

## St Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa felt the call by God to go and serve the poor and set up a religious community – the Missionaries of Charity – to serve the poorest of the poor. She worked to give shelter and comfort to people who were dying, to give love to people with terrible sicknesses and to care for those who no one else cared for. This work started in India and then spread throughout the world. Her work became well known and in 1979 she received the Nobel Peace prize.

### *Born:*

*26 October 1910 in Macedonia (she had Albanian parents).*

### *Died:*

*5 September 1997.*

### *Canonised:*

*(made a Saint): 4 September 2016 by Pope Francis in Rome.*



St Teresa's life was a story of extraordinary faith, hope and charity. Her life of loving service to the poor has inspired many other people. She is an example for all of us to try to live holy lives – to love God, to respect every other person and to care for the poor and suffering.

## Meeting Mother Teresa....

I remember meeting Mother Teresa when she visited South Africa in 1988. She visited our school in Capetown – the Dominican nuns were invited to visit as well. I had left school by this time but one of the nuns knew that I wanted to meet her and I was invited to join them. I shook her hand – she was a tiny lady – she touched my arm. Meeting Mother Teresa was one of the highlights of my life! I knew that I had met a very special person. *Donovan Mulligan*

About 33 years ago I met Mother Teresa! She was in Sydney and was at a big outdoor event at Parramatta Park. My husband Bob and I were there with our 4 children. There was a huge crowd. At the end, Mother Teresa walked through the crowd and came up to me. I remember grabbing the children and holding them up because I was worried that they would be crushed because everyone was pushing to meet her. Mother Teresa said hello and touched Caroline on the back. She gave me a religious medal of Mary. I will never forget meeting Mother Teresa. *Mary Profilio*



# A Message from Liz & Dave...

## Liz's report

We recently had our community retreat led by Fr Michael and the theme was the life of Saint Therese of Lisieux "The Little Flower". A few friends had told me that she was their favourite Saint. I did not know much about the life of St Therese before the weekend and was interested to learn more.



St Therese was born in France in 1873 - she had a loving although sad early family life. She had 8 brother and sisters but 4 of them died as children. Her mother died when she was only 4 years old. Therese's family was deeply religious and at 14 Therese had a conversion- she wanted to change the focus of her life from making herself happy to a life of love. At 15 she entered a convent to give her life to God and she lived a simple life of prayer. Therese had many times of sickness and great suffering but always kept a deep faith in God and his merciful love. Therese died of TB at the age of 24 - her last words summed up her life "My God I love you".

Therese lived each day confident in God's love. Her faith and way of living became known as "the little way" - as she said "What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love". Therese loved flowers and saw herself as the "little flower of Jesus" who gave glory to God. Therese wrote - "My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death. I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses".

As we head into the season of Advent and Christmas, I wish you and your families a holy and peaceful Christmas.

Liz

## Dave's report

G'day. 2016 is almost over! Around 20 people associated with Ephpheta Centre have passed away this year. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of these people.



A group of Deaf people and I attended the Year of Mercy Pilgrimage at St Mary Cathedral on a wet day of September 18th. The Jubilee of Mercy that Pope Francis has called is from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. Fr Michael, Nicole Clark the interpreter and I led a tour of St Mary, the Crypt and we had Mass in this Crypt. It was a lovely Mass.

We just had a community retreat at St Joseph Retreat Centre, Baulkham Hills October 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>. This Ephpheta retreat was an outstanding success. The feedback was interesting. Most people who went to this retreat wanted to have a session on a specific Saint and many people preferred one night retreat not two or three nights in the past. You can find more photos in this newsletter of some of the events we went to.

I wish to acknowledge Brian Johnston who has donated his collection of Deaf Catholic NSW materials such as newsletters and photos. Thank you Brian! In the near future, I plan to have Deaf Catholic NSW history meetings and you are welcome to come along to have a chat and help us out sort out our historical information, photos and books. There is a lot to do. Capture photos, videos and histories of Deaf people in Auslan. Please let me know if you have photos and news to share.

We would like more pastoral/community volunteers for our events. Make friends. Help out and have fun. Let me know if you are interested.

Again please let us know what you think! Let your family, friends and your work colleagues know about our work. Have a lovely Christmas season and stay safe in the festive season! Be open, David.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY



## Mass for People with Special Needs 2016

AND THEIR FAMILIES

Celebrant:  
**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**

DATE:  
**SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2016**

TIME:  
**9:00 AM**

VENUE:  
**HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH  
1 FATHER PATRICK CROKE CIRCUIT  
(OFF 55 KINCUMBER ST), KINCUMBER**

RSVP:  
**RSVP: MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2016**  
PHONE: 9847 0448 OR 4332 9825  
EMAIL: REGISTRATIONS@DBB.ORG.AU

This is not an Ephpheta event.

## Meet the Deaf Religious - Fr Mike Depcik (Detroit, Michigan - America)

### Fr Mike Depcik

Fr Mike Depcik grew up in Chicago with a deaf family of seven. His mother graduated from St. Rita School for the Deaf in 1956 and wanted her children to attend her old school. Fr Depcik began his education at St. Rita in 1982, where he enjoyed the academic challenge.



Upon graduation, Fr Depcik thought about becoming a teacher or social worker. He wanted to work directly with people, helping them in some way. His interests took him to Gallaudet University, where he received a bachelor degree in secondary education and history. It was there that he met an influential chaplain who encouraged him to consider becoming a priest. After a lot of thinking, he made the decision to devote the rest of his life to serving others.

In 1995, Fr Depcik joined the religious congregation that he is currently a part of, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales in Detroit, Michigan. In his life as a deaf priest he has faced many struggles, sometimes even opposition in his work. There are not many deaf priests and very few deaf parishes.

Fr Depcik often found that his deafness made him a minority among hearing people who were not familiar with the deaf or the deaf culture. "To join religious life means I had to give up my deaf world", said Fr Depcik. Growing up in a deaf family, going to a deaf school, and socialising with other deaf people, provided him much security and comfort. He said his deafness didn't feel like a disadvantage because it was something that he had in common with his family and friends. Fr Depcik has devoted his life to ministry in the deaf community.

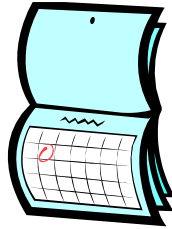
You can learn more about Fr Depcik on his website: [www.frmd.org](http://www.frmd.org)

Source: St. Rita School for the Deaf <http://www.srsdeaf.org/Downloads/Father%20Depcik.pdf>



# Save the Dates

Some very important things to book in to your diary now so you don't miss out!



4th December  
4th December  
8th December  
16th December  
18th December  
24th December  
25th December

- Giving Mass  
- Ephpheta Christmas Party  
- Men's Day Out  
- Advent Event  
- CDC - NSW RSL Lunch  
- Christmas Vigil Mass  
- Christmas Day Mass

## Giving Mass - 4th December

Our giving Mass this year will be a bit different. You can bring a gift like food OR you can take a tag from our giving tree in the chapel and buy a present for the child you have picked. We will have our traditional Giving Mass at our December Punchbowl Mass



**When:** Bring all gifts on Sunday 4th December at Mass, Punchbowl at 10am.

**Bring:** EITHER a gift for a child (choose a tag from the giving tree at Ephpheta) OR a gift like food such as a purchased Christmas cakes, bags of lollies, purchased food with a Christmas theme or any other food you would like to donate and bathroom things like body wash, to help the poor or disadvantaged to be blessed.

PLEASE REMEMBER - you cannot donate old or "already used" things. All items must be in their original packaging. Only **NEW** and **NOT OPENED** things. Food cannot be old or past use-by date. Thank you.

## Ephpheta Christmas Party - 4th December

Please join us for our traditional Community Christmas Party after the Punchbowl Mass in December. This is always a popular event! All are welcome to join us for lunch. It will be 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 4th December after Mass at 10am

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

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

**RSVP:** By **Wednesday 30th November** to David on 0408 669 672 (SMS only) or email [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) so we know how many for lunch and any dietary requirements.



## Deaf Men's Day Out - 8th December

We will have a tour of Sydney Town Hall tour from 11am for one hour. We will learn about the graves under the Town Hall building!

**When and where:** Thursday 8th December—meet front steps of Town Hall before 11am please.

**Cost:** Free entry.

**Afterwards:** We will have lunch at Queens Victoria building, please bring money for your lunch. **RSVP:** to David Parker SMS 0408 669 672 or email [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au).



## Advent Event - 16 December

Advent is the time when we prepare for Christmas, for the arrival of the baby Jesus. This year, Fr Michael would like to lead us in making a stable for our Nativity set. Everyone is welcome!

**When:** Friday 16 December after our 10.30am Mass

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

After Mass and morning tea we will all get busy in making and painting our Nativity stable ready for Christmas. All are welcome to stay for lunch.



## CDC - NSW RSL Lunch - 18th December

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

**When:** Sunday 18th December about 12.30pm (after Seven Hills Mass finishes)

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

**After Mass:** Buy your own lunch at Seven Hills RSL, chat with friends



## Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 24th December

We welcome you all 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:** Saturday 24 December 6pm – 9pm

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

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



## Christmas Day Mass—25th December

For the first time in a long time, Ephpheta will be having Mass on Christmas morning. All are welcome to join us for our Christmas morning Mass with Fr Michael and then have morning tea with Fr Michael.

**When:** Sunday 25 December 10am

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





# 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:

**9th December 2016 and  
10th February 2017**

(always on the 2nd Friday of the month)

Time: **10am to 2pm**

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



See you there! 😊



## 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 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 dates are:



**24th February and 28th April 2017**

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

Time: starts **10.30am to 2pm**

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

Email: **donovan@ephpheta.org.au**

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.

## *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.*

Jenny Hannan wants to say thank you very much for your kind words, email messages and gifts in memory of her beloved husband, Peter Hannan. **4 October 2016**







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!

### **Ephpheta Centre CLOSED**

The Ephpheta Centre office will be closed for Christmas from **5pm Thursday 22nd December 2016** until **Monday 23 January 2017**. The Centre will re-open from **Tuesday 24 January 2017**. In an emergency that cannot wait until 24 January, please email Liz on [liz@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:liz@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS David on 0408 669 672.

## February Mass at Richmond

On Sunday 19 February 2017 we will be having integrated Mass with Fr John Paul Escarlan at his new parish at Richmond. Afterwards we will go and have morning tea and lunch together

**When;** Sunday 19 February 2017 at 9.30am

**Where:** St Monica's Catholic Church, Cnr Richmond and Bourke Sts Richmond.  
**THIS REPLACES SEVEN HILLS MASS IN FEBRUARY**



## Deaf Women's Day Out at Hyde Park

On Thursday the 10th of October we had a lovely Women's Day Out visiting Hyde Park. It was a beautiful sunny spring day. Living in Sydney all of my life, I had no idea of the fascinating history behind the park until we had this Auslan interpreted tour. Hyde Park is not just about beautiful flowers and trees, but also has a rich history.

The War Memorial we saw is dedicated to remembering all Australians who have served their country in the armed forces in wartime or on peacekeeping.

The Pool of Reflection is a peaceful space where people may pause for a moment of quiet contemplation from their busy lives. It was a lovely day spent together taking a moment to enjoy each other's company. - Chrisso.



## Deaf Men's Day Out at Ryde Pumping Station

The Pumping Station in West Ryde is one of the largest and longest operating water pumping stations in Sydney. It opened in 1891 as a steam-powered pumping station and converted to electric in 1976. It stopped operating in 1981 and the building has become a heritage site.

Many of these Deaf men would remember the pumping station as small boys. We had an interpreted tour of the place which show the history of the building and the location. Surprisingly some parts of the place are still running now and can be used if needed.



## Year of Mercy Pilgrimage

The Year of Mercy Pilgrimage on 18<sup>th</sup> of September was a very wet but successful day at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney! About 25 of us deaf people met up at the St James Metro café and we all had a lovely time chatting away over hot cups of coffee.

Then at 11.30am Fr Michael, Nicole and David and the group went through the holy door of St Mary's Cathedral and then Fr Michael led the Stations of the Cross tour and prayers inside the mighty Cathedral.





## Community Retreat

On 1 and 2 October Fr Michael led our community at retreat at the St Joseph Retreat Centre at Baulkham Hills. The theme for our retreat was the life and inspiration of St Therese of Lisieux (known as the Little Flower). St Therese's feast day is on 1 October.



Fr Michael made some very interesting presentations about the life of St Therese and the many challenges which she and her family faced. St Therese was a young lady of tremendous faith who had a belief in the immense power of prayer.

Our first day finished with Adoration in the chapel at the retreat Centre and then the community participated in Mass on the Sunday. A wonderful weekend was had by all—thanks Fr Michael for a great weekend.



## Deaf Festival in Parramatta

On Saturday 22 October Ephpheta had a stall (with the craft group at the next stall) at the Deaf Festival—this is an annual event hosted by the Deaf Society of NSW and Deaf Australia (NSW). Despite the rain in the morning, it was a wonderful day which was well attended by the Deaf Community. So much talking, catching up with old friends and making new ones!



A HUGE thank you to all of our volunteers who helped us on the day on our staff—we could not have done it without you!

Congratulation to all the winners of the DA (NSW) Awards—and special congratulations to Murreall O'Connor for winning the Award of Deaf Person of the Year.  
Well done Murreall!!





Note: This Christmas Remembrance Service on 18th December is not an Ephpheta event but it is supported by the Ephpheta Centre.

Ephpheta staff (including interpreter) will be there on the night.



## Murreall O'Connor

Murreall—who is this year's winner of the Deaf Senior of the Year Award—has had a long involvement with the Ephpheta Centre. Murreall was involved as a volunteer when Ephpheta was first set up in Paddington back in 1979.

With Sr Helen she was involved in DEC (Deaf Encountering Christ). When Ephpheta moved to Lewisham she worked as a pastoral worker, visiting sick deaf people and bringing Communion to people in nursing homes. Murreall was involved for many years with CDA and CADHIPA and still volunteers for Ephpheta after 37 years! Murreall says "I have always enjoyed the good team work with Ephpheta. I am always happy to help deaf people".

Thank you so much Murreall for all your generosity—you are just wonderful xxx



## DEAF YOUTH SYDNEY

Deaf Youth Sydney organises events for deaf and hard of hearing youth aged between 12 and 17 years of age. These events take place once every month. Program for 2017 is coming out soon!

Christiane Kassab (The Deaf Society)  
SMS only: 0405 749 488  
Email ckassab@deafsociety.com  
Office: 02 8833 3600

Donovan Mulligan (Ephpheta Centre)  
SMS only: 0408 697 773  
Email Donovan@ephpheta.org.au  
Office: 02 9708 1396

Please contact Christiane or Donovan. Supported by Dooleys Catholic Club Lidcombe.





# More photos of the Community Retreat!



## Hello from Danni in Glasgow!

Well how fast has time flown! It's been 2 1/2 months since I left Australia & I'm loving Glasgow, my new city. I'm enjoying my course a lot, it's getting a lot of creativity out of me which I'm excited about!! I love every one of my 9 classmates. We're madly working on our (my first) performance, showing mid-December! Theatre shows are very cheap to watch here, the average price is £5-£10 (\$10-\$20) & I love reflecting on them, especially when I'm in my favourite cafe - I'm writing this right here at that cafe.

Living isn't very expensive, I can get lunch, including a sandwich, snack & drink for \$6 here! The weather's getting colder but doesn't feel as cold as it does back home at the same temperature. Must be the clouds or something?

I'm settling in nicely & really looking forward to the next 2 years here. Big hugs to every one of you back home! Danni :-)) xx





## Stephen and Nola's Big Trip!

In May 2016 Nola and I began a wonderful 9 week caravan trip throughout 4 states i.e outback NSW, QLD, WA, NT. The scenery throughout the trip was very dry yet so beautiful and amazing. We went to Qantas Founders Museum, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame & Outback Heritage Centre, Age of Dinosaurs, Mataranka Thermal Pool, Katherine Gorge to name a few. We travelled alone for 2 weeks before our friends in 2 caravans met up with us at Katherine. Then we all travelled to Kununurra in WA and stayed 5 nights and met a deaf couple who showed us the sights surrounding Kununurra. We visited beautiful and awesome Lake Argyle which is 21 times bigger than Sydney Harbour. It is a man made lake—they filled in gaps in between mountains. We returned to Katherine then on to Darwin and stayed 5 nights as well. On the first night we met some Darwin deafies at the markets, stayed, had dinner and watched a beautiful sunset from the beach. Our caravan group went to many sights one of which was Adelaide River to see the crocodiles. After Darwin our caravan group returned home different ways as Nola and I continued on to Townsville via Charters Towers. We travelled along the coast to Tewantin, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Goondiwindi then along the New England highway before returning home. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip and would love to make many more trips around our beautiful country. We thank God for this beautiful creation.



## Deaf Youth Sydney

It was a hot day and perfect day for deaf youth to cool off and search for some adventure in the school holidays. It gets them out of the house and off their iPads, away from the technology and into the sunshine !

The Aqua Park area is situated in the back lake and the obstacle course comes with floating inflatable slides, runway and trampolines.



## A visit from Fr Martin

We were recently lucky to have a visit from Fr Martin Kershaw. Fr Martin is the Chaplain for the Deaf in the Archdiocese of Liverpool in England. He is a hearing priest who signs and is passionate about his ministry to the deaf community. Fr Martin said Mass for us in BSL and enjoyed spending time with the community. Come back again soon Fr Martin!



## Our Hidden Life

There used to be an Australian gardening show, "Burke's Backyard". One year there had been a bad fire and Don Burke's show was about some small trees that seemed all burnt and dead, but actually had life hidden inside them. They were still green inside and with time and care would grow back healthy and strong. I think that episode was meant to be a kind and gentle way of encouraging people who had lost everything, as well as useful gardening tips!

The same idea can be applied to our lives. The life hidden inside is our spiritual life. No matter what terrible things might happen outside- in all the good and bad things in our life- we look forward to a glorious life with God as long as our spiritual health is strong. We must stay close to God who heals and cares for us.

And God does more than heal us! God promises that even if we miss out on good gifts that others have, or have them taken from us, or have all the good gifts we can imagine in this life, our true life is in God, and he will make us



grow up bigger and more beautifully than we could have ever imagined when we eventually leave behind the gifts of this world and go to eternal life. Until then, we treasure all gifts that come our way and make the best use of them that we can, in the ways that Jesus teaches us.

Jesus is like an evergreen tree and we are his branches. We see evergreen trees everywhere at Christmas. In colder countries than Australia, the evergreen trees stand out in winter, because they never lose their leaves. They stand proud, even while everything else seems to die. This makes them an excellent symbol of Jesus Christ, who lives even through death. When we stay connected with Christ we can be confident that we will live with Him forever in heaven.

This Advent, let's focus on seeking God's healing of our sins, and treasuring God's gifts and making the best use of them that we can.

God Bless,  
Fr Michael.

## In memory of Peter Hannan

We recently were very sad to lose a dear member of our Sydney Deaf Catholic community – Peter Hannan.

Peter was born in Waverley NSW in March 1941. He went to St Gabriel's School for the Deaf at Castle Hill from age 5- 16. He worked as a trained fitter and turner for many years.

Peter married Jenny in 1968 and they were married for 48 ½ years. They have 2 sons Anthony and Mark and 2 grandchildren Niamh and Angus. Peter and Jenny were inseparable.

Peter was involved in many deaf groups over the years – including that he was the first president of the Sydney Catholic Oral Deaf Club, President of Catholic Deaf Association NSW, and many other important roles in deaf organisations

Peter was a very important member of our Ephpheta community – he was a regular at Deaf mass, volunteered with our newsletter, the Deaf Catholic Community and the Deaf community in general. Peter was a warm loving person with a fantastic sense of humour. He was a born organiser and leader in the Deaf community and we will all miss him very much.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jenny, Anthony and Mark and their families. Rest in peace, Peter.





## 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!

### What have the craft ladies been up to??

Craft group have been very busy with preparing for their stall with the Ephpheta Centre at the Deaf Festival at Parramatta.

Their stall was very popular with lots of hand made items for sale including bags, towels, head bands and clothes hangers. Well done ladies for all your hard work!

Also on Melbourne Cup Day craft group organised a little celebration—everyone looks lovely in their hats!

Note, the Craft group will finish for the year on 7th of December and restarts on Wednesday 1st February 2017.



## History Corner

By Brian Johnston

### Pat Craddock and Waratah Fire

Patrick Clare 'Pat' Craddock was loved by the Deaf girls at Waratah near Newcastle NSW when he was the gardener there in the 1930s and 1940s. He fixed their broken toys and cared for them. At the time of the disastrous fire at Waratah School for Deaf Girls early on Monday morning, 12 July 1948 he collapsed and died of heart failure after he ran up and down the stairs to carry the children out from a blazing dormitory to safety. He was 50 years old and single.

Two girls gave the alarm when they awoke about 1am to discover flames reaching the dormitories from the roof and woke one nun up. Pat Craddock dashed into the dormitories and helped nuns to remove many of the 64 Deaf children to safety. While the nuns woke the children and wrapped them in blankets, Pat Craddock led groups of them out of the building to safety in a nearby cottage and at times carried the little ones down the stairs. Some girls will never forget the roaring of the fire, and the anxiety of trying to get the children out. The mattresses were thrown out the windows. Deaf children had to be fully awake before they could understand the signs telling them what had happened. It was said that the children behaved well and there was no panic. Most of the children lost all their clothing. St Vincent de Paul and others bought clothes. The only parts of the school that were actually burnt were the two dormitories.



On 13 July 1948 the children from the school accompanied Pat's funeral from Waratah Catholic Church to the family graves in Morpeth Cemetery. Pat was a Dominican Tertiary under the name of Brother Dominic. He was buried in the Dominican habit. The Waratah School erected a large crucifix in the school grounds to commemorate the sacrifice of Pat's life for the girls. Pat Craddock was born in Paterson NSW in 1898, one of ten children of William John Craddock and Frances Crittenden.

Sources: Book 'Open Minds Open Hearts' – Stories of the Australian Catholic Deaf Community (1999), 'The Newcastle and Maitland Catholic Sentinel' magazine (1 August 1948), 'Newcastle Morning Herald' newspaper (14 July 1948) and Ancestry.com



# Mass Times

## NOVEMBER

20th Sunday **9.30am** (NOT 11AM)  
This NOVEMBER MASS only- We will be with the hearing parish).

**SEVEN HILLS**

27th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL**

## DECEMBER

4th Sunday-Community Mass 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL**

11th Sunday 10.30am  
**MANLY**

18th Sunday 11.00am  
**SEVEN HILLS**

24th Saturday Christmas Vigil 6.00pm  
**PUNCHBOWL**  
(for more information, see page 5)

25th Sunday Christmas Day Mass 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL**  
(for more information, see page 5)

## FEBRUARY

5th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL**

12th Sunday 10.30am  
**MANLY**

19th Sunday 9.30am (not 11am)  
**RICHMOND** (replaces **SEVEN HILLS**)  
(for more information, see page 8)

26th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL**

## MARCH

5th Sunday 10.00am  
**PUNCHBOWL**

12th Sunday 9.30am  
**NORTH GOSFORD**



## Church Addresses



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



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



**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
**7 Grantham Rd Seven Hills**



**St Mary's**  
**6 Raglan St Manly**  
*Integrated Mass*

## Friday morning Mass

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

**When:** Every Friday

**Time:** 10.30am

Our last Friday morning mass will be on 16 December 2016.

Mass will start again on Friday 3 February 2017

## We pray...

*For those who have died*

22 June 2016 -Ken Maughan  
22 August 2016 -Gregory Farmer (Helen's brother)  
19 August 2016 -Joyce Thornton  
4 October 2016 -Peter Hannan  
15 October 2016 -David Nock  
15 October 2016 -Richard Maynard (Craig's father)  
4 November 2016 -Helen Anglicas  
6 November 2016 -Toni Rees

*For those who are sick*

\* Margaret Crehan  
\* Beryl Rudd  
\* Helen Farmer

(Please pray for those who are sick)



## DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG –

If you would like an Auslan Interpreter for Mass, anointing of the sick or a Parish event - please contact Rebecca Miller, Chaplain to the Deaf Community.

**Mobile:** 0419 152 310

**email:** [Rebecca.miller@dow.org.au](mailto:Rebecca.miller@dow.org.au)



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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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### 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 Liz or  
David 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!