, father)

23 October 2013 - Margaret Nell

15 December 2013 - Grant Kent

27 January 2014 - Jeanne Crowe (ex Ephpheta Staff)

For those who are sick

Stephen Dane (Orange)

Brett Beath

Fr Peter Woodward

Sara Zeatier (Margaret Roumanos' cousin)

John Pattison (Recuperating from an operation in Dec 2013)

Br Reg Shepherd

Hilton Mills

Viola Alexander

Joan Uhrig





4 Turner St,
PUNCHBOWL NSW 2196
Phone: (02) 9708 1396
TTY: (02) 9708 6904
Fax: (02) 9709 5638
Email: office@ephpheta.org.au

We're on the Web!
www.ephpheta.org.au

 Join us on Facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/deafcentre>

The Ephpheta Centre is supported
by the Charitable Works Fund.



Email addresses of our staff

Liz - office@ephpheta.org.au
Danni - danni@ephpheta.org.au
David - david@ephpheta.org.au
Donovan - donovan@ephpheta.org.au
Nicole - nicole@ephpheta.org.au
Peter - peter@ephpheta.org.au
Stephen - stephen@ephpheta.org.au

*Please send your news, stories,
information and requests to
Danni to be considered for the
next newsletter!*



WEBSITE NEWS

Have you seen our website recently?

Our website is now being updated weekly so it is always full of current information - we hope everyone will get used to checking it!

If you have any ideas for our website please contact Danni.

What does "Ephpheta" mean?

The name Ephpheta of our Centre came from the bible - a story about Jesus curing a deaf man, he says "Ephpheta" which means "Be open". So we keep that in our service to the Deaf Community! We are always open to you all!