

A Reflection for Lent - "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13)

In his Lenten Message for 2016 Pope Francis writes about the importance of mercy.

In this year of Mercy, Pope Francis talks about God's mercy which can change everything "God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn". Divine mercy can shine strongly in our lives, inspiring each of us to love others and to devote ourselves to "works" of mercy.

The Holy Father says: "These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours (other people) in body and spirit: by



feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged" Pope Francis calls on each of us to think about these works of mercy – in remembering to care for the poor and to love the poor. For in the poor, the flesh of Christ "becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us"

Pope Francis says "In the "corporal" works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual

works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness".

Pope Francis also interestingly talks about the "real poor" – that is those people who refuse to see what their true values are. "They consider themselves rich, but they are actually the poorest of the poor. This is because they are slaves to sin, which leads them to use wealth and power not for the service of God and others, but to stifle within their hearts the profound sense that they too are only poor beggars. The greater their power and wealth, the more this blindness and deception can grow." We are reminded that the modern world can make us blind to the things which matter such as love of God and love of other people. When we make money our "God" and become caught up in things which should not be our real priorities, God may seem irrelevant - we can be led astray by thinking that fancy clothes and cars and lots of money are the true goals of our life. This attitude can make us forget our duties to poor people, our love of God and others.



A Message from Liz & Dave...

Liz's report

Hello and welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2016. I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year.



It is hard to believe that, by the time that this newsletter is printed and mailed out, we will already be in Lent on our journey to Easter. My own thoughts about Lent are that – like Advent- it is a special gift which is given to us. It is an opportunity to take some time to reflect about where we are in our lives, and in our relationship with God and people near us. It is a good time to do something special– whether to join a Lenten group, to spend some quiet time in prayer or to go out of our way to do something nice for someone. I hope that everyone has a special Lenten journey in 2016.

A few years ago we had a little poem in our newsletter about Lent. It is an anonymous Latin American poem which I love and I think sums up of what our Lenten “fasts” should be:

A Special Lenten Fast

Give up harsh words; use kind ones.

Give up unhappiness: take up being grateful.

Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.

Give up being negative: take up hope and being positive.

Give up worrying: take up trust in God.

Give up complaining: value what you have.

Give up stress: take up prayer.

Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.

Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.

Give up being selfish: take up compassion for others.

Give up being unforgiving: learn forgiveness and understanding.

Give up words: fill yourself with silence and listen to others.

Take care,
Until next time,

Liz McDowell
Manager of Business

Dave's report

2015 gone already? I still can't believe 2016 is here already. I hope you and your families and friends had a lovely Christmas break! The weather was wild last January – we saw some heavy rain and some very hot days. So I was very lucky to have one week of no rain up in Port Stephen with my family! May 2016 be a good year for all of us.



I have been thinking back on what we have achieved in 2015. It has been a very productive and at times a challenging year. I am very thankful to have a very supportive team of dedicated staff members and lovely volunteers. They are what makes Ephpheta strong and successful. Thank you.

Our Ephpheta team is busy getting ready for 2016. We are planning new Community events for this year. Please check out our Ephpheta website for all information on events and Masses. As part of our work, we do Pastoral Care visits for the elderly and any deaf people who just want to have a friendly chat.

On 10th February, we started Lent. You may have seen people black ash on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday and saw people discussing what they're "[giving up for Lent](#)" this year. Lent covers the 40 day period before Easter, we reflect on the time that Jesus fasted for “forty days and forty nights” in the wild ([Matthew 4:2](#)). It is a special time for us to think, reflect and reconnect.

One of my main goals for Ephpheta centre is to keep on building strong and healthy relationships with Deaf and hard of hearing people and organisations in the Deaf community. We are also actively working with deaf and blind people.

Ephpheta continues to work very hard on improving feedback and making changes that will benefit the Deaf community in Sydney. Please make a time to have a chat with me. Ephpheta will continue to “be open” to all.

Peace be with you all,
David Parker
Manager of Community

Fr Michael's Reflections...

Works of Mercy – Part 1

We are now in the "Year of Mercy" declared by Pope Francis. Not only do we seek God's mercy, but we take Pope Francis's advice and look at ways we can be merciful. The Church gives us a helpful list of "Works of Mercy" and they are divided into two different kinds; Corporal and Spiritual. Corporal works of mercy are the kind of things one can do which involve the body, for example, the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy are:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

When people see a list like this, they usually think of extraordinary and strange circumstances, when they might meet someone

in desperate need. However, all these works of mercy begin with the little things we do for one another in our families at home. "The thirsty" might be someone who has been working out in the garden in the sun. "The naked" could be a friend who is cold and needs a jacket. "The sick" could be a family member who needs special care, or a neighbour who needs help with meals because of a family crisis. These things might not look very difficult or important, but it is by doing these little works of mercy that we build good habits. By doing one little work of mercy at a time, we can become more like Jesus and his saints. One day we will be surprised to find ourselves doing even very brave and selfless things, and thanking God for the gift of this life which allows us to grow closer to Him.

Mother Mary, pray for us.
Fr Michael



Meet the Deaf Religious - Father Rowland Yeo (Singapore)

Father Rowland Yeo is a deaf Franciscan priest who was recently ordained in Singapore. Here is some of his story:

Fr Yeo was born deaf, and went to mainstream schools in Singapore. He learnt by lip-reading and writing. His family was Buddhist and a friend introduced him to Catholicism when he was 15.

After leaving school he became a carpenter— but he wanted to do something more. While attending a Catholic retreat when he was 20, he met Fr Tom Coughlin, the first deaf priest to be ordained in the US. The meeting changed his life.

Fr Coughlin encouraged him to continue his education and he studied at Gallaudet University for the deaf- in Washington, DC. Fr Yeo worked very hard studying English and maths to pass the university's entrance exams. He passed and studied at Gallaudet for a number of years.

After he graduated, Fr Yeo taught at a school for the deaf in Peru in the slums for 2 years

He then spent a number of years working in America with the deaf and studying before he returned to Singapore to join the Franciscan priests. After a long period of work and study, Fr Yeo was ordained as a priest in November last year. He now works with the deaf community in Singapore.

He says: "I'm very happy. I thank God and I've been waiting for this day for a very long time. I hope more deaf Catholics will come to church."

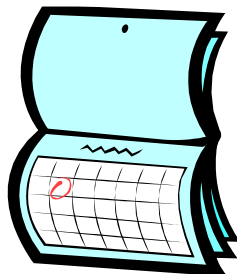
Online video of his story can be watched here: http://www.straitstimes.com/movideo/embed/1395485?movideo_m=1395485
Sources: <http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/born-deaf-he-heeds-a-higher-calling>



Father Rowland Yeo, hugging Father John-Paul Tan, Order of Friars Minor, after he was ordained a priest.

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...



25th February - Deaf Men's Day Out

1st March - Deaf Women's Day Out

1st May - Integrated CWF Mass

6th May - Combined Deaf Women's & Men's Day Out

Easter Mass Times & Information:

18th February to 10th March - Lenten Groups

20th March - Palm Sunday

24th March - Holy Thursday

25th March - Good Friday

26th March - Easter Saturday Vigil

Deaf Men's Day Out - 25th February

The first Deaf Men's Day Out for 2016 will be an Auslan interpreted tour at the Justice and Police Museum in the city.

Where: Justice and Police Museum, corner Albert and Phillip Streets, Circular Quay, Sydney.

When: Thursday 25th February - Meet 11.30am for 12pm till 1.30pm tour. **Cost:** \$10 per person. Bring extra money for lunch afterwards.

RSVP: ASAP to David, SMS 0408 669 672 or email david@ephpheta.org.au

Please Save the Date: Thursday 7th April for the next Deaf Men's day out.



Deaf Women's Day Out - 1st March

Come & join the first Women's Day Out for 2016! We're going to **Madame Tussauds** - a museum for life-size wax replicas of famous people & historic icons in themed galleries! We can have photos with our favourite "famous" people!! Afterwards, we will have lunch together.

When: Tuesday 1st March 2016. Meet at 10.30am for 11am start till 2pm.

Where: Aquarium Wharf, Darling Harbour, Wheat Road, Sydney NSW

Cost: \$20 plus lunch or cuppa at your own cost. (or BYO lunch)

RSVP ASAP with payment: Danni 0410 567 621 (SMS only) or email dann@ephpheta.org.au



Integrated CWF Mass - 1st 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 Integrated CWF Mass! The first CWF Mass will be at St Martha's Church, Strathfield. We will have morning tea afterwards in the School Hall next door.

When: Sunday 1st May, please be seated before 10am.

Where: St Martha's Church, 70-72 Homebush Rd, Strathfield.

Because of this Integrated CWF Mass,

PUNCHBOWL Mass at Ephpheta Centre is CANCELLED on 1st May.



Combined Deaf Women's & Men's Day Out - 6th May

For the next Combined Women's & Men's Day Out, we will do the **East Dome Experience for Seniors!** The experience will include the 3D Space Theatre and the opportunity to experience astronomy and you don't have to go upstairs! Learn about space exploration and the history of Australian astronomy in this interpreted group tour.

When: Friday 6th May 2016. 10am till 2pm

Where: Sydney Observatory, 1003 Upper Fort Street, Millers Point.

Cost: \$10 plus lunch or cuppa at your own cost. (or BYO lunch)

RSVP by Friday 29th April with payment: Danni 0410 567 621 (SMS only) or email dann@ephpheta.org.au



Easter Mass Times & Information

Lenten Groups 2016

ITS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN A LENTEN GROUP

Lenten groups have started using a DVD program for our Lenten groups again, with gospels & reflections by Fr Michael and questions for the Lenten group all in Auslan. There are 3 Lenten groups, if you would like to join a group please contact David ASAP.



Marsfield

Double session,
Wednesdays 24th Feb
& 2nd March.
Starts 10am.

Hazelbrook/Wentworth Falls

Double session,
Saturday 27th February
Starts 10.30am.
Lunch provided.

Ephpheta Centre

Thursdays 18th & 25th Feb,
3rd & 10th March. Starts 10am.
Morning tea afterwards.

You are very welcome to attend any Lenten group you want to join. If you are interested in joining a group, please talk to David or email him on david@ephpheta.org.au or sms on 0408 669 672.

Holy Week Program

– 29th March to 4th 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 20th March (Palm Sunday)

Time: 11.00am

Where: **Our Lady of Lourdes**
7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills.

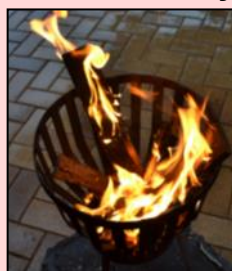


Please join us for the usual Community lunch after Mass.

Thursday 24th March (Holy Thursday)

Time: 7.00pm

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



Friday 25th March (Good Friday)

Time: 3.00pm

Where: **Good Friday Service at Ephpheta Centre**, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

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

Saturday 26th March (Easter Saturday Vigil)

Time: 6.00pm

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

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

Have you considered leaving money to the Ephpheta Centre in your will?

By leaving us money 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.

Fr Michael's New Work Days

We are so pleased to let you know that Fr Michael will be continuing in his work with us!



Fr Michael was appointed as a part time chaplain for the Ephpheta Centre in 2014. Mid way through last year he was appointed to us full time until the end of 2015 and now he is to continue with us part time! His regular days with us at Ephpheta will be on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays** – he will start saying regular Friday morning Mass with us at Ephpheta from 26th February.

Fr Michael is continuing with his Auslan studies and is making great progress. Please make sure you help him practice his Auslan! Many of you will have spent time with Fr Michael – we are so lucky to have such a young, enthusiastic and energetic person as our Chaplain for our community!

Fr Michael would be very happy to meet with you. His mobile number is 0466 319 290 and his email is frmichael@ephpheta.org.au

New FRIDAY morning Mass at Ephpheta Centre

There are NO MORE Thursday morning Masses but instead, we will start having regular Friday morning Mass. This will start on Friday 26th February, at the Ephpheta Centre. All are welcome to attend. Please stay for a cup of tea after Mass.



Where: Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

When: 10.30am (**NOT 9.30am**) on Friday mornings, starting February 26th and continuing every Friday morning. (Including Deaf Café days.)

Any questions please contact David on david@ephpheta.org.au or SMS 0408 669 672.

Reconciliation (Confession) with Fr Michael

Anyone who wants confession (reconciliation) with Fr Michael, this is now available at the Ephpheta Centre. You may not have had reconciliation with a priest of a long time - that is ok, you are still welcome.



Please email Fr Michael to 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.

Confession is also available 15 minutes before every Mass at the Ephpheta Centre. If you have any questions at all, please contact Fr Michael.

Anointing by Fr Michael

When a Catholic begins to be close to death because of sickness or old age, or is very sick or frail, the Church anoints the person with oil in a special ritual called "Anointing of the Sick". Traditionally referred to as "Extreme Unction" or "Last Rites", the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may be given multiple times, as often as someone is dangerously ill or frail. This Sacrament is a continuation of the healing ministry of Jesus. Anointing of the Sick includes:



- bringing the sick person closer to Christ,
- strengthening them in virtue,
- forgiving their sins,
- sometimes restoring physical or mental health, and
- preparation for eternal life.

In the past, this sacrament came to be given to those very close to death.

However, the Church has encouraged priests to give the sacrament earlier. If a person becomes seriously ill, so that they need to have a serious operation, or be taken to hospital in a hurry, or be closely monitored, the priest should be called straight away.

Fr Michael is available to anoint the sick. Please make arrangements through Donovan on 0408 697 773 or contact Fr Michael on 0466 319 290.



Anointing of the sick.

Out and About in the Deaf Community

DYS at Wet'n'Wild

On the 12th of December, Deaf Youth Sydney hosted its last event for 2015. It was a beautiful day to head to Wet'n'Wild. What a successful event it was! 46 deaf and hard of hearing youth came. It was a wonderful opportunity for many youth to catch up with their friends as school was finishing. It was great to see so many new faces and watch them make new friends. All of DYS had an amazing time riding all of the water rides – no one wanted to go home! We look forward to many more fun youth events throughout 2016.



Prayers for Bishop Fisher

We ask our community to pray for the return to health of the Archbishop of Sydney the Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP.

Some of you may know that Archbishop Fisher became very sick just before Christmas and he is still recovering. The Archbishop has responded well to medical treatment. He is grateful for the messages of support he has received and for the prayers offered for him and is looking forward to making a full recovery.

Please pray for Archbishop Anthony's full and speedy recovery.



Nativity Scene

Thank you to everyone who made the nativity scene. It looked really good and I hope helped us prepare prayerfully for Christmas. I would love for the construction of the nativity scene to be an annual Deaf event, so, if anyone has any ambitious design ideas, let me know. Maybe



next year we can make it big enough for everyone to see!



God Bless,
Fr Michael

Parramatta Female Factory

On the 14th of December we had a lovely Women's Day Out which was



an Auslan interpreted tour of the Parramatta Female Factory. We learnt about the fascinating history of the buildings, what had happened in the past and the days of the female convicts during the early 1800's. We learnt of the story of the factory women, which is a significant part of the Australian character and values. It was a very hot day for us all but we really enjoyed ourselves! We finished the day with a lovely lunch and chat at Parramatta Leagues Club.



By Chrisso Kassab



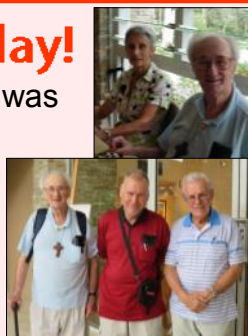
Peter's 60th Birthday!!

Peter Richardson was very happy to receive a surprise 60th birthday cake at the Ephpheta Centre on Sunday 4th October after Mass (and to see all the rabbits on it). This cake was kindly made by Margaret Johnston. Peter's sister, Jan (in photo), also came to join in the celebrations.



John's 75th Birthday!

John Pattison's 75th birthday was celebrated by going out to a café for lunch with a few friends, including Ann, deaf mates Jim and Graham, who came all the way from Liverpool on the train.



Where the CDC once was...

If you remember the old Legion House where we had Catholic Deaf Club, many Deaf people used to go and meet other Deaf people of different ages, every fortnight (2 weeks). Sadly, this club closed in March 1975 on a Sunday. I remember Esther Hutchison died the next day. I don't know when the club opened (started) because I was only a young lad. Now in the same site, at 161 Castlereagh St, the Legion House has been demolished. It is now a building owned by ANZ.



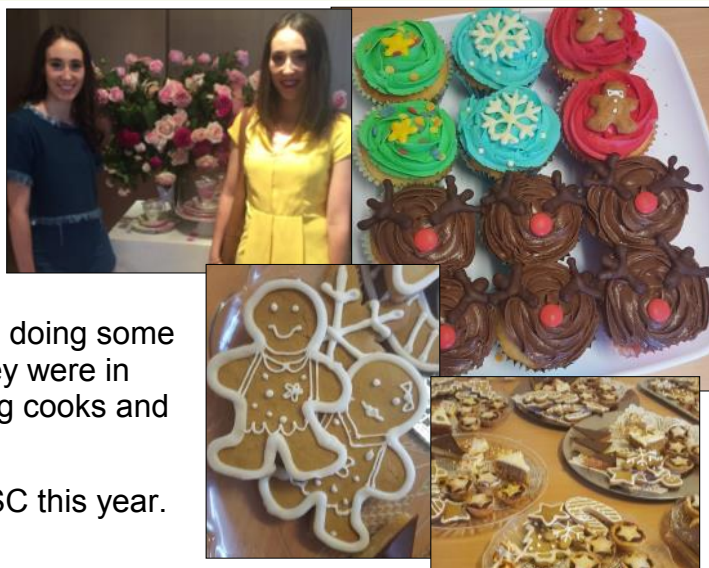
By Peter Hannan

Who are our Mystery Bakers?

If you come to Deaf Café you will know that we always have beautiful homemade cakes and biscuits. Who makes these lovely cakes and biscuits for us??

Well, here they are – lovely identical twins Adelaide and Isabella who are now in Year 12 at Santa Sabina College at Strathfield. They started doing some volunteer community work with us back when they were in year 7 and never stopped! They are both amazing cooks and take a lot of care in the food they prepare for us.

We wish them well with their studies and their HSC this year. Thanks girls, we are so lucky to have you!!



Deaf Mother's Club of the West

Below is Deaf Mother's Club of the West 2016 luncheon and outing dates:

Tuesday, 23rd February 2016 – Luncheon at Nurragingy Reserve, Knox Road, Doonside at 11.00 am – bring own lunch or buy from kiosk.

Sunday, 20th March 2016 – Hawkesbury River Outing

Tuesday, 26th April 2016 – TBC

Sunday, 22nd May 2016 – Mother's Day Outing to The Grounds Café, Alexandria

Tuesday, 28th June 2016 – Morning tea at Nepean River Coffee Club followed by luncheon at Penrith Art Gallery, River Road, Emu Plains. A Bridge to Bridge walk is planned. Meet at Coffee Club at 11.00 am

Sunday, 24th July 2016 – Outing to Balmain

Tuesday, 23rd August 2016 – Luncheon at Auburn Botanical Gardens, Chiswick Road, Auburn at 11.00 am

Sunday, 25th September 2016 – Outing to Audley Boatshed, Royal National Park, 150 Audley Road, Audley. Please organise your own transport.

Tuesday, 25th October 2016 – Visit Fagan Park, 38-48 Arcadia Road, Galston followed by luncheon at Wildpear Café, 658 Old Northern Road, Dural.

Sunday, 27th November 2016 – Bundeena Outing

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



Deaf Mother's Club of the West

To start off 2015, eleven ladies turned up on Tuesday, 24th February 2015 for our first luncheon gathering at the Royal Cricketers Arm Pub, Prospect.

On Sunday, 22nd March 2015 eight ladies donned comfortable walking shoes and walked from Coogee Beach to Bondi Beach taking in the many sights along the walkway especially the Bali Memorial Statue before enjoying a delicious luncheon at a local pub.



Our annual Mother's Day outing on Sunday, 24th May 2015 had to be changed from Blackheath due to trackworks on the Blue Mountains lines. With the change of venue, nine ladies met at Wynyard Station and walked through the Rocks and Observatory Hill Park.

For July's outing, five ladies braved the very windy and cold weather catching the train to Medlow Bath to inspect the heritage listed Hydro Majestic which reopened in June 2015 after undergoing a seven years refurbishment costing \$30 million. They then travelled to Katoomba to enjoy luncheon at The Carrington Hotel.



Sunday, 27th September 2015 saw eight ladies visit Bowral on the final day of the Tulip Time Festival held at Corbett Gardens. It was a lovely cool day to see the many colourful and different tulips. After our visit we had lunch at a local pub and finished the day by enjoying afternoon tea at the Elephant Boy Café.



October's luncheon outing at Nepean Rowing Club, Penrith had the largest attendees for the year. Some ladies went for a walk along the scenic river route before sitting down for a yummy luncheon.



For our final 2015 outing on Sunday, 22nd November nine ladies packed their own picnic lunch, wine and travelled to Collaroy Beach. As the day was cloudy, cool and too cold for swimming, we walked along a very scenic route to Dee Why before enjoying our picnic lunch sitting on the sand at the beach. It was a very enjoyable day catching up with the news and have some laughs.

Deaf Mother's Club of the West has its own Facebook page. You will need to like the page to be kept up to date with any new information/changes. If you do not have Facebook, please contact Carolyn Hanley on 0411 775 360 (sms only) for any information.



By Margaret Johnston

51st International Eucharistic Congress

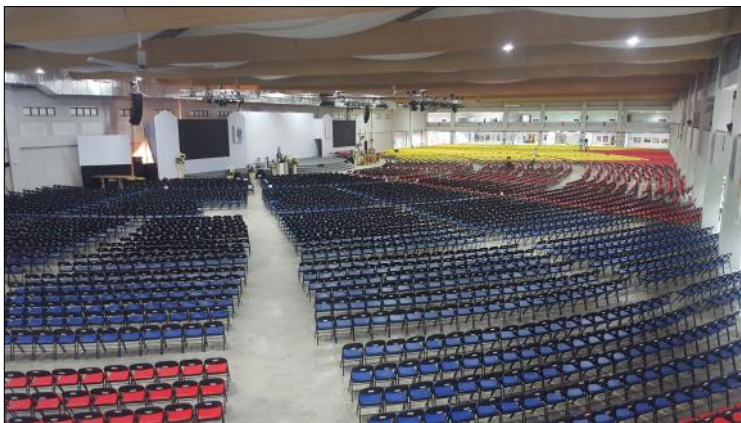
In late January 51st IEC took place in Cebu Philippines, and although we did not have an Australian group of pilgrims there were many deaf pilgrims from around the world.

There were groups from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Ireland, England, America and many different islands in the Philippines. All together there were almost 300 in the Deaf group.



The Hong Kong Deaf with Fr Cyril Axelrod

The IEC was very well run, and the Deaf people were not just sitting on the side but very involved with all of the main events. In the morning everyone would gather for prayer, then a bishop from somewhere in the world would speak to the whole group (in a building large enough to fit over 1 million people) and then a person would give their personal testimony.



Above: The Plenary room had seats for 1 million people

Below & bottom right: The Pilgrim Walk of 3 million people



Below: The colourful Deaf Mission in Cebu.



Top left: Fr Cyril with Mary O'Meara

Below: The lovable Deaf kids!



One man from Japan whose house was washed away in the terrible tsunami spoke about what happened to his family and showed video of his house floating away. He said that the only thing that kept his town alive was the Catholic Church on the top of the hill where they all slept. Then when they built shelters, they used the church as a kitchen to feed everyone and then it became the welfare centre anyone could go to, to get the help that they needed.

A local teenage girl from Cebu spoke about how she was born



Below: SO many people were at this IEC!





The Deaf mission (a boarding school) hosted a welcome evening with traditional food and dancing, there was a large outdoor Mass which finished with a 6km walk with the Eucharist – 2 million people joined the walk. There were 3 million people at the closing Mass, it was announced that the next IEC will be in Budapest Hungary.

Above: Fr Cyril was popular - people always wanted to talk with him & he was always patient & always had time for them. Even some policemen lined up to get a blessing from Fr Cyril!

The 51st IEC was so much more accessible and open to the Deaf Community, we hope that the 52nd IEC will be even better!

with a twin brother but her family could not keep both of them so she was left to survive on the street. She spoke of the terrible things that happened to her and then how she asked a local church if she could sleep in their foyer. The Church community fed her, clothed her and then educated her. At the age of 16 she opened up her own charity which helps the street children of Cebu to build strong lives.



Left: Fr Min giving his presentation

Below left: Fr Charlie is an American priest, working with the Deaf in Cambodia, talking with Fr Cyril.



Above, right & bottom: Some of the dancing shows that happened, by both hearing and Singaporean Deaf Dancers.

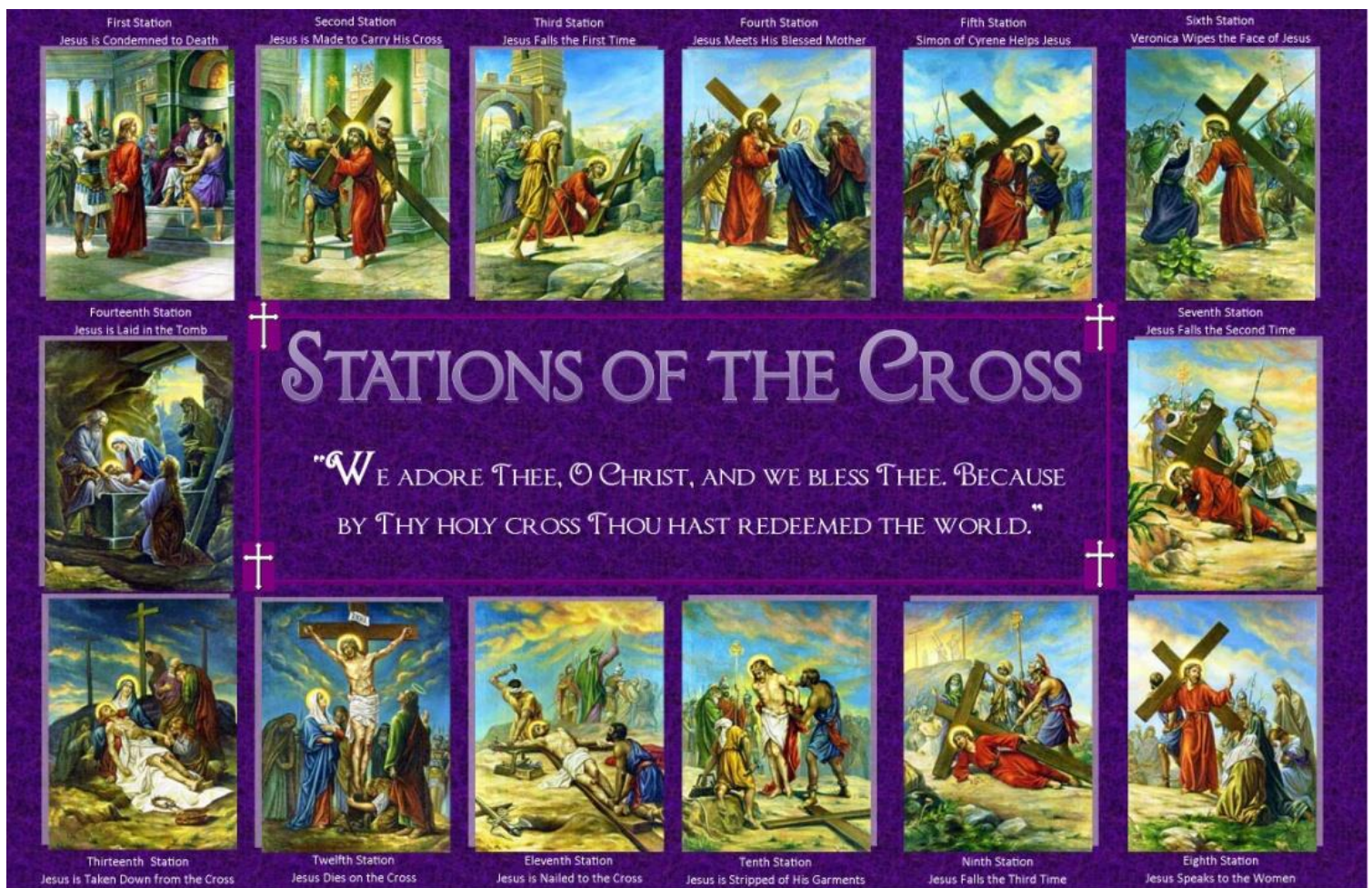


In the afternoon there were Deaf only workshops. Fr Min Seo Park told everyone about the many, many deaf Priests Nuns and brothers working around the world. He showed photos of each of them and told everyone about what each of them were doing.

Fr Cyril also spoke about the education of Deafblind children and how deaf blind people can be taught about God and the Church.

Fr Charlie Dipmyre told everyone about the world he is doing in Cambodia with the young Deaf.





Stations of the Cross

For Catholics around the world, the Stations of the Cross are an important part of our faith especially on Good Friday. It is also known as the "Way of the Cross". It reminds us of 14 main events on the day that Jesus was crucified. They are mostly about Jesus' final walk through the streets of Jerusalem, carrying the cross.

The practice of the Stations of the Cross started in medieval Europe when wars stopped Christian pilgrims from visiting the Holy Land. Artists created works showing scenes of Christ's journey to the cross on Calvary. Faithful people set up these sculptures or paintings at intervals along a procession route or inside a church. Faithful people walked along the procession, stopping to pray at each of the stations.

Today, images of the Stations are on display in most Catholic churches (including our own chapel at the Ephpheta Centre). But the Stations can be performed at any time of the year, even at home.

- Station 1: Jesus is condemned to Death
- Station 2: Jesus carries His Cross
- Station 3: Jesus Falls the First Time
- Station 4: Jesus Meets his Mother
- Station 5: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to carry His Cross
- Station 6: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus
- Station 7: Jesus Falls the Second Time

- Station 8: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
- Station 9: Jesus Falls the Third Time
- Station 10: Jesus is stripped of his Garments
- Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the Cross
- Station 12: Jesus is raised Upon the Cross and Dies
- Station 13: The body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross
- Station 14: Jesus is laid in the tomb

For more information about the Stations of the Cross and the prayers for each Station see www.catholic.org



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 March, 8th April &
13th May 2016**

(always on the 2nd Friday of the month)

Time: **10am to 2pm**

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



See you there! ☺



Skype Access at Ephpheta Centre

Do you like to use Skype but don't have it at home? Or maybe you would like a "Pastoral Visit" at home on the computer?



You're welcome to Skype any of the staff at the Ephpheta or you can come to the Ephpheta Centre and use our big TV to Skype your friends, maybe they live far away in the country - you can chat with them and it will feel like they're in the same room!



Contact Donovan on donovan@ephpheta.org.au if you would like to Skype us or make an appointment to use our Skype.

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:

26th February & 29th April 2016

Meet at middle of food court of Erina Fair shopping mall.

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

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

Email: donovan@ephpheta.org.au

See you there! ☺



Program for 2016

The Ephpheta Centre works with the Deaf Society of NSW to deliver exciting new events for the deaf youth in Sydney this year.



New 2016 dates for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth Events in Sydney are:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 18 th March | 15 th July |
| 22 nd April | 19 th August |
| 20 th May | 16 th September |
| 17 th June | 21 st October |
| | 19 th November |

More information can be found at the Deaf Youth Sydney website:

<http://www.deafyouthsydney.org.au/>

Contact:

David Parker:

SMS only: 0408 669 672

Email: david@ephpheta.org.au



Feedback?

You are very welcome to give us any feedback or ideas anytime. You can email David at david@ephpheta.org.au or Liz at liz@ephpheta.org.au or you can make an appointment to come in to talk with either David or Liz.

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!

High Tea - 4th May

The Craft Ladies will be having a High Tea and Markets.

When: Wednesday 4th May, 11am till 2pm **Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl

Cost: \$12.50 for High Tea (lunch) and bring extra money for the mini markets and raffle tickets.

RSVP by Wednesday 27th April: to Sue Lansley 0414 289 392 or Janice Day 0487 553 714.



History Corner

By Brian Johnston

Bernie Jopson

Bernie Jopson was one of the most enthusiastic members of the Catholic Deaf Association. He always kept in contact with many St Gabriel's ex-pupils in the city, country and interstate. He was well known as the first Deaf Lifesaver in NSW when a young man.

Bernard Thomas 'Bernie' Jopson was born at Gosford NSW on 18 April 1925, son of John Joseph Jopson and Bridget Lynch (who themselves were married at Armidale NSW in 1904). Bernie had one sister, Mary (who died in a burning accident in 1921) and two brothers, William and John, all born at Armidale. The family moved to Gosford in early 1910s and then to Ocean Beach, Woy Woy in 1927.

Bernie went to board at St Gabriel's School for Deaf Boys at Castle Hill from 1932 to 1941. He was a dux in 1940. He left St Gabriel's on 7 December 1941 (the same day that Japanese planes dropped bombs at Pearl Harbour). He stayed on at the school as a farm hand during 1941.

His father gave him a job as a road labourer working for Woy Woy Council. After one week on the job police was called to the Council and told them not to employ Bernie as Deaf men were not allowed to work for the Council at that time. Bernie then worked as a bootmaker in Sydney for Defence Forces until the late 1950s. He then worked as a timber worker for 38 years.

From 1942 to 1950 Bernie was a Lifesaver at Ocean Beach Surf Club. He played rugby league and cricket for Woy Woy and also played in cricket and soccer for the Deaf Society of NSW. He loved to play darts for Illawarra Catholic Club. When he retired from work he returned to Gosford, playing Bowls with Gosford City Bowling Club.

Bernie was very active in Catholic Deaf activities in Sydney, becoming Secretary of the Catholic Deaf Association in 1953 and President in 1955. For many years he was involved with St Gabriel's Ex-Pupils Association and helped with organising many school reunions.

On 2 January 1954 Bernie married Marie Patricia Chisholm, an ex-pupil of Rosary Convent, Waratah at St Benedict's Church, Broadway, Sydney by Fr W Malone. Like Bernie, Marie came from one of old Armidale families. Bernie and Marie had two sons, John and David and six grandchildren.

Bernie Jopson died on 9 July 2015 at the age of 90 years. His wife, Marie died in 2002.

Sources: Bernie Jopson's paper – his own story, 'The Gosford Times' newspaper of 5 January 1954 and Brian Johnston's book 'Memories of St Gabriel's' (2000).



Bernard (Bernie) Jopson
1925-2015

Mass Times

FEBRUARY

28th Sunday 10.00am
PUNCHBOWL (Not Revesby)

MARCH

6th Sunday 10.00am
PUNCHBOWL

13th Sunday 9.30am
NORTH GOSFORD

HOLY WEEK *(For more information, see page 5)*

20th Palm Sunday 11.00am
SEVEN HILLS

24th Holy Thursday 7.00pm
PENRITH

25th Good Friday Service 3.00pm
PUNCHBOWL

26th Easter Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
PUNCHBOWL

APRIL

3rd Sunday 10.00am
PUNCHBOWL

10th Sunday 10.30am
MANLY

17th Sunday 11.00am
SEVEN HILLS

24th Sunday 10.00am
PUNCHBOWL (Not Revesby)

MAY

1st Sunday 10.00am
CWF Mass
STRATHFIELD (Not Punchbowl)
(For more information, see page 4)

8th Sunday 9.30am
NORTH GOSFORD

15th Sunday 11.00am
SEVEN HILLS

22nd Sunday 10.00am
PUNCHBOWL (Not Revesby)

(More Mass information in the next Newsletter)



Church Addresses



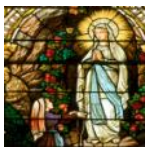
**Chapel of
St Francis de Sales**
4 Turner St
Punchbowl



**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

Campbelltown Mass Dates:

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

When: 14th February, 13th March, 10th April,
8th May **Time:** 9am

We pray...

For those who have died

27 December 2015 - Shirley Hammond

For those who are sick

Colleen Draper

Peter Hanson (broken arm)

(Please pray for those who are sick)



New Friday morning Mass in 2016

Where: Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St,
Punchbowl

When: Every Friday, starts February 26th.

Time: 10.30am (**NOT 9.30am**)



4 Turner St, PUNCHBOWL NSW 2196

Phone: (02) 9708 1396

TTY: (02) 9708 6904

Fax: (02) 9709 5638

Email: office@ephpheta.org.au

www: 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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Liz - liz@ephpheta.org.au

Nicole - nicole@ephpheta.org.au

Fr Michael - 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

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!