

## Off to Italy!

The Ephpheta Centre is very excited to announce our Deaf pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi! Working with the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (Rome Pilgrimages) and led by Fr Michael, we have planned a very special pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi from 15-24 March 2018.



*Chapel in Domus Australia where we will be staying in Rome*

Rome is of course known as the Holy City - for Catholics Rome is a very important spiritual centre. We will visit Rome's major churches, have regular Mass, visit the Vatican gardens and Museums, the Sistine Chapel and the Holy Stairs. We will have Auslan interpreters with us for our pilgrimage as well as Fr Michael as our spiritual tour leader, Ephpheta staff, and qualified local tour guides.



*Assisi*

In Rome we will be staying at Domus Australia - this is a beautiful religious guesthouse located in the Centre of Rome within the walled city. We will also have a two night stay in a convent in Assisi - we will travel there by train. This beautiful town was the birthplace of St Francis (loved as the patron saint of the environment and animals).



*St Peter's Basilica*



*Rome*



*Vatican Museum*

We really hope that you can join us on this very special pilgrimage.

For more **key information** please see page 9.

For **details** of our Information Day on **10 September** please see page 4.

# A Message from Liz & Dave...

## Liz's report

As you see from our front page, we have been very busy organising a special pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for our deaf community. The idea of a pilgrimage - a special time of prayer, reflection and stepping outside our comfort zone - is an old Catholic tradition which is still very relevant to our lives today.

We hope that many of you will be able to join in our pilgrimage to Italy.

However, I know that some people who might like to join the pilgrimage won't be able to take part for a variety of reasons – age, ill-health, family commitments, resources..

Whilst we think that pilgrimage always involves travelling to somewhere new (and often overseas), as Christians we should use our life as a pilgrimage. While it is good if we can travel to a special place which has an important spiritual meaning, sometimes this won't be possible. Instead we can think about how we can make a special place and time in our own lives for our own "devotion to God" - through a time of prayer, serving others, reading the Bible and maybe making a special project for ourselves like reading a book about a Saint or learning about a Holy place. This can be our own pilgrimage.

I found this beautiful prayer for all of us pilgrims - all of us every day travelling on the road of life with God as our guide:

*May God the Father who created you, guide your footsteps.*

*May God the Son who redeemed (saved) you, share your journey.*

*Many God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you, lead you on life's pilgrimage,*

*And the blessing of God Father Son and Holy Spirit be with you wherever you may go. Amen.*

Until next time,  
Liz



## Dave's report

Wow, it's August already. The 2017 Winter was fairly cold but the tulips I planted in my backyard are growing nicely in this cold weather.

We had another busy year up to now again! We are really looking forward to going to the Deaf Catholic Conference which is held in Melbourne organised by John Pierce Centre (JPC). I will be presenting along with Rachel who is the manager of Ephpheta's sister organisation, JPC on the history of Deaf Catholics in NSW and Victoria. Our Deaf Men's, Deaf Women's and Combined outings have gone from strength to strength. Your ideas of future tours and events, please let me know!

25 deaf people turned up to watch Our Lady of Fatima captioned movie at Wesley Theatre in the city 20th of July. We all enjoyed the movie. Some of us shed a tear or two! We then went to Woolworths for lunch. A lovely day indeed.

I have been running the Data group at Ephpheta on the fourth Thursday of each month. We have 20 deaf people come along and ask so many questions! It is an opportunity for deaf people to share their problems, frustrations and tips with each other in the area of internet, computers and smart phones. It looks like we will continue the Data group until next year.

Deaf Café is now running in three locations; Ephpheta Centre, Gosford, and Penrith. This is our Deaf space where deaf people get together and catch up. A big thank you to all the volunteers for helping us run Deaf Café at the Ephpheta Centre.

I wish to remind the Deaf community we would like to keep our work related phone calls, faxes, and text messages to Ephpheta work hours - Monday to Friday 9 to 5pm please.

Thank you the Deaf community for your support. Coming to our events and supporting our events mean a lot to us and this keeps the Ephpheta Deaf community alive and strong.

Peace be with you,  
David.



## Fr Michael's Reflection...

"A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place as an act of devotion", says my little Catholic Dictionary. For Christians, **life** is a pilgrimage to the kingdom of God in heaven. Our places for prayer in the home, retreat centres, monasteries, and above all our Churches, give us an opportunity to meet God and be strengthened along the way.



So, the smaller pilgrimages that we make, remind us of our earthly journey toward heaven. They are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer. When we go on a pilgrimage to holy places like the Holy Land, the Holy City (Rome), or to shrines of the saints, we focus on our hope for life with God, we meet people who share our faith, and are inspired by the many saints who have gone before us. They are our brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of God and we know that they can help us along the way by God's grace.

On pilgrimage, we repent of our sins and we train ourselves to live a holy life by giving up, at least for a short time, earthly things. It is a good time to choose a better way of living, and to start some good habits of prayer and good works. Some of the most famous monasteries in Europe were built, because pilgrims would start their journey with very little, and find they needed help along the way. The monasteries made sure the pilgrims had a place to rest, pray, and be healed, so they could continue on their journey.

People sometimes go on pilgrimage as a way of saying sorry to God, or to ask something special. For example, many people have gone on pilgrimage to Lourdes in France to pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary help them ask for a healing from God.



*"Pilgrims On A Pilgrimage"*  
By Vasily Perov (1834 - 1882)

## Australia's First Saint - St Mary MacKillop of the Cross

**Feast Day of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop** (8 August 2017, anniversary of her death)

August 8 marked the anniversary of the death of Mary MacKillop. Although her death occurred more than a century ago, she continues to inspire men, women and children both Catholic or non-Catholic.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1842 - 1909) our first Australian saint, had a passion to ensure that education was available to poor children across Australia. She worked very hard to pursue the calling and have her sisters travel to where the greatest need existed. She showed courage, trust, openness and raw faith in her deliberations and actions. On 15 August 1867, Sister Mary MacKillop took her first Vows as a Religious Sister and the title "of the Cross", a call to lifetime courage and desire to serve Jesus in very practical ways.



*St Mary MacKillop of the Cross*

Relying on the providence of God, Mary provided care for neglected children, girls in danger and for the aged, poor and incurably ill, as well as refuge for women off the streets or newly from jail. She is remembered for her significant contribution to education, as Mary established a system of elementary Catholic education that would prepare the children of ordinary working class people for suitable employment. Her letters continue to be a support and encouragement for many.

The life and spirituality of our Australian "Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop" has been officially acclaimed by the Universal Church by Pope Benedict XVI. Her spirit is truly alive in the ongoing work of the Sisters of St Joseph and in the hearts of those who have been inspired by her.

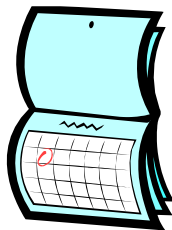
*Source: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference - Council for Australian Catholic Women*



# 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...



**17th August - Deaf Men's Day Out**

**10th September - Special Mass and Rome Information Session**

**21st September - Deaf Women's Day Out**

**11th October - Combined Deaf Women's and Men's Day Out**

**21st October - Deaf Festival**

**5th November - Community Presentation**

## Deaf Men's Day Out - 17th August

Join us for this international exhibition featuring 2,000 year old artefacts from Pompeii, Sicily, Naples and Rome. The exhibition uncovers the role of the Roman navy and its importance to the Roman Empire.



The tour will give us an insight into the lives of sailors of the Roman fleet and to the people who lived on the Bay of Naples, considered by many to be the most beautiful place on earth - that was, until the eruption. After the exhibition we will have lunch in the city together at your own cost.

**When and Where:** Thursday 17 August - meet at 10am for a 10.30am start.

Australian Maritime Museum - 2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour 2000.

**Cost:** \$16. Pay at the door. Please bring money for your lunch after the exhibition.

**RSVP:** Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email [donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au) before Tuesday 15 August

## Mass and Rome Information Session - 10 September

We know that you will have lots of questions about the pilgrimage including what is included, where we are staying, flights, what we will be doing, how to pay etc. We are having a special Mass and information session at the Ephpheta Centre so we can hopefully answer your questions so you can think about joining us. If you are thinking about coming to Rome it would be great if you can come.

**When: Sunday 10 September**

**What:** Integrated **Mass** at St Jerome's Catholic Church Punchbowl Turner St Punchbowl (next to the Ephpheta Centre) - **10am. Please arrive before 9.45 am in the Church**

**After Mass**, we will come back to the Ephpheta Centre and have a light lunch at 11am. We will then have a presentation by Chris Heron, the manager of Rome Pilgrimages. We will also have a travel agent Anna Shannon with us to help you with any questions you may have about booking flights etc **IF YOU ARE COMING ALONG can you please RSVP to David by email to [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) or sms to 0408 669 672**

## Deaf Women's Day Out - 21st September

Join us for a fascinating tour of the World-Heritage-listed Cockatoo Island. Our tour will include information covering an extensive summary of the Island's history, incorporating stories from the Island's past. We will catch the ferry to Cockatoo Island together. Please bring your Opal card. It will be a lovely day out!



After this tour we will have lunch together at a nearby café at your own cost.

**When and Where:** Thursday 21 September - meet at 9:45am for the ferry (it departs at 10.10am) Circular Quay Ferry Wharf, Circular Quay 2000.

**Cost:** \$12. Pay on the day. Please bring money for your lunch after the tour.

**RSVP:** Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) before Wednesday 13

## Combined Deaf Women's & Men's Day Out - 11th October



Join us for a day out at the Sydney Bus Museum. We will have a tour and learn about the history of bus transportation, see all the different buses on display and gain insights into the way in which bus transportation has changed and continues to change people's lives. At the end of their tour we will have a ride on a vintage double decker bus. After the tour we will have lunch in Leichardt together at your own cost.

**When and Where:** Wednesday 11 October - meet at 10.30am for an 11am start  
Sydney Bus Museum, Old Leichardt Tramshed - 25 Derbyshire Road, Leichardt 2040.

**Cost:** Adult - \$10, Concession - \$8. Pay at the door. Please bring money for your lunch after the tour.

**RSVP:** Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) before Friday 6 October.

## Deaf Festival Stall - 21st October

The Deaf Society and Deaf Australia (NSW) are organising the Deaf Festival for our community during National Week of Deaf People (NWDP) again! The Ephpheta Centre had such a great time at both of our stalls last year, we're going to have a stall again this year!

It will be a great family day out. Come, join us, and support our stall while catching up with old friends and meeting new friends! We'd love to see you there!

**When:** Saturday 21st October, 10am - 4pm

**Where:** Same place as last year - on the North Side of Parramatta River (between Wilde Ave and Elizabeth St)



## Community Presentation - 5th November

On 5 November Fr Michael will give us a special presentation about the Rosary. He will give us a short history of the Rosary, why it is important to us as Catholics to say the Rosary and answer any questions you may have.

Don't worry if you don't know or have never learned about the Rosary - this is the time to come along! If you have a rosary ring or rosary beads, please bring them along. If you don't have any - Ephpheta will give you a rosary ring. If you are not coming to Mass but want to come to the Community Presentation, you are very welcome. You are also welcome to join the community for lunch as well.

**When and Where:** Sunday 5th November, 11.30am (after our Sunday morning Mass and morning tea). Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

**RSVP:** Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) before 30 October



## Save the Date for Assembly Day - February 2018

Assembly Day is a great opportunity for you to come and discuss your ideas and feedback about the services and events provided by the Ephpheta Centre with the community. Please save the date for Assembly Day for February 2018. Exact date and time will be confirmed closer to the date.

If you would like to raise anything for consideration before February, please email Liz [liz@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:liz@ephpheta.org.au) or David [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)



# 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 and 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 August, 8th September,**

**13th October, 10th November 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 and 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:

**25th August and 27th October 2017**

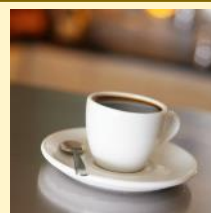
Meet at middle of food court of Erina Fair shopping mall.

Time: starts **10am to 2pm**

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

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

See you there! 😊



## Thursday Data Group

We will be starting a new group. We will talk about data plans, NRS/VRS updates, computer protection and internet suite packages. **No repairs or computer upgrades please!**

Our focus will be on general information which will help you use your technology better.

**When:** 24th August, 28th September, 23rd November (4th Thursday of the month)

Data Group on 26 October is **cancelled**.

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

**Time:** 1pm - 4pm

**Questions:** please contact David Parker on [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS to 0408 669 672.



## Ephpheta Penrith Deaf Cuppa

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people! For everybody, just turn up! This is great for people who live in the Penrith area and can't make it to our regular Deaf Café. Penrith Deaf Cuppa is a great place to meet and chat with new people or catch up with old friends over a cuppa. Bring your money if you want to buy morning tea. Meet at middle of food court. Penrith Plaza is next to Penrith train station - only 100m walk across. The next dates are:

**29th September 2017**

Meet at middle of food court upstairs of Penrith Plaza shopping mall.

Time: starts **10am to 2pm**

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

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

See you there! 😊



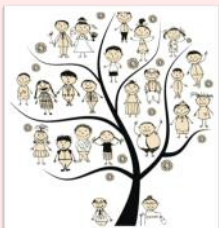


## Deaf Social Group

Let's meet for a catch up! Drinks, nibbles, and plenty of chats. Ephpheta Centre will provide wine and cheese for the afternoon.



We will have a Family History and DNA research workshop by David Parker who is an experienced genealogist.



**When:** Saturday 18 November

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

**Time:** 1pm - 4:30pm

**Questions:** please contact Di Ulrich-Smith on [diane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:diane@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS to 0414 917 857 or David Parker on [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS to 0408 669 672.



## Deaf Youth Sydney



## Ice Skating!



**Who?** Young deaf, hard of hearing people between 12 and 17 years old

**Where?** **Liverpool Catholic Club Ice Rink**

424 - 458 Hoxton Park Road  
Liverpool West NSW 2170  
*Meet outside the ice rink*

**Time?** 5pm - 9pm

**When?** Friday, 18 August 2017

**Cost?** \$5 for session and skate hire  
*Dinner will be provided*

**RSVP:** Thursday, 17 August 2017

**Contact:** **Donovan Mulligan**  
[donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au)  
SMS: 0408 697 773



## Lerner & Loewe's Camelot

Book & Lyrics by ALAN J LERNER Music by FREDERICK LOEWE

Based on *The Once and Future King* by T.H White

By Arrangement with Warner/Chappell Music Ltd administered by Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd.



**Special Auslan Interpreted Performance**

**Friday 18 August, 7.30pm**

For full details on this special performance visit

[www.camelot2017.com/auslan](http://www.camelot2017.com/auslan)



**SUPPORTING**  
THE EPHPHETA CENTRE  
catholic centre for deaf &  
hard of hearing people

## Mass - Sunday 15 October

On Sunday 15 October we will be having Integrated Mass at Richmond. **THIS MASS REPLACES Seven Hills Mass.**

**When:** Sunday 15 October

**Where:** St Monica's Catholic Church, corner of Windsor and Bourke Streets Richmond

**Time:** 9.30am

**After Mass** we will go together to a local coffee shop or club for morning tea/lunch

**Questions:** contact Donovan

Camelot will be Auslan Interpreted for the Opening Night performance on **Friday 18th August - 7.30pm** at the Seymour Centre (City Road Chippendale - near Sydney University).

If you would like to register for a ticket, please contact David Parker on

[david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS to 0408 669 672. We will reply with more details.



# St Gabriel's School

## 95th Anniversary

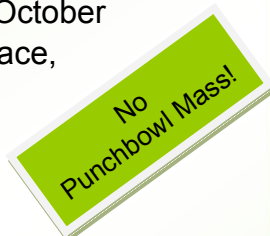
A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION!



**Deaf Festival** - Saturday 21st October  
Parramatta River from 10am - 4pm

**Integrated Mass** - Sunday 22nd October  
St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place,  
Parramatta at 9:30am  
An Auslan interpreter will be there

**St Gabriel's Anniversary Lunch**  
- Sunday 22nd October  
Commercial Hotel, 2 Hassall Street, Parramatta  
at 11am



ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!

**Note:** This Mass is not an Ephpheta event but it is supported by the Ephpheta Centre.



For more information please email  
Assad Darjani - [assaddarjani@gmail.com](mailto:assaddarjani@gmail.com)

All Welcome  
Saturday, 2nd  
September  
2017

# Father's Day mass

*A special mass to remember the Fathers  
& Grandfathers we love*

**Note:** This Mass is not an Ephpheta event but it is supported by the Ephpheta Centre. Ephpheta staff and an interpreter will be there.  
Please RSVP to David on Text: 0408669672 or  
email: [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)

**12.00pm - Mary, Mother of Mercy Chapel,  
Rookwood Catholic Cemetery**

*Following mass please join us for morning tea.*



This Mass will be  
Auslan interpreted.





## Key Information for Rome

**When:** In Italy from 15 March—24 March 2018 (9 nights) plus flight times

**Price:** From \$1885 per person twin share airfares excluded.  
We can help you in organising airfares for our group

**What is included:** 7 nights accommodation at Domus Australia in Rome, 2 nights accommodation in Assisi; breakfast daily; 3 evening meals; Auslan interpreters; all admissions as per the itinerary; tour guides, spiritual guide (Fr Michael); all tips.



### Want more information?

1. Please see insert flyer to this newsletter **PLUS**
2. We will have a special information session at the Ephpheta Centre on **Sunday 10 September**. Please see page 4 for more information.
3. Contact David and Liz for more information - email to [office@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:office@ephpheta.org.au).

If you would like to talk to us about the possibility of financial support to attend the pilgrimage please contact Liz and David.



## Deaf Catholic Conference - 20 - 23 August

JPC Community Centre and Catholic Leadership Centre,  
Melbourne VIC



**Deaf  
Catholic  
Conference  
2017**

*Reflect, Embrace, Nurture*

Our friends at the John Pierce Centre are very excited to host the Deaf Catholic Conference starting on 20th August! The theme is: "Reflect, Embrace & Nurture" – Our Community of Faith. It will be a perfect opportunity for us to reflect on the importance of our communities and to look at ways we can help each other grow.

The Conference will start with a special Ephpheta Sunday Mass and celebration lunch at JPC on Sunday 20th August. The conference will provide an environment where topics related to the deaf community and how we practice our faith can be discussed. Presentations will run on Monday, Tuesday and half day Wednesday. These are open to all who register - the topics will include changes to our community, pastoral support to seniors, families and deaf youth, discussions about using interpreters in Catholic settings, Deafhood and Deaf space. A gala dinner will also be held on Tuesday night the 22th August.

JPC are looking forward to seeing some of the Sydney Deaf Catholic community there! There is also a great number of deaf coming from around Australia and NZ. It is not too late to register for the conference if you'd like to go. If you are interested in this conference, more information can be found at:

<http://www.jpc.org.au/community/deaf-catholic-conference-2017/> or you can contact Rachel Miers [manager@jpc.org.au](mailto:manager@jpc.org.au)



**JOHN PIERCE CENTRE**  
*Spirit of the Deaf Community*

# Out and About in the Deaf Community

## Ephpheta Sunday– 6 August

What a wonderful day we had on Ephpheta Sunday. This is our annual celebration of the many gifts which Deaf people bring to the life of the Church—through language, culture and community. The day started with a beautiful Mass said by Fr Michael in our Ephpheta chapel. Then, after morning tea, we all headed over to Dooleys Waterview for a lovely buffet lunch.

Congratulations to Donovan Mulligan for winning the Annual Catholic Deaf Trust (CDT) award. Brett Beath received a special award from CDT. Our congratulations also to Ian Knox for being the first winner of the Ephpheta Centre Appreciation Award. This is an award from the Ephpheta Centre which will be presented each year on Ephpheta Sunday to acknowledge the service of an individual in our community throughout the year. Congratulations to the award winners!

We also were very excited to launch our Italian Pilgrimage for the Deaf Community which will take place in March 2018. We will be holding an information session about this on 10 September—we hope that you can join us!

Many thanks to the Ephpheta team and all of our volunteers on the day for making the day such a success. Many thanks also to the wonderful team at Dooleys for the generous support of the Ephpheta Centre and our Deaf Catholic community.

*Please see below and the next page for more photos from the day.*



*Di was the one of the two Mass readers.*





*Donovan Mulligan was the winner of the CDT award!*



*Brett Beath received the CDT appreciation award.*



*Robert Beath and his Dempsey Award!*



*Prize Winners! Anthony and Christine*



*Excited Rosemary!*



*Jubilant Jim and Murreall!*





## Deaf Youth Sydney

We recently had 2 wonderful events with our Deaf Youth Sydney group. We had a lot of fun playing Bubble Soccer at Blacktown in June. We also had a huge day at iFly at Penrith during the recent school holidays. We all overcame our fear of gravity and started to fly! We had such an awesome time!

Many thanks to Dooleys for all of their support of these events. Also a huge thank you to all the young people who come along and make these events so successful! Everyone is always willing to give new activities a go, meet new friends and have fun! Please see page 7 for more information about our next Deaf Youth Sydney event.



## Deaf Men's Day Out

We were given a tour of the Spider Exhibition and learned many facts about spiders. Before this day we had no idea there were over 3, 500 spiders in the world! There are even more types of spiders in the world that haven't been discovered yet.

The exhibition had a lot of variety of different types of spiders and had descriptions about the characteristics of each spider. Some spiders can jump a far distance but some can't. We walked through and had a browse of all the information on display.

We were lucky to witness a feeding demonstration of a spider and were given a presentation about how spiders catch food, what they eat, and how they spin a web. It was really interesting to know the different types of food that spiders eat – who knew that spiders have different dietary needs!

Unfortunately we learned that no amount of spider bites will turn you into Spider Man!



## Deaf Women's Day Out

On the 20th of July a group of 30 very excited women rugged up and journeyed up to Leura for our Women's Day Out. We visited Bygones Beautys Teapot Museum, which is home of the world's largest private collection of teawares.

There were more than 6, 000 teapots in the collection, spanning over five centuries from all around the world. There were some gorgeous teapots on display. Some of the designs were incredibly creative! We had a delicious lunch of soup, sandwiches, and scones with jam and cream. We were then given a very informative talk by the owner Maurice, who has been collecting teapots for many many years. He calls himself "Mr Teapot"! Some of the ladies managed to do a bit of cheeky shopping and were very happy with their purchases!

While the sun was shining for us, it was an incredibly cold and windy day in the Blue Mountains. However, we still had the most wonderful time. Thank you to all who joined us for the day - we really enjoyed your company!





## Combined Men and Women's Day Out

On the 15th of June 35 deaf men and women met for a lovely day out. We were all excited to explore the new Titanic Exhibition.



We learned of the stories behind the passengers, captain and survivors of the Titanic event that happened many years ago. On the ship there were some artefacts that were the exact ones from the actual ship. We saw the interior of the ship, which included the famous stair case, cabin/ bedrooms where people slept, and the deck and rail on the ship



where Rose and Jack had their romantic moment – everything looked exactly like it did in the movie. We had the opportunity to touch an iceberg, which gave us an idea of how cold it must have been that night for the Titanic to hit! There were lists of names of all the passengers on the ship that night, those who survived and those who passed away. It was a very emotional experience to read that list to realise the impact of how many people died that night.



## Community Presentation with Sr Mary Leahy

Sister Mary Leahy, Sydney Port Chaplain for the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris) came to Ephpheta on 4th of June to talk about her experiences as a chaplain for the Sydney Ports since 1992. She was awarded OAM for pastoral services to merchant seafarers visiting Sydney Ports in 2012 for her years of devoted hard work.

The Sydney Seafarers' Centre (SSC) at Port Botany is looked after by the Anglican and Catholic Churches and the International Transport Federation (ITF). This was established to welcome visiting sailors, crew and other people who work on boats and provide them with facilities, a social venue and pastoral and welfare services. Sister Mary Leahy is involved with the Catholic Church as a pastoral worker for people who work on boats.

She talked for an hour about her wide range of different experiences. She said the life on a ship is very hard work for people who work in ships. Seafarers (people who work on ships) are often lonely and they can spend up to 10 or 12 months away. Poor wages, accidents, physical, sexual and verbal abuse can be common. Over 90% of world trade is carried by ships. So lots of seafarers work on these ships.

Sister Mary visits crews on board ships in Sydney port. She does not go travelling on ships. For ships which have Catholics among the crew, the ship can organise for Sister Mary or another Chaplain to come on board for confessions and communion.

We felt so grateful to have met such an amazing lady like Sister Mary!



## Congratulations Shinto!

Shinto Francis is from Kerala, South India and was a Seminarian from Seminary of the Holy Spirit at Harris Park under Diocese of Parramatta. While at the seminary he came and volunteered at the Ephpheta Centre for over a year.



Shinto is the fourth of seven children and living in a rural area, the local parish was based in a hall only 200m from his childhood home. He grew up as part of the Syro-Malabar Rite, an Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church.

At the age of 13, while serving as an altar boy in this parish, Shinto first sensed God calling him to priesthood.

He learned Auslan through our community at the Ephpheta Centre and communicates with our deaf community at Deaf café, pastoral visits, deaf Mass, and few other Ephpheta events.

He was ordained as a Deacon on 27 May and Ephpheta was invited to celebrate his ordination. We were very proud to be a part of this special day. Congratulations Shinto! Ephpheta looks forward seeing you continuing your journey to become a Priest .



## Thanks from Mary Profilio!

Hi friends! On May 2 I turned 70 years old -eh! First of all, I thought my mum must have put the wrong date on my birth certificate - I feel like I'm still 60. I can't believe I'm living on earth for 70 years - you can imagine! My family did a good job to give me a party with them and my dear deaf friends (deaf community). It was a really lovely party with a lovely buffet lunch.

We were wearing the theme "M" - some wore "mine" (very good), Minnie Mouse, monkey, Mickie Mouse, mafia, Mexican, Milo, monster, moon, Mork and Mindy, M&Ms (the chocolate!), Mad Hatter (from Alice in Wonderland), manager, mauve (colour), and me as Mary Poppins! It was great to see that everyone made such an effort for me.



I want to thank you all for your generous gifts, I didn't expect them. I just wanted to be with all my dear friends. I love you all deaf community like my family.

Thanks so much to my dear family - and their wonderful efforts for the party. I will always remember this and keep it precious to my heart.

Love Mary xxxx



## Congratulations Robert!

Robert Beath was awarded the Dempsey medal by the Archbishop of Sydney on Sunday 16 July 2017. He is an outstanding deaf person who has worked tirelessly for the Sydney Deaf catholic community for over 40 years.

The Dempsey Medal is awarded every year by the Archbishop of Sydney to hard working people of the Catholic community. This medal is awarded for outstanding service to a parish or community.

The name of the Award comes from a man named James Dempsey. He was a convict transported to Sydney Australia for being involved in a rebellion in Ireland. He worked as a stone mason and worked on many government projects. James was involved in building the original St Mary's cathedral. The



Dempsey Medal seeks to encourage and to recognise outstanding contributions and service by members of the Sydney Archdiocesan community to the Church.

Congratulations Robert! The Ephpheta Centre are all very grateful for all that you do for the community, and so proud that you received this award!



*Historical Window in St Mary's Cathedral showing the celebration of a home Mass in Sydney in the period of James Dempsey.*

Robert says:

"I went to the Catholic Deaf Association (CDA)

when I was little boy with my big brother Kevin and with my Mum and Dad (Pearl and Jack).

Mum and Dad always went to CDA every second and fourth Fridays of the month to Marion House (Castlereagh Street, Sydney) for social night and on the fourth Sunday of every month at St Benedict's Church Broadway for Benediction and afternoon tea, plus social outings. A big thanks to my mum and dad, they gave us a good example to follow.

I started to be a volunteer with the Catholic Deaf Community when I was 17 years old. I started with the Oral Deaf Club at Strathfield in the 1960s/1970s with the late Fr. Anthony Ryan and John McKinnon until the club closed and then moved to CDA. I have also volunteered in other areas including the Deaf Tennis Club the Penrith Deaf Club, the Pastoral Council and the Social Committee for St Gabriel celebrations. I am currently on the volunteer social committee for our big celebration for NSW Tennis Club 100 years next year. I enjoy volunteering with the Catholic Deaf Community because I enjoy working and interacting with Deaf people as well as giving back to the community.



A big thank you to the staff at the Ephpheta centre for nominating me for the Dempsey Award. I was very touched by the nomination and it was a privilege and honour to have received the award and to share it with my family and friends."

*By Robert Beath*

## In memory of Alice Hastings

We recently said goodbye to a very dear friend in our Deaf Community - Alice Hastings. Many of you would have known Alice who has been a very important member of our Ephpheta community for many years.

Alice was born in 1927. She grew up in Sydney and married her husband Paul in 1954. They had 7 children including Anthony who was deaf. Alice became very involved both at St Gabriel's school and later at the Ephpheta Centre - she worked as a teacher's aide at St Gabriel's and worked at the Ephpheta Centre at Paddington and Lewisham.

Alice was a great friend and support to everyone that she met - both deaf and

hearing. She was a generous and kind

lady who brightened the lives of everyone she met. She

had a huge love of the deaf community and was a person of a very strong faith.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and all of her friends who will miss her greatly. Thank you Alice for the wonderful person which you were - you leave a very strong legacy of faith and love.



## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Thank you!

On 9 June we held our fundraising morning tea for the Cancer Council. Thank you to everyone who came along and donated so generously. The Cancer Council is the nation's leading cancer charity, uniting the community, creating hope, providing support and saving lives.



We all had a great day, enjoying a beautiful morning tea and managed to raise over \$400 which we have donated to the Cancer Council. The Cancer Council have said a big "thank you" to Ephpheta and to the community.



Ephpheta Centre

[biggestmorningtea.com.au](http://biggestmorningtea.com.au)



Cancer Council

Australia's  
Biggest  
Morning  
Tea



#ACYF17

# Australian Catholic Youth Festival

December 7-9



Jarrod Brown



Christiane Kassab

This Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney Olympic Park over two days is open to Catholic young people who live in Australia. This festival is for youth aged between 14 and 30 years old.

There will be competitions, arts, and films! Many different things to do. Over 15,000 people will attend. It is a bit like our Australian World Youth Day!

**It will be an awesome three days!**

Two Deaf youth leaders, Christiane Kassab and Jarrod Brown from the Ephpheta Centre will be attend the festival and will lead the deaf and hard of hearing youth group.

Please send your expression of interest to Chrisso or Jarrod to secure your place at the festival. We can talk more about travel plans, accommodation and financial support if needed. We will also have Auslan interpreters for the events we will be attending.

Interested? Any Questions? Please Contact:

- Chrisso SMS: 0405 749 488 email: [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au)
- Jarrod SMS: 0478 182 428 email: [jarrod@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:jarrod@ephpheta.org.au)

We look forward to hearing from you!



## Craft Corner

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

We recently celebrated a few craft ladies' birthdays with delicious cake! Happy birthday to Margaret, Mary, and Angela!



## History Corner

### Catherine Sullivan - First girl student of Catholic Deaf School in Newcastle

By Brian Johnston

Catherine Sullivan is remembered in Deaf history because she was Sister Mary Gabriel Hogan's first Australian student. Sr Gabriel, deaf herself, began her work as a teacher at the Catholic Deaf School in Newcastle NSW in 1875. Catherine Sullivan was instrumental in Sr Gabriel's coming to Australia and becoming the foundress of Catholic Deaf education in Australia.

Catherine Sullivan was born at Swallow Creek (later called Rock Forest) near Bathurst NSW on 7 January 1859, daughter of Patrick and Sarah Sullivan and of a wealthy family. She was also known as Katie. She had three brothers. Her mother, unhappy in the marriage, left home and the family when Catherine was five years old. Mrs Coyle moved into the home as a housekeeper, and became mother, teacher and friend to Catherine and the boys for the remainder of her life.

From 1866 to 1871, Catherine attended the State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Sydney, until the age of thirteen. In 1872 she was enrolled at the Dominican Sisters' (Hearing) School at Maitland NSW. It was expected that the Deaf teacher, Sr Gabriel would come from Ireland to Australia in 1873 but she didn't come until 1875.

On 8 December 1875, at the age of sixteen, Catherine was admitted as the first student at the Dominican School for Catholic Deaf Children in Newcastle and Sr Gabriel became her teacher.

In December 1878, when she was nineteen, Catherine left school and returned to her family in the country, but always continued her ties with the Sisters and Deaf students in Newcastle and later Waratah. At home she was engaged in household duties and was a wonderful housekeeper. Most of her family members could use finger spelling and signs. Catherine was a woman of strong will and compassion and was known for her skill at art, knitting, crochet and lace making.

Catherine Sullivan died at her brother's property 'Avoca' near Bathurst on 15 April 1922 at the age of 63, unmarried and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Bathurst. Catherine Sullivan Centre at Strathfield, which is an early intervention centre for babies and young children with hearing loss, is named after her.



Catherine Sullivan  
aged 13 in 1872

Sources: Books 'Pictorial Centenary Souvenir' (1975), 'Open Minds Open Hearts' - Stories of the Australian Catholic Deaf Community (1999), and 'The Silent Book' by Bernadette Wallis (2016).  
See [www.catherinesullivancentre.org.au](http://www.catherinesullivancentre.org.au)



# Mass Times

## AUGUST

13th	Sunday <b>MANLY</b>	10.30am
20th	Sunday <b>SEVEN HILLS</b>	11.00am
27th	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	10.00am

## SEPTEMBER

2nd	Saturday <b>ROOKWOOD</b> <i>Father's Day Mass</i> see page 8 for more information	12.00pm
3rd	Sunday (Father's Day) <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	10.00am
10th	Sunday <b>NORTH GOSFORD</b>	9.30am
10th	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b> <i>Special Integrated Mass</i> see page 4 for more information	10.00am
17th	Sunday <b>SEVEN HILLS</b>	11.00am
24th	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	10.00am

## OCTOBER

1st	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	10.00am
8th	Sunday <b>MANLY</b>	10.30am
15th	Sunday <b>RICHMOND</b> <i>(replaces SEVEN HILLS)</i> see page 7 for more information	9.30am
22nd	Sunday <b>PARRAMATTA</b> <i>(replaces PUNCHBOWL)</i> see page 8 for more information	9.30am

## NOVEMBER

5th	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b> Community Presentation see page 5 for more information	10.00am
12th	Sunday <b>NORTH GOSFORD</b>	9.30am
19th	Sunday <b>SEVEN HILLS</b>	11.00am

## 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  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Fr Michael will be on leave from 4– 23 September.**  
**There will be NO Friday morning Mass on 15 September and 22 September** (we have another priest to say Mass at Ephpheta on Friday 8 September).

### 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)

### We pray...

#### *For those who have died*

Rose Carrol (Turnbull) (Ex Waratah)

**7 June 2017** - Alice Hastings

**24 June 2017** - Betty Bonser

**28 June 2017** - Peter Hanson

**5 July 2017** - Valerie Wallis (Hale) (Ex Waratah)

**6 July 2017** - Diana Cook

#### *For those who are sick*

Barbara Field (Ex Waratah)

Rommy Muscinkas

Richard Jones

Geoff Seymour

(Please pray for those who are sick)





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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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Fr Michael	<a href="mailto:frmichael@ephpheta.org.au">frmichael@ephpheta.org.au</a>

### 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!