

## National Week of Deaf People 2015

### NWDP Closing Ceremony

For National Week of Deaf People 2016, we had a Closing Ceremony to mark the end of NWDP. As always, it was a great event with great food and wine, beer and other drinks and great presentations following the International theme "With Sign Language Rights, Deaf Children Can!".

We also had a fantastic presentation and photos by Olwyne Ho, telling us about his aspirations and memorable experiences being involved in the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Camp in Turkey, July 2015.

Jordanna Smith, President of Deaf Australia (NSW) spoke at the evening. We all met her adorable baby girl, Callie who is also Deaf. Todd Wright, President of Deaf Australia closed NWDP presenting about hopes and possible achievements as Deaf people with Auslan rights and ending with a Blue Ribbon Ceremony to remember those who have suffered and been mistreated because they were Deaf.

Thank you to everyone who presented, the interpreters, and our wonderful kitchen staff for all their hard work!

### At the Deaf Festival, Parramatta River...

We had a stall at the Deaf Festival once again this year, it was a great day and there seemed to be many more people attending than there were last year!! And we had an exciting announcement there...

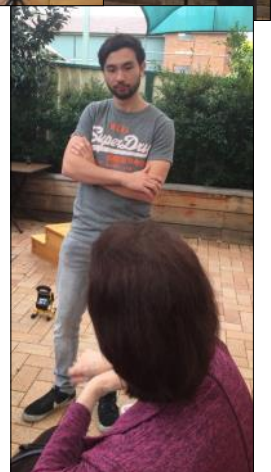


### "David Parker wins DA NSW's Deaf Person of the Year!"

A huge congratulations to our David Parker on his receiving the 2014 Deaf Person of the Year Award in the Deaf Australia (NSW) Deaf Community Awards

Presented at the Deaf Festival at Parramatta on 17 October 2015, this award is in recognition of David's exceptional achievements. It is awarded to an outstanding person who presents a positive image of deaf people and who supports deaf people. We all know David as a wonderful advocate for deaf people and as someone who is deeply involved in supporting the deaf community. Congratulations David – we are all very proud of you!

For more photos, please see page 7, inside.



# A Message from Liz & Dave...

## Liz's report

It is hard to believe that we are almost in Advent and the run up to Christmas, I am really not too sure where the year has gone!



It has been a huge year for the Ephpheta Centre. We celebrated with Stephen as he began the next step of his life into retirement, this was a wonderful positive time where we celebrated all of Stephen's achievements. There was of course the sadness that comes with change – but the Deaf community and the Ephpheta team have managed this change well. A part of that change was of course the appointment of David and myself as the new management team at the Centre. I thank the community and our Ephpheta staff for the support and encouragement we have received in stepping into our new roles. It has been wonderful – thank you.

Other big changes have been the appointment of our 2 new staff – I hope that you will come and say hello to Chrisso and Di next time you see them. They have settled in so well and are making a real change to our work at Ephpheta. We also have been blessed with the appointment of Fr Michael as our full time chaplain until early next year. Please make sure you practice your Auslan with him!

The Church's Year of Mercy starts on 8 December 2015. The endless nature of God's mercy – His willingness always to love us and forgive us – is something which Pope Francis often speaks about. Pope Francis reminds us that God's mercy to us is real. It is how God shows his love to us, just like mothers and fathers love their children. The Church is working on some exciting events for the Year of Mercy and we are working on this theme in our planning for the community for next year.

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas – may God bless you and your families at this wonderful time of the year.

Liz McDowell  
Manager of Business

## Dave's report



It is now about 5 months since I started in my new manager role. The time went too quickly but I am enjoying it very much. I really enjoy working with people and coming up with ideas or solutions to make Deaf people's lives a bit better. It is very challenging. I get to do so many different things on any day. I am very lucky to have my co manager Liz to share our frustrations and achievements and to support each other. I am truly blessed to have a great hard working team.

The National Week of Deaf people from 19<sup>th</sup> October to 23<sup>rd</sup> of October was a great week. It is a special annual event in Australia – where we celebrate ourselves as Deaf individuals and the Deaf Australian community. We had a stall at the Deaf Festival, Parramatta which was organised by the Deaf Society of NSW and with the support from Deaf Australia (NSW) and it was very well received. Many people stopped by to have a chat with the Ephpheta team. We had a closing ceremony at the centre. Olwyne Ho, a representative from the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Camp, was our speaker for the night, he shared his experiences there.

My To Do list is getting bigger daily but I know what is most important. We serve you and the deaf community. Deaf people. Hard of Hearing people. Young people. Interpreters. Hearing people. Parents. Migrants. Non-religious people. Catholics. Muslims. Hindus. Anglicans. Jewish people... etc etc. Everyone is welcome here at the Centre!

I was deeply honoured to be nominated as the Deaf Person of the Year 2014 from Deaf Australia (NSW) at the Deaf Festival 2015 and win this award. It means a lot to me and I know what I have been doing for the last few years is valuable. Your support means a lot to me.

November is a good time for us to reflect on what we have done in 2015 and start preparing for the big December month!

May peace be with you all. Thank you!

David Parker  
Manager of Community



# Fr Michael's Reflections...

## Mercy in a Manger

Do you remember the story of the fall of Adam and Eve? Adam and Eve sinned, and God made them leave the garden. God cursed the devil who had tempted them, and told Adam and Eve what hardships they would have, because of their bad choice. These judgments of God are not simply to punish or destroy. God loves Adam and Eve, and He has a loving plan for them. There is a glimpse of God's love in the way he clothes Adam and Eve before sending them out into the world. (I'm reminded of parents dressing their children to send them to school.)



God sends Adam and Eve out, with an Angel to stop them from returning, because He wants to lead them to something better. He plans to lead them to more than a Garden of Eden. God plans to lead them to life in heaven. God's love never stopped, and His plan was always to be merciful. Many years later, He prepared a child of Israel, Mary, with many graces so that she could grow up to be the Mother of God. One day, she would give birth to her Son, Jesus. He would be the Son of God the Father, and the face of God's mercy. Jesus, is God coming in mercy to the world.

Who knew?! God was sending us into the world, so that He could follow us into it and lead us to eternal life. And we first saw His face in the newborn Jesus lying in a humble manger.

Mother Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Fr Michael

## Year of Mercy A Letter from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has declared a new Jubilee Year. It will begin on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8 and it will finish on November 20, the Feast of Christ the King. A Jubilee year is a special year when the Church calls people to come and receive special blessings, to turn back to God, and receive the forgiveness of their sins. There will be special pilgrimages and indulgences. Bishop Fisher tells me that St Mary's Cathedral will be one of the places of pilgrimage. The Catholic Church has called jubilee years every 25 or 50 years since the year 1300. The Church has also called special jubilee years from time to time known as extraordinary jubilee years. The last jubilee year was held in 2000 during the papacy of Pope John Paul II and was known as "the Great Jubilee."

Pope Francis has announced that this jubilee year will be a Year of Mercy. He wrote a letter to all the faithful telling them that "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy". And he spoke about how God has always been rich in mercy and that His plan from the very beginning was to give us His mercy in the person of His Son, Jesus, who was born on Christmas Day.

In the "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.

Pope Francis



# Meet Our New Staff! Diane & Christiane

## Diane Ulrich-Smith

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

I was born in Kaitaia in New Zealand, and I have lived in Sydney nearly 30 years this December.

### 2. Tell us about your family?

I have 2 sisters who still live in New Zealand and I am the youngest. I am married to Kevin J Smith.

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

I love playing sports and travelling overseas. I also like going to the beach to take my dog for a walk.

### 4. How do you feel about coming to work at the Ephpheta Centre?

I enjoy coming to work at Ephpheta as it feels welcoming and relaxing and we all work together well.

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

I went to South Africa for a safari and it was so interesting to see the animals in their natural life and see what they do there.

### 6. What sporting teams do you follow – NRL, AFL, NBL or A league?

I follow the All Blacks in Rugby Union and I'm glad they won recently in the World Cup in London!!! I'm so pleased! I also support Balmain (but they've merged!!!) Tigers and I also love Netball too.

### 7. Do you have a favourite Saint and why?

St. Mary McKillop is my favourite Saint, she is an amazing woman in the old days, she was wonderful in helping people and was open to the people. The stories about her life are very interesting.

### 8. Tell us one interesting or unusual thing about yourself.....

Ummmmm, I'm not sure what to say - something about me?? I guess, I drink plain hot water every day!

## Christiane Kassab

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

I was born and raised in Sydney and have been living in the same house in Randwick for 27 years!

### 2. Tell us about your family?

I have a big loud and loving Lebanese family! My mum has always been and still is my greatest supporter. My younger brother was married in March and I have a little niece on the way!

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

I like to shop. Haha. JOKING! I love spending time with my 2 beautiful Goddaughters. I absolutely love baking. I can easily spend 8 hours in the kitchen baking a masterpiece. I love to challenge myself with new recipes and cake designs.

### 4. How do you feel about coming to work at the Ephpheta Centre?

I love it! I was first introduced to the Ephpheta Centre when I was a teenager in high school. I always found it a warm and welcoming place. I'm excited to be part of such an amazing team.

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

It's a toss up between sky diving or swimming in a pool of sting rays. Sky diving was an exhilarating experience. Swimming with sting rays is something I'd be happy never to do again! I was petrified the entire time.

### 6. What sporting teams do you follow – NRL, AFL, NBL or A league?

NRL – Bunnies!!!!!! I really only follow because of the cute players hehehe

### 7. Do you have a favourite Saint and why?

Saint Anne. My confirmation day name!

### 8. Tell us one interesting or unusual thing about yourself.....

I can only cry from my right eye! That's where my sign name came from.





## Meet the Saints - St. Drogo of Sebourg (Feast Day - 16th April)

Also known as **Dreux**, **Drugo**, and **Druron**, is a French Patron Saint of those whom others find repulsive, unattractive people, broken bones, cattle, coffee house owners, **deaf people**, dumbness, gall stones, hernias, illness, insanity, mental illness, midwives, muteness, orphans, ruptures, sheep & shepherds. He was born in Epinoy, on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1105 in the far north of France near Flanders.

Drogo was a child of Flemish nobility. His father died before he was born & his mother died when he was born. When Drogo was about ten, he learned the reason for her death, and it made an emotional impact on him. Later in his life he went to extreme penances, perhaps to relieve his guilt.

At 18 years old, he gave away all his property and became a shepherd for about six years working in Sebourg, near Valenciennes for a well-off peasant woman. He became such a good shepherd that, despite his youth, he soon got a reputation as a master and would teach others in shepherdry. He also became a pilgrim, travelling to Rome about nine times, visiting the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, stopping along the way at many other holy sites in France and Italy.

Drogo loved his simple life, spent a lot of time in prayers and gave most of his wages or gifts to the poor. His humility, gentleness and generosity quickly made the villagers' admire him. Eventually, the hardships of pilgrimaging caused Drogo to develop a debilitating and disfiguring hernia, so he had to make his way back to Sebourg for the last time.

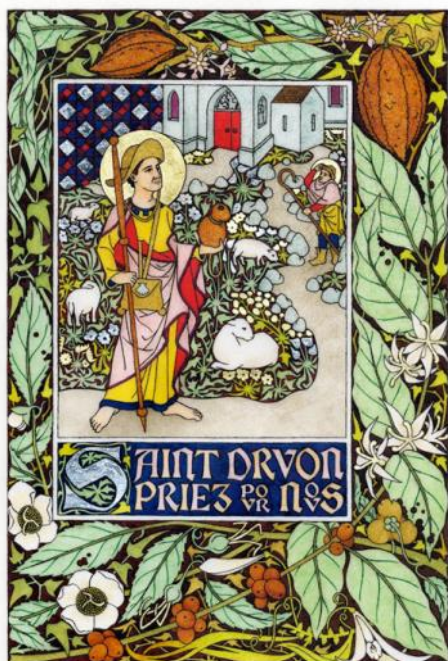
In his twenties, the villagers helped him build a cell to continue to live in solidarity. From there, Drogo could adore the Holy Eucharist and hear Masses through a small window in the church wall. Living solidary, Drogo never refused the people who wanted to talk with him for spiritual advice or prayers. Those who visited him always left comforted and learnt many things from him.

One day the church caught fire. The alarm was raised, and the villagers came running to find that Drogo's adjoining cell already in flames and it was impossible to stop the fire. The villagers implored Drogo to come out to save himself, but Drogo insisted that if he was to live, God would save him. Drogo remained on his knees in prayers until the fire ended, burning most of the church to ashes. Drogo was found, unburned, still praying! The villagers rebuilt the church and a new dwelling for Drogo on the same place.

St. Drogo died of old age in his cell, in Sebourg, France on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1186.

You may know of the St Drogo café opposite the Deaf Society of NSW, they were at the Deaf Festival and know some coffee related signs!

Source: [http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=2989](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=2989)  
<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2015/rediscovering-saint-drogo-sebourg>



ARTWORK BY DANIEL MITSUI  
WWW.DANIELMITSUI.COM



Left: Max, the Barista at St Drogo's, signing COFFEE

# Out and About in the Deaf Community

## DYS John Smith show

We held a very successful workshop at Ephpheta Centre on Friday 9th October. We had a "How to be Funny" workshop by the British deaf comedian, John Smith. John Smith is a deaf guy who travels a lot around the world giving comedy shows for deaf people and comedy workshops for young deaf people for many years.

Chrisso, Joanna, Donovan and I were the group leaders. 15 deaf youth came from all over Sydney. We started the night with yummy BBQ dinner with bread rolls.

We also had a professional sign language interpreter there with us. John talked about his experiences growing up as a deaf person. He also joked a lot about different deaf people around the world. The youth laughed so much. There was a great animated video and then John ran a short workshop on how to run a funny show. He gave us useful tips on how to be a funny person.

It was a great night!

Thank you Joanna Agius of Deaf Arts - Accessible Arts for helping us to get in touch with John Smith and to get him to run a successful workshop for the Deaf Youth Sydney group!

By David Parker



## New Deaf and Hard of Hearing Catholic Website



We would like to congratulate Trish Mowbray and her hard working team at the Australian Catholic Disability Council with the support of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life on the launch of their new Deaf and Hard of Hearing website.

Ephpheta was invited to participate in a National launch of the website on 22 October. Representatives from deaf Catholic organisations around Australia participated in the launch which was live streamed.

Bishop Terry Brady, Bishops Delegate to the Australian Catholic Disability Council, said,

'A major challenge is to ensure that all people are included in the life of the Church in Australia. We must assist and ensure that the deaf and hard of hearing community can fully participate in the life of the Church in Australia. The new website has been developed as a resource for families, parishes, schools, church agencies and diocesan personnel. This website, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Catholic Ministry, encourages church agencies and faith communities to discover and celebrate the beauty and strength of the body of Christ by promoting participation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, including their family and friends, in the life of the Church.'

[www.catholic.org.au/dmw](http://www.catholic.org.au/dmw)

## Assembly Day Thanks and Feedback

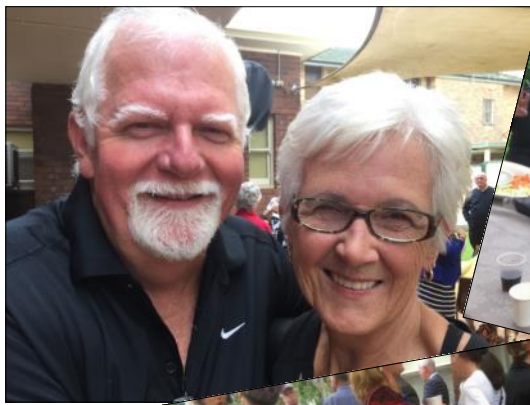
We would like to thank everyone for coming to our Assembly Day at the Ephpheta Centre. Thank you for being involved in our assembly day discussions. We are working through this information from you all. We are very thankful for your thoughtful ideas and answers.

### Feedback?

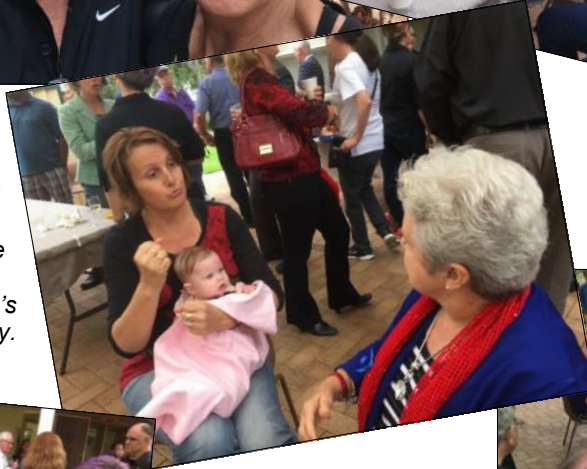
You are very welcome to give us any feedback or ideas anytime. You can email David at [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) or Liz at [liz@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:liz@ephpheta.org.au)

**Thank You!**





Right: Chevoy cuddles adorable Callie, Jordanna's Deaf baby.



Below: The kitchen ladies having a celebratory drink after a job very well done!



Above: Some photos from the Closing Ceremony.



Below: some photos from the Deaf Festival, Parramatta River.





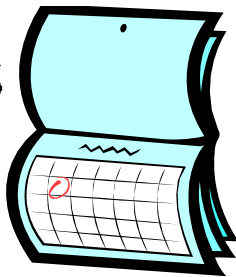
# Save the Dates

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

**26th November** - Men's Day Out

**29th November** - Special Mass

**6th December** - Giving Mass



**6th December** - Ephpheta Christmas Party

**10th December** - Advent Event

**14th December** - Women's Day Out

**20th December** - RSL Lunch after Seven Hills Mass

**24th December** - Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

**18th Dec to 27th Jan** - Ephpheta Centre CLOSED

**10th February** - Ash Wednesday Masses

**21st February** - Mass at Westmead

**February** - Lenten Groups start

## Deaf Men's Day Out - 26th November

Come & join the next Men's Day Out for a Car tour at the Australian Motorlife Museum (NRMA) in Kembla Grange. You will learn the NRMA story from when it started until now. The museum has rare NRMA memorabilia and a mini movie cinema that shows the amazing old footage showing NRMA Patrols over 90 years of helping motorists who got stuck.

**Where:** Australian Motorlife Museum, Darkes Road, Kembla Grange.

**When:** Thursday 26th November, meet 10am at Darkes Road, Kembla Grange (Motorlife Museum. Auslan interpreted tour is 30 minutes.

**Cost:** Adult \$15, Concession \$12 or NRMA Members \$10. Bring extra money for lunch afterwards.

**RSVP:** For more information please contact David Parker, SMS 0408 669 672 or email [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)



## Special Mass - 29th November

To celebrate Fr Michael's appointment as full time Chaplain, and to bless the new leadership team and all staff at the Ephpheta Centre, we will be having a special Mass celebrated by Fr John Hill, Chaplain from JPC in Melbourne. This date also marks the start of Advent, the time of our preparation for Christmas and the birth of Jesus.



We will follow Mass with a light lunch for a gold coin donation at the Ephpheta Centre. All are welcome, we hope you can make it!

**When:** Sunday 29th November at 10am

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St Punchbowl

**RSVP:** Please RSVP to David on 0408 669 672 (sms only) or email to [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) before 24th November (so we know how many people to expect for lunch).

## Giving Mass - 6th December

We will have our usual Giving Mass at our Punchbowl Mass.

**When:** Sunday 6th December at Mass, Punchbowl, starting 10am.

**Bring:** A gift like packets of rice, spaghetti or pasta sauce, canned vegetables, Christmas cakes/desserts with a Christmas theme or any other food you would like to donate and Bathroom items like body wash, to help the poor or disadvantaged to be blessed.



**PLEASE REMEMBER** - you cannot donate old or pre-used things. Only NEW and NOT OPENED things. Food cannot be old or past use-by date.



## Ephpheta Christmas Party – 6th December

As usual, after the Punchbowl Mass in December, we'll have our Ephpheta Community Christmas Party. This is always a popular event! All welcome to join us for lunch provided for \$10 per person or \$20 per family with children under 16 years old (under 2 years old free). Tickets will also be on sale for a Christmas raffle.



**When:** Sunday 6th December after Mass at 10am

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

**After Mass:** Lunch - \$10 each or \$20 per family. Beer & wine available for gold coin donation.

**RSVP:** By **Wednesday 2nd December** to Danni - SMS 0410 567 621 or email [danni@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:danni@ephpheta.org.au) or so we know how many for lunch.



## Advent Event - 10th December

Advent is the time when we prepare for Christmas, for the arrival of the baby Jesus. This year, Fr Michael will lead us in a discussion about the meaning of the Nativity and we will set up our beautiful Ephpheta Nativity scene. Everyone is welcome!



**When:** Thursday 10th December,

9.30am: Start with Thursday morning Mass, then morning tea,

10.45am: Presentation by Fr Michael and setting up Nativity scene and finish with lunch.

**Where:** The Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St Punchbowl

**RSVP:** Please RSVP to Danni before Wednesday 9th December  
Email to [danni@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:danni@ephpheta.org.au) or sms to 0410 567 621



## Deaf Women's Day Out - 14 December

Come & join the next Women's Day Out learning about the **Parramatta Female Factory** in Parramatta! We will have an Auslan interpreted tour of the Female Factory learning about the days of the female convicts during the early 1800's. We will return to the Parramatta Leagues Club afterwards to finish with lunch or a cuppa in lovely company!



**When:** Monday 14th December, meet at 11am. (We will leave 11.15am for the tour.)

**Where:** Meet at the café inside Parramatta Leagues Club, 13-15 O'Connell St, Parramatta.

**Cost:** Entry is by gold coin donation to the Volunteers at the Parramatta Female Factory Friends organisation plus lunch or cuppa at your own cost. (or BYO lunch)

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

## CDC-NSW RSL Lunch - 20th December

As usual, CDC-NSW will have a club lunch at the end of the year so come join the Community!



**When:** Sunday 20th December about 12.30pm (after Seven Hills Mass finishes)

**Where:** Seven Hills RSL, Corner Best Rd & William St, Seven Hills

**After Mass:** Buy your own lunch at Seven Hills RSL, chat with friends & CDC-NSW!

## Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 24th December

We welcome you all, once again, to our Christmas Mass. Many people come who don't regularly come to other Masses through the year and are very welcome. We love to see everyone at our Christmas service - from any religious background.



Our Mass and supper is a great time to catch up with old friends and wish people well for the Christmas break. We encourage you all to bring your families, bring your friends and of course bring a plate of food to share for supper!!



**When:** Thursday 24th December, 6pm - 9pm

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

**After Mass:** Please bring a plate to share for supper after Mass.



## Children's Liturgy

We will have Children's Liturgy this year for any young children, both hearing and deaf children, that come to Christmas Eve Vigil. Children's Liturgy will happen at the same time as Mass so their parents can be more comfortable during Mass, knowing the kids are learning about baby Jesus too!

## Ephpheta Centre CLOSED

The Ephpheta Centre office will be closed for Christmas from 5pm Friday 18th December 2015 until Tuesday 26th January 2016. The Centre will re-open from **Wednesday 27th January 2016**.

In an emergency that cannot wait until 27th January, please email Liz on [liz@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:liz@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS David on 0408 669 672.



## Ash Wednesday - 10th February

There will be two Ash Wednesday Masses this year.



### Punchbowl - Ash Wednesday morning

**When:** Wednesday 10th February, 11.00am

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre,  
4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

### Penrith - Ash Wednesday night

**When:** Wednesday 10th February, 7.00pm

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

## Mass at Westmead - 21st February

The usual Mass at Seven Hills on the 21st February 2016 has **changed address and time** for February 2016 **only**. It is now at **Sacred Heart Church**, 14 Ralph Street, Westmead at **9.30am**.

**When:** Sunday 21st February, 9.30am.

**Where:** Sacred Heart Church, 14 Ralph Street, Westmead.

This will be an Integrated Mass with the hearing parish.

**Afterwards:** The Parish Priest welcomes you to join the parish for morning tea after Mass.



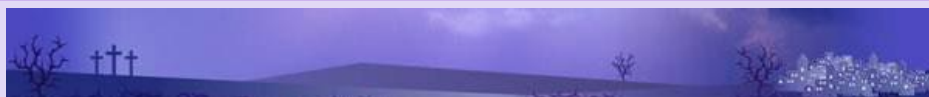
## Lenten Groups

The Lenten groups will begin after Ash Wednesday.

If you would like to host a group (of up to 8 people) in your home OR join a Lenten group please contact Nicole as soon as possible and we will arrange a group for you.

More information about this will be the next Newsletter. You can talk to Nicole about any questions or information about this Lenten group.

If you want to come, or have the group at your place, please talk to Nicole or email her on [nicole@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:nicole@ephpheta.org.au)





## **\*\*\*IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE REGULAR EPHPHETA CALENDAR!\*\*\***

### **Thursday morning Mass finishes on 17th December**

The regular Thursday morning Masses at the Ephpheta Centre, will finish this year, on 17th December. All are welcome to attend. We will have a cup of tea after Mass.

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

**When:** 9.30am on Thursday, until 17th December.

Any questions please contact David on [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS 0408 669 672



### **New FRIDAY morning Mass at Ephpheta Centre**

We will start having regular Friday morning Mass starting on Friday mornings on 26th February, at the Ephpheta Centre. All are welcome to attend. We will have a cup of tea after Mass.

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

**When:** 9.30am on Friday 26th February then every Friday morning.

Any questions please contact David on [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS 0408 669 672

### **Revesby Mass changed - Now Sunday at Punchbowl**

We will continue the Punchbowl Masses replacing Revesby for 2016, on Sunday mornings at the Ephpheta Centre. Everyone is welcome to come to this Mass, you don't have to be a regular Revesby Mass person. You are welcome to join us for morning tea after Mass, but there will be **NO LUNCH**.

**When:** Continuing on 22nd November at 10am. Then will start again on 28th February 2016.

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St Punchbowl

**Any questions:** Please contact David Parker on 0408 669 672 (sms only) or email to [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)



### **Reconciliation (Confession) with Fr Michael**

If you would like to have confession (reconciliation) with Fr Michael, this is now available at the Ephpheta Centre.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Confession or Penance) is a gift which we as Catholics receive from the Church. It is a healing of our relationship with God, ourselves and others.

In this Sacrament we not only confess our sins and say we are sorry but we are forgiven and receive strength from God to do better. The Sacrament enables us to meet Jesus in a special way and understand how God's love and forgiveness has no end.

You may not have had reconciliation with a priest of a long time - that is ok, there will be no problems for you coming again for confession.

Please email Fr Michael to [frmichael@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:frmichael@ephpheta.org.au) or sms **0466 319 290** to make an appointment. Or you can talk to Fr Michael anytime you see him about confession.

Or you can have reconciliation with Fr Michael before Mass during the week before Mass starts at 9.30am (Thursday morning Mass continues until 17th December 2015 then changes to Friday mornings from 26th February 2016).

**When:** 9am at the Ephpheta Centre before 9.30am Mass, Thursday mornings 17th December 2015 then Friday mornings from 26th February 2016.

If you have any questions at all, please contact Fr Michael.



# 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:

**11th December 2015 (BBQ LUNCH),**

**12th February & 11th March 2016**

(always on the 2nd Friday of the month)

Time: **10am to 2pm**

At: the Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.



See you there! ☺



## Pastoral visit

We are happy to visit any deaf person for chats and company for 1 hour, at your home or at a café with coffee.

Pastoral Visits are not only for sick people or people in Nursing homes. We are happy to meet with anyone who is deaf. You might have a problem you want to talk about or maybe you just need some support. You don't have to be Catholic - It is for anyone who is deaf.

If you would like a Pastoral visit, please contact the office [office@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:office@ephpheta.org.au) or Donovan [donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au) or sms 0408 697 773 or Skype [donovan.mulligan](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/ephpheta/donovan.mulligan)



## Communion for the Elderly or the Sick in your home or hospital.

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 at hospital. Please contact Donovan on SMS: 0408 697 773 or email: [donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au) if you would like to know more.



## Have you considered leaving a gift to the Ephpheta Centre in your will?

*By leaving us a gift in your will, you can continue to support the deaf and hard of hearing community that you supported through your life. It is your ultimate act of charity.*

*Please contact David or Liz if you would like to talk more about this.*

## Central Coast Deaf Cuppa

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people! For everybody, just turn up! CC Deaf Cuppa is a great place to meet & chat with new people or catch up with old friends over a cuppa. Bring your money if you want to buy a drink or morning tea.

Always on the LAST Friday of every SECOND month. The next dates are:

**27th November at:**

Deaf Society of NSW, 1/125-127 Erina St, Gosford (**NOT AT ERINA FAIR**) at the Deaf Society of NSW Central Coast Office!

**26th February 2016 (normal) at:**

ERINA FAIR, 620-658 Terrigal Drive, Erina  
There are a few coffee shops around the food court at Erina Fair shopping mall. Meet at middle of food court.

Time: starts **10.30am til 2.00pm**

Contact: **Donovan** SMS: **0408 697 773**

Email: [donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au)

See you there! ☺





Fix  
a quarrel.

Get in contact  
with an old friend.

Get rid of suspicion  
and replace it with trust.

Write a love letter. Share  
some treasure. Give a soft  
answer. Support youth. Show

you are loyal in word and deed. Keep  
a promise. Forget a grudge. Forgive an  
enemy. Listen. Say sorry if you were wrong.

Try to understand. Don't envy. Look at your  
demands on others. Think first of someone else.

Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh  
a little more. Deserve confidence. Do not be self-satisfied.

Do not hurt others. Express your gratitude. Go to church.

Welcome a stranger. Make a child happy at heart. Take pleasure

In the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it  
again. Speak it still once again. Christmas is a celebration, and there is  
no celebration that is better than knowing the true meaning of Christmas.  
Then, only then, is it possible to grasp the importance of that first Christmas.

**Christmas Blessings to All!**

# CRAFT CORNER

The Deaf Craft Group is always open to any interested ladies, meets **every Wednesday** (except when there's something on) from **10am until 2pm** at the Ephpheta Centre. Bring your crafts to work on. Lunch is provided for \$3. More information? Contact the Ephpheta Centre!



## Deaf Craft Group - Last Day

The Craft Group's last day for 2015 will be Wednesday 9th December & they will return in the New Year on Wednesday 3rd February 2016.

## History Corner

By Brian Johnston

### Tom Houlcroft

Tom Houlcroft, well known as 'Mr St Gabriel's', went to St Gabriel's School for Deaf Boys at Castle Hill NSW at the age of six years and stayed till he was 65. After finishing school, he stayed on at St Gabriel's and over many years he worked as farmhand, barber, boot repairer, plumber, painter, cook, laundry man, caretaker and general maintenance person.

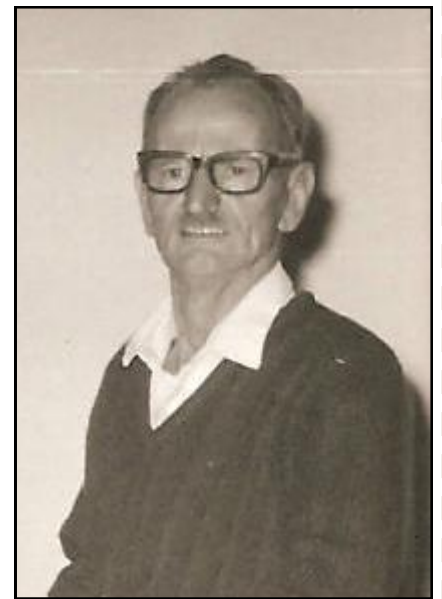
Thomas 'Tom' Vincent Houlcroft was born at Glenhuntley in South Melbourne on 23 May 1918, son of Thomas and Mary Jane Houlcroft. When he was a few months old his mother died. He was then looked after by the Lawlor family from Murrumbidgee (foster parents). He went to board at St Kilda Road Deaf School in Melbourne for a year or so. He then went to board at St Gabriel's on 31 January 1925 and after finishing school in 1937 he remained there as a worker until 1983.

On 19 July 1952 Tom married Teresa 'Tess' Mary Ryan at St Benedict's Church, Broadway, Sydney by Fr W Malone. They had a large family of 11 children (Leo, Josephine, Tony, Patrick, Geoffrey, Denise, Alex, Jacqueline, Brian, Kay and Thomas). Tess Ryan (hearing) had one deaf brother, Kevin and two sisters, Monica and Maria.

Tom and Tess Houlcroft first lived in a little cottage at the front of St Gabriel's and later in a cottage at the back of St Gabriel's property. During this time their house was always open to their deaf and hearing friends. When Tom's time for retirement came, the family moved to Baulkham Hills.

Tom Houlcroft died on 16 February 1992 at the age of 73 years and was buried in Castle Hill cemetery. His wife, Tess died on 15 January 2003. Tom was a 'down to earth' husband, father, grandfather, educator, worker, practical-joker and friend. He was very athletic and enjoyed running, bike riding and soccer most. For Tom, his family was most important.

Sources: Brian Johnston's book 'Memories of St Gabriel's' (2000) and Br Reg Shepherd's book 'Mr St Gabriel's' - Tom Houlcroft 1918-1992 (1995).



Tom Houlcroft 1918-1992



The Ephpheta Centre Team wishes everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the best for a prosperous New Year! Take care on those roads over the Christmas Season and see you next year!



# Mass Times

## NOVEMBER

22nd Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL (Not Revesby)**

29th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL**  
Special Mass with Fr John Hill  
*(For more information, see page 8)*

## DECEMBER

6th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL & Christmas Party**  
*(For more information, see page 9)*

13th Sunday 9.30am  
**NORTH GOSFORD**

20th Sunday 11.00am  
**SEVEN HILLS & Lunch at RSL**  
*(For more information, see page 9)*

24th Thursday Xmas Vigil 6.00pm  
**PUNCHBOWL**  
*(For more information, see page 10)*

## FEBRUARY

7th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL**

10th Ash Wednesday 12.00pm  
**PUNCHBOWL**  
*(For more information, see page 10)*

10th Ash Wednesday 7.00pm  
**PENRITH**  
*(For more information, see page 10)*

14th Sunday 10.30am  
**MANLY**

21st Sunday 9.30am  
**WESTMEAD (NOT Seven Hills)**  
*(For more information, see page 10)*

28th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL (Not Revesby)**

## MARCH

6th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL  
& Community Presentation**  
*(For more information, see next newsletter)*  
(More Mass information in the next Newsletter)



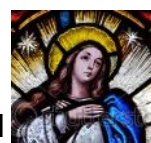
## Church Addresses



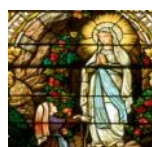
Chapel of  
**St Francis de Sales**  
4 Turner St  
Punchbowl



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

## Thursday morning Mass finishes 17 Dec.

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl

**When:** Thursdays, November - 26th,  
December - 3rd, 10th, 17th (Every Thursday)  
**Time:** 9.30am

## New Friday morning Mass in 2016

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl

**When:** Fridays, February - 26th,  
March 4th, 11th, 18th (Every Friday)  
**Time:** 9.30am

## We pray...

*For those who have died*

6 September 2015 - Paul Davies (aged 57)  
28 September 2015 - Desmond O'Connor (OBE, aged 98, Jenny Hannan's brother-in-law)  
26 October 2015 - Robin Muggleton nee Campbell (David's wife, Waratah & Portsea student)

*For those who are sick*

Beryl Rudd  
Lyn Cuthbert  
Dianne Byrnes  
John Hageman (St Gabriel's student)  
Brett Beath

(Please pray for those who are sick)



## Campbelltown Mass Dates:

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

**When:** 13th December, 10th January,  
14th February **Time:** 9am



4 Turner St, PUNCHBOWL NSW 2196

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TTY: (02) 9708 6904

Fax: (02) 9709 5638

Email: [office@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:office@ephpheta.org.au)

www: [www.ephpheta.org.au](http://www.ephpheta.org.au)



Join us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/thecentrefordeaf>

The Ephpheta Centre is supported  
by the Charitable Works Fund.



#### Staff Email addresses:

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Diane - [diane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:diane@ephpheta.org.au)

Donovan - [donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au)

Liz - [liz@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:liz@ephpheta.org.au)

Nicole - [nicole@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:nicole@ephpheta.org.au)

Fr Michael - [frmichael@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:frmichael@ephpheta.org.au)

#### EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS

Have you seen our website recently?

Our website is now being updated regularly so it  
is always full of current information.

Please keep checking it!

If you have any ideas or feedback for our website  
please contact David at [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)

[www.ephpheta.org.au](http://www.ephpheta.org.au)

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



#### What does “Ephpheta” mean?

The name Ephpheta of our Centre came from the  
bible - a story about Jesus meeting a deaf man,  
he says “*Ephpheta*” which means “Be open”.

We are always open to you all!