

## The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

May is the month of Mary and this 13<sup>th</sup> of May is the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima. 100 years ago, Our Lady first appeared to three shepherd children, after they had



been prepared to see her by an Angel. The children were Jacinta, Francesco, & Lucia and they were aged between 7 and 10 years. Our Lady appeared to them 6 times, and then once, later on, to Lucia. She led them on an extraordinary path to holiness.

It was a time of war in the world and in Portugal. Mother Mary revealed herself as Our Lady of the Rosary. She gave a message to the world through the children calling for

repentance from sins, praying the rosary, and the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. Our Lady promised a great miracle on a certain date at a certain time, so that the world may believe. There was much opposition to the children, and once they were even arrested! Despite this, they grew in love for God and others, guided by Our Lady.

A great miracle occurred at the date and time promised. It was an impossible miracle of the sun, which seemed to “dance”, and at one time plunged towards the earth. Tens of thousands of people witnessed it, believers and unbelievers alike. And the message of Fatima spread throughout the world.

How has the world responded to Our Lady of Fatima’s message? Not as well as we could have, but Pope John Paul II did consecrate the world to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart, and many individuals and families have grown closer to God through repenting of sins and praying the Holy Rosary. The Message of Fatima is as important and urgent as it ever was.

To celebrate the very special 100 year anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima, there will be a special Procession and Mass said by Archbishop Anthony Fisher at St Mary’s Cathedral in the city.

You are welcome to join us on this very special once-in-a-lifetime celebration!

**When:** Saturday 13 May

**Where:** Meet Fr Michael at the entrance to the Cathedral (the big steps) at **11:15am**

Procession into the Cathedral starts at **11:30am**. Mass starts at **12pm**.

We will have reserved seats at the front of the Cathedral for the deaf community.

**Any questions?** Please email Fr Michael [frmichael@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:frmichael@ephpheta.org.au) or SMS 0466 319 290.



# A Message from Liz & Dave...

## Liz's report

Hello - Hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Easter services so lovely. We are so blessed to have a generous and loving community who freely give of their time to help others.

I would like to share with you some words of Pope Francis at the Mass which he celebrated in Rome on Easter Monday. Pope Francis reminds us that the Resurrection of Jesus is the beginning - a renewal of hope and life to the world. He tells us that as humans we have our limits but "inspired and sustained by faith in the Risen Lord" we can have an impact "well beyond our capacity".



In the Catholic Church, Easter does not finish on Easter Sunday. This is just the beginning as the season of Easter lasts for 50 days, finishing on Pentecost Sunday (this year on Sunday 4 June).

Pope Francis reminds us that during this time we especially think of our Mother Mary, who can help us in living the Resurrection. "The Virgin Mary, silent witness of the death and resurrection of her son Jesus, helps us to be clear signs of the risen Christ among the events of the world. Those who are in distress and difficulties can find in us so many brothers and sisters who offer them support and consolation. And this is so because Christ is alive and active in history through his Holy Spirit, redeems (heals) our miseries, reaches every human heart and gives hope to anyone who is oppressed and suffering. Our Mother helps us to believe strongly in the resurrection of Jesus: Jesus is risen, He is alive here, among us, and this is a wonderful mystery of salvation with the ability to transform hearts and lives".

So let us always - and especially through this Easter season - ask for the help of Jesus and our Mother Mary to help and support each other and to see "Christ in the person next to us".

Until next time,  
Liz

## Dave's report

Autumn is here! It is time for many of us to look after our gardens, prune the leaves and branches and prepare the soil ready for the winter season. I had a little accident recently moving one of the heavy ironwood sleepers in my garden and I hurt my left wrist big time. It shows we have to be careful when we do jobs around our houses!



Things are very busy and moving quickly as usual here at Ephpheta. We are lucky to have two young priests in training, Adam and Matt to come at Ephpheta and learn Auslan from Ephpheta staff. Our Friday Mass Services run by Fr Michael have gone from strength to strength.

Easter weekend is already over. I am so pleased how it went. Over 60 people went to Good Friday and Saturday Vigil Mass services at the Ephpheta Centre. The interpreters were fantastic. The staff worked very hard. The volunteers were a big help. The choir was beautiful. The performances by three deaf people - Diane, Steven and Robert were moving. Big thanks to you all who were involved.

The true meaning of Easter for millions of Christians including Catholics is that of honouring Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead and His glorious promises of eternal life for all who believe in Him. For Catholics, Easter Sunday comes at the end of 40 days of prayer, fasting, and Lent. The Alleluia is sung for the first time since the beginning of Lent. As St John Chrysostom reminds us in his famous Easter Homily, our fast is over and it is the time for celebration. Easter is one of the biggest events if not the biggest for Catholics.

Again, your support and feedback go a long way. We will always try our best to listen to all your comments and make positive changes that benefit the Ephpheta deaf community and the wider community.

Until next time,  
David

## Meet the Deaf Religious - Fr Thomas Coughlin (Malone, New York)

### Fr Thomas Coughlin

Fr Thomas (Tom) Coughlin was born deaf in Malone, New York on May 22, 1947; attended the Rochester School for the Deaf and obtained High School diploma from the St. Mary School for the Deaf in Buffalo, New York.

When Fr Tom Coughlin began seriously considering a priestly vocation in high school, little did he realise how long and winding the road would be to becoming the first deaf priest ordained in the United States.

Fr Tom began applying to various seminaries after he graduated from high school, but was turned down from one after the other due to the fact that he is deaf. Instead, he went on to study and graduate from Gallaudet University in 1972 with a Bachelor in English and then in 1976 obtained his Masters in Religious Studies from Catholic University. He entered the Trinitarians in 1972 and was finally ordained by Cardinal Lawrence Sheehan of Baltimore in 1977.



*Brother Adam making his vows before Fr Coughlin*

He met with so much opposition before and after ordination that he almost quit. "Most people were not prepared to welcome a deaf person. I was all alone, but the vocation director Father Joseph Lupo told me 'You have to open the door. You have to suffer so others won't.' And I saw his point.

Following Christ you have to make sacrifices. One has to enter the mystery of suffering in order to pray better. Mary, Joseph, the apostles all suffered but they understood the meaning of God's love" he mentioned in an interview.

Fr Tom also received support from Cardinal Pio Laghi, former Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to the United States. He also gave his support to Fr Tom's effort to start a community that would minister to the deaf. All of the prayers and formation are done in sign language, and if someone is interested to join, he would have to be proficient in signing. Fr Tom is currently in contact with 10 men who are interested in joining the community and is very interested in admitting more men so that the deaf in other cities such as Chicago and New York can benefit from their charism, the special God-given gift that the community lives out. For Fr. Tom, that is the best part of his ministry. He described it simply, "The Word became Flesh. In sign language God's word is more clear' not just verbal but made flesh. This is our charism."



*Fr Coughlin listening to Brother Adam make his first profession of vows*

Source: Catholic News Agency

[http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/god\\_created\\_me\\_a\\_deaf\\_person\\_for\\_his\\_glory\\_explains\\_priest/](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/god_created_me_a_deaf_person_for_his_glory_explains_priest/)

## Thanks to Bishop Tony

A special thank you to Bishop Tony Randazzo for celebrating Mass here with us at the Ephpheta Centre on Sunday 5 March. We all enjoyed meeting Bishop Tony and enjoyed him fingerspelling the Auslan alphabet at the end of Mass! (he learnt it when he was studying to be a priest).

Bishop Tony was very generous with his time and stayed for lunch and talked with the community.

Everyone enjoyed meeting him and he enjoyed meeting us! We look forward to seeing you again Bishop Tony!!





# Meet Our New Seminarians! Matthew and Adam

## Matthew Dimian

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

I was born in Westmead Hospital on September 25 1992, and I have lived in Sydney my whole life. I grew up in Dural.

### 2. Do you have brothers and sisters? What do you love most about your family? Tell us a little bit about your family

My background is Egyptian. I have only one sibling, an older sister. Like typical Egyptians, both my parents and my sister are pharmacists. I love that my family has kept alive the generous hospitality of the Middle East.



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

My favourite saint is St Therese of Liseaux. I love her because she did not do anything extraordinary. She joined the Carmelite convent in Lisieux at age 14 and never left it until her death at age 24. But she loved God with a childlike confidence and she managed to show her extraordinary love in her ordinary, everyday life. Because of her little, humble example of love, she shows us how we can become great saints even in our ordinary lives.

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

I love playing cards with friends, watching movies, and occasionally playing some basketball.

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

Probably going to 4 different World Youth Days. I got to meet so many people from around the world, amongst crowds of millions, and in a different country each time. World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid was a highlight. Before going to Madrid, we went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands and saw the places where Jesus actually walked and worked his miracles like Jerusalem, Galilee and Nazareth.

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

I'm very excited to get to know the Deaf Community. Learning Auslan has been challenging but fun!

### 7. Anything else you would like to add...

Thank you for welcoming us so warmly into the community, and for your patience as we slowly learn Auslan.



## Adam Carlow

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

I was born in Greystanes but moved at a young age to Wetherill Park in Western Sydney. I lived there for most of my life before leaving home having felt called to the priesthood, spent a year in Brisbane initially and then came back home to the Parramatta area.

### 2. Do you have brothers and sisters? What do you love most about your family? Tell us a little bit about your family

I see my family regularly and usually stay overnight at home on Fridays with mum and dad. I also have two older sisters. There is a bit of an age gap between us and they both have children. Probably the best thing now is being an uncle to my 3 nephews and niece. They play a very important part in my life.

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

My favourite saint would have to be St Therese of Lisieux. There is something incredibly attractive about her simpleness and childlike love for God. One thing I have taken from her is finding God in the little things in life. She is very easy to read if you ever pick up anything she has written. I also feel a close connection with St Mary Mackillop of the Cross and believe that she is a powerful intercessor, particularly for Australians.

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

Whenever I get a chance I like to go up to the Blue Mountains for a hike. I'm a bit of a camper as well and try to head out once or twice a year with friends.

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

The most adventurous thing I've ever done was trekking 3 hours along a river to reach a remote village in East Timor. There were no roads so we had to walk and stayed overnight with the locals. They were celebrating the feast of their patron saint of their village and some of them actually danced and sung right up until the sun came up the next day.

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

I was extremely happy when I was told that I would be spending some time with Ephpheta. I'm really looking forward to being involved in the community in the future. It is a wonderful place. The people here have been so good to Matthew and myself and I think this will make for quite the experience during my training towards the priesthood.

### 7. Anything else you would like to add...

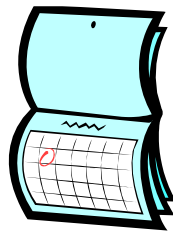
I wanted to say thank you to everyone from the community who has been helping us along the way. I have a lot of gratitude and look forward to getting to know everyone better as the year goes on.



# 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...



**18th May - Deaf Men's Day Out**

**4th June - Community Presentation**

**15th June - Combined Deaf Women's and Men's Day Out**

**20th July - Deaf Women's Day Out**

**27th May - Special Mass for Shinto Francis**

**9th June - Australia's Biggest Morning Tea**

**6th August - Ephpheta Sunday**

## Deaf Men's Day Out - 18th May

Join us for Sydney's newest exhibition - get up close to over 400 real spider specimens, including live tarantulas, giant water spiders and deadly funnel-webs! We'll discover why spiders are the most successful animals on the planet.



There will be a talk and feeding demonstration then we can browse the exhibition together. We can enter a cave of crawling spiders, test our strength against spider silk and dare ourselves to try other creepy crawly immersive experiences.

After the exhibition we will have lunch in the city together at your own cost.

**When and Where:** Thursday 18 May - meet at 10am for a 10.30am start.

Australian Museum - 1 William Street, Sydney 2010.

**Cost:** Adult - \$25, Senior - \$12. Pay at the door.

Please bring money for your lunch after the exhibition.

**RSVP:** David 0408 669 672 (SMS) or email [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) before Monday 15 May

## Community Presentation - 4th June

Sr Mary Leahy is the Port Chaplain to sailors and people who work on ships. She supports workers who work on ships from overseas and are often isolated and lonely. They often have very little money and are homesick. Sr Mary will tell us about her very interesting experiences and work.



This Community Presentation will start after Mass, at 11.30am. 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 4th June, 11.30am (after Mass and morning tea).

Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

**RSVP:** David 0408 669 672 (SMS) or email [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)

## Combined Deaf Women's & Men's Day Out - 15th June

Come journey with us into the heart of the Titanic and experience the world's largest exhibition about this iconic ship. We will immerse ourselves in the moving tale of Titanic's first and final voyage and experience the sights and stories as if you were on the ship.

We will come face to face with an actual iceberg, experience spectacular re-creations, including the grand staircase, and experience over 300 artefacts dating back over 100 years.

After this self guided exhibition we will have lunch together at your own cost.

**When and Where:** Thursday 15 June - meet at 10.30am for an 11am start  
Byron Kennedy Hall, Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park 2021.



**Cost:** \$23. Ephpheta will be financially supporting this event. Please try and pay before the event. Please bring money for your lunch after the exhibition.

**RSVP:** David 0408 669 672 (SMS) or email [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) before Tuesday 30 May

## Deaf Women's Day Out - 20th July

Rug up warmly and join us for a wonderful day out in the Blue Mountains July!

We will visit Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms, which is home of the world's largest private collection of tea wares. There are more than 5,500 teapots in the collection, spanning five centuries and including teapots from all over the world.



We will get the train to Leura together, have a delicious high tea lunch together, be given an informative teapot talk on the history of tea and diversity of their teapot collection, browse the Teapot Museum, take a walk along the beautiful Leura town, and do a bit of cheeky shopping!

**When and Where:** Thursday 20 July. There will be two meeting places available (Strathfield and Penrith). Please let us know which train station you would like to meet at when RSVPing. We will confirm exact meeting location and times (including train times) closer to the date.

**Cost:** \$20. Ephpheta will be financially supporting this event. Please try and pay before the event.

**RSVP:** Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) before Tuesday 18 July

## Shinto being ordained as a Deacon

Many of you will have enjoyed meeting Shinto Francis, a young seminarian from the Parramatta Diocese who recently undertook his pastoral placement at the Ephpheta Centre.



Shinto will soon be ordained as a Deacon and he would love the community to join him on this special occasion.

**When:** Saturday 27 May at 6pm

**Where:** St Paul the Apostle Parish - 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

So that we have an idea of numbers, could you please contact David on 0408 669 672 (SMS) or email [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au) to let us know if you are coming.

## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - 9th June

Everyone knows someone affected by cancer. We know that lots of people in our community have been touched by cancer. Cancer Council is the nation's leading cancer charity, uniting the community, creating hope, providing support and saving lives.

Every year the Cancer Council encourages groups to have a big morning tea to get people together and to fund raise for the Cancer Council. Ephpheta has decided to support this great project by having our June Deaf Café as a fundraiser for the Cancer Council.

**When:** Friday 9 June from 10am. Same as our usual Deaf Café

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

**What to bring:** Please bring some extra money to give as a donation to the Cancer Council to support their great work.



**Australia's  
Biggest  
Morning  
Tea**



## Ephpheta Sunday - 6th August

Ephpheta Sunday is a very special celebration in the life of the Church and in the Deaf Catholic Community. Declared by the late Pope Pius X many many years ago, it is a day when we celebrate the gifts of deafness, faith and community.



We will start with a special Mass in our Chapel at the Ephpheta Centre. Then we will make our way to Dooleys Waterview Catholic Club at Silverwater NOT Lidcombe for a delicious buffet lunch and dessert.

Special thanks to Dooleys for their support of our celebrations.

Please let Chrisso know as soon as possible if you need a deafblind interpreter for the day or if you need help with transport getting from Punchbowl to Silverwater (you need to organise your own transport home).



**When:** Sunday 6th August

**Mass:** Starts 10am at Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl (followed by morning tea at the Ephpheta Centre after Mass)

**Lunch:** Arrive at 12.30pm to be seated for lunch which will start around 1pm, Dooleys Catholic Club (Waterview)  
Corner of Clyde Street and Silverwater Road, Silverwater 2128.

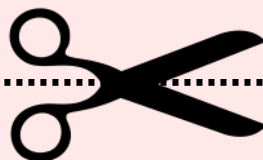
**Cost:** \$10 per person, \$20 per family with children under age 16  
Please pay when you arrive for lunch. The bar will be open for you to buy your own drinks.

**RSVP:** Must RSVP by 22nd July. Please contact Chrisso to confirm you are coming by either:

**Email:** [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) OR

**SMS** to Chrisso on 0405 749 488 OR

**Faxing or posting** back the slip below to 02 9709 5638 (fax)



**RSVP: I want to come!**  
Ephpheta Sunday - 6th August

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Special food needs?: \_\_\_\_\_

Need transport from Punchbowl to Silverwater? YES/NO





# 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 June**

(Biggest Morning Tea - see page 7 for details),

**14th July, 11th August 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:



**30th June and 25th August 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](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:** Starting **25 May** and then on the 4th Thursday of the month (22 June, 27 July, 24 August)

**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.

## Deaf Social group



Let's meet for a catch up! Drinks, nibbles, and plenty of chats.

Ephpheta Centre will provide cakes, biscuits, tea and coffee.

We will have a free NDIS presentation by Tony Clews from the Deaf Society.

**When:** Saturday 27 May

**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.

See you there! 😊

# Out and About in the Deaf Community

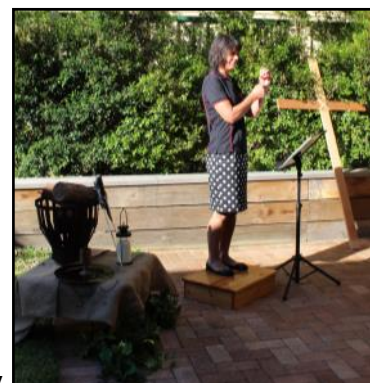
## Our Easter Liturgies

Ephpheta and the deaf community celebrated two beautiful Easter liturgies.

We started on Good Friday - a large group joined together as we



reflected on Christ's journey to the Cross on Good Friday. The parts of the Gospel were very movingly led by Di Ulrich-Smith, Steven Hely and Robert Beath. All of our signers put in a lot of preparation for the day and this was very clear to everyone who was there. Thanks to Fr Michael for leading us in this special liturgy as we walked with Jesus and each other on the way to the Cross.

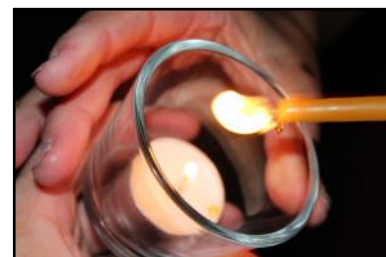


Our Easter Vigil Mass was beautiful. We started with the ceremony of the lighting of the fire where our new Easter Candle is prepared and lit. Each member of the community then received a candle which they then placed before the altar - symbolising how each of



us can help to spread the light of Jesus in the world and how the light of Christ can shine for all. Thanks to our readers and our choir and choir leader for all of their hard work and preparation in making this a very special celebration.

Thanks to our interpreters Kate and Rosemary for their wonderful support.



Each of our celebrations finished with a social get together - hot cross buns on Good Friday and a lovely supper brought by the community on Saturday.

Thank you to everyone in our community for your faith, reverence and commitment. And also a big thank you to Fr Michael and all of the Ephpheta team for all your hard work and dedication which went

towards making these special celebrations so beautiful and meaningful for us all.





# Pilgrimage to Penrose Park

On Sunday 26 March we enjoyed a wonderful pilgrimage day down to Penrose Park. We had about 50 deaf people on this lovely warm sunny day.



*Stations of the Cross*

We left Strathfield Station at 8am on a great new coach driven by Jimmy Ashley. We picked up a few more people at Casula and continued down in the sun to Penrose Park which is in Sutton Forrest.



We started our time there with Stations of the Cross led by Fr Michael. Stations of the Cross tells the story of Jesus' walking to his Crucifixion on Good Friday. It is a very traditional experience for Catholics to do in Lent leading up to Easter. It

gives us time to reflect on the sufferings of Jesus for us and the incredible sacrifice which He made for us with

his tremendous love for all of us.



*Penrose Park Chapel*

The Stations of the Cross were set up in the bush in Penrose Park and each scene was a beautiful black glass etching which was on a tree. The lovely Pauline Fathers let us use their golf buggy to help some of our older deaf

people who found the bush path a little rocky. The final scene ends in a little cave which is dug into the side of a hill – this was set up as Jesus' tomb and there was a wax model representing Jesus lying in the tomb. This was very emotional and moving. After Stations, we then had Mass in the small chapel which was beautiful.

We then enjoyed lunch in the sun and met Fr Damian who is the Polish priest who is the leader of the community at Penrose Park. Fr Damian made us all feel very welcome and he showed us around the amazing main Chapel which has an icon of the Black Madonna. We then left and enjoyed our bus ride home.

Special thanks to Fr Michael, Rosemary our interpreter and all the Ephpheta staff working that day for making this such an enjoyable and spiritually rewarding day.

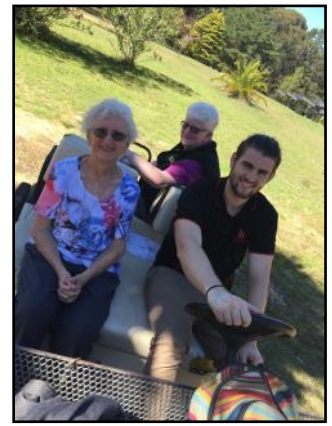
*Please see the next page for more photos from the day.*



*Our wonderful community*







*Our group outside the Grotto!*



## Deaf Men's Day Out

The Ephpheta Centre staff organised a Deaf Men's Day Out on the 16th of March, which was held in Gosford at the car museum.



The museum had 400 different cars ranging from \$8,000 to \$5 million in price! Some of the cars were brand new, while some were very classic and historic.

The men loved walking around the warehouse, talking/looking at all the cars. Many of them had good memories coming back to them. It was a great opportunity for us to all just enjoy the machines that nearly all men love!



It was a successful day with 25 - 30 men and Sean as our interpreter. We all had a great day.

## Deaf Women's Day Out

On the 27th of April the sun was shining for us for our Deaf Women's Day Out.



We were given a talk of the beautiful and interesting



history behind the Chinese Garden of Friendship, which was built as a beautiful symbol of friendship between Sydney and Guangdong, China to mark Australia's bicentenary in 1988.

The garden was designed and built by Chinese landscape architects and gardeners following the principles of 'Yin-Yang' and the five opposite elements - earth, fire, water, metal and wood.

It was a beautiful day to escape the "busy-ness" of life. We enjoyed lunch together once we'd finished our walk exploring the waterfalls, lakes, and exotic plants around the gardens.





## From Europe to Tasmania: My Time on Mission

From September to mid January, 12 young people left their jobs, their studies and the luxuries of the world to do a five-month Long-Term Mission School. This consisted of prayer, personal reflection, fellowship, learning about the Catholic faith, running a youth group as well as retreats, going out on mission to many youth groups, schools and parishes throughout Tasmania and the east coast of Australia and meeting people who haven't heard the Good News before.

There were many graces and blessings during these five months and many lives were changed forever. God called me at the right time to take me out of my comfort zone and to spend five months with Him.

The most important things that I took away from this experience was that when you place your trust in Jesus, he will always be with you through the joys, the sorrows and the hardships of life, to love God first and to love your neighbour as yourself so that the world will believe.

*By Brett Beath*

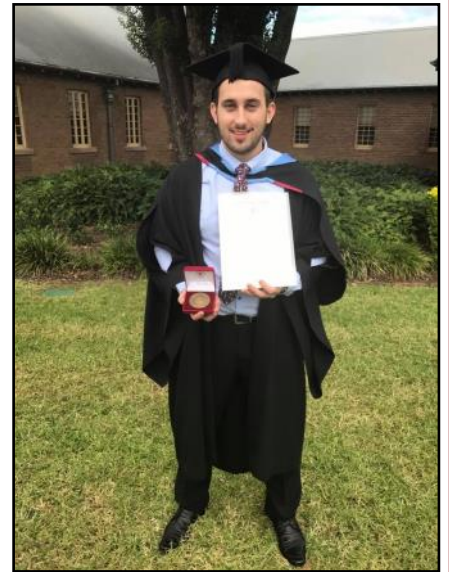
## Congratulations Jason!

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Jason Johnston graduated with Bachelor of Engineering (Advanced) (Civil) with First Class Honours and the University Medal at University of Western Sydney, Parramatta.

Jason's parents, Brian and Margaret, his two sisters, Cecilia and Rosanna and Jason's partner, Alexandra attended the graduation ceremony.

The previous week Jason received the Dean's Medal and four other awards at the Awards Ceremony where he spoke for the student address.

Congratulations Jason on an amazing achievement and many best wishes in your career!



## Farewell Milene

A wonderful member of our community, Milene Guilhoto, moved to Portugal with her family on the 29th of April. Her good friend, Joyce Tully organised a surprise farewell lunch for her! She shared the following:

Margaret Johnston and I met Milene at Parramatta station then had lovely cup of tea at Michel's cafe and chatted for a while. We then walked to



Bondi Pizza and she was very surprised to see her friends from Ushers/Deafblind group and some volunteers who joined our lunch to say farewell to Milene.

Her friends are very sad to see her go and will miss her very much, especially seeing her at Ushers and Deafblind outings.

From all of us at the Ephpheta Centre, we will miss you Milene. Best of luck with everything!



# Save the Date - 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 have been busy organising a Deaf Catholic Conference - the first in Victoria in over a decade! The theme is: "Reflect, Embrace & Nurture" – Our Community of Faith. JPC will release the registration information ASAP and hope that our community may join in this special event. It will be an opportunity to reflect, embrace and look at nurturing our community of faith.

This event is for Deaf and hearing people living and working in the pastoral areas in our Deaf communities around Australia and neighbouring countries. Like Ephpheta, the Deaf Catholic Community is very important to JPC. They want to come together and acknowledge the worth and richness we share. They want to share knowledge and information with others who live and work in our community and we want to look at what our needs are and how we can help keep our happy, healthy and faithful community alive for many years to come.

The Conference will start with a special Ephpheta Sunday Mass and celebration at JPC on Sunday 20th August. The event 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.

JPC will release the registration information soon and hope that you may join in this special event. If you are interested in this conference, more information can be found at: <http://www.jpc.org.au/community/deaf-catholic-conference-2017/>



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



## A message from Liz and David:

As you know, Ephpheta staff work very hard to serve our deaf community. We are lucky to have a hard-working team who try their best to serve our community.

We have become aware that lots of people in the community are contacting our staff at night or on the weekend and expect a reply straight away. Of course if it is an emergency we will do our best to help - many times we have helped our community in an emergency late in the evening or over the weekend. In a true emergency, please feel free to contact us.

If it is not an emergency, please try and limit your contact with staff to during office hours. We will always try and get back to you as soon as we can during office hours.

*Thank  
you*



## New Zealand Catholic Deaf History Conference

On the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Brian Johnston and Dennis Johnston enjoyed their time at NZ Catholic Deaf History Conference held at Home of Compassion Conference Centre at Island Bay near Wellington NZ. 40 people were in attendance. Brian and Dennis were the only Australians present. The theme of the conference was 'Celebrating 800 Years of Dominican Life and Our Irish Catholic Deaf Heritage' (History of the NZ Dominican Sisters' involvement with the Catholic Deaf Community in NZ).

David Loving-Molloy spoke on strong links to Australia, in particular, links to Australia's two Catholic Deaf Schools which used Sign Language (Waratah and St Gabriel's). Seven New Zealanders attended Waratah and four went to St Gabriel's. Other interesting presentations include the history of NZ Deaf Catholic schools (which never used sign language), Early adult Deaf ministry and

Young adults - The future. This unique conference was very successful. The conference place has, in their chapel, the grave of Sr Suzanne Aubert (Sister of Compassion) who is hoped to be NZ's first Saint.

*By Brian Johnston*



## Thanks from Stephen and Nola!

When I retired, the community gave me a Red Balloon gift voucher. Nola and I planned to go Parasailing at Manly at end of May 2016 but the boat had broken down. It truly was a beautiful day and we were disappointed not to go on. We were given a 3 month extension of the gift voucher.

A few weeks later I tried to rebook for October 2016 but was told that it no longer existed except for Coffs Harbour or the Gold Coast areas. So again I was given another extension and I finally decided on the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant for lunch in Melbourne on 21st March to coincide with a visit to daughter Melissa and family.



Nola and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip served with delicious food and drinks. The sites around the city and Port Melbourne were wonderful and not to mention during a heavy downpour. The sky cleared up for us on returning back. The staff on the tram were very courteous, professional and looked after us very well.

I wish to thank the team and community once again for the Red Balloon gift for my retirement.

*By Stephen Lawlor*



## Joyce Western's Recollections about Ephpheta

Ephpheta was located in the Leichhardt area when I was first welcomed by Sr Mary Silk, Sr Anne Walsh, Shirley Carroll, novice nuns, and trainee Priests. Some were learning, some were just looking for guidance and help, which I thought was wonderful.

The move to Flemington came swiftly and we settled into beautiful premises. We were next to St. Bernard's Church in Homebush West. It was a wonderful time of drama, life filling events—there was so much to listen to and some much to do.

The influx of overseas visitors increased greatly and the work of Ephpheta spread, bringing more and more contacts.



*Joyce (left) at our Deaf Café*

Sign language was taught in earnest now and it was about here that I learned a great lesson -the day I sat at the big round table and watched with awe and envy the quick moving hands and fingers bring smiles of joy and happiness to the surrounding faces, it stunned me!

Then I saw a deaf and blind lady respond to her teacher, the sunshine from her face, radiant and happy. That moment in time stood still. I saw myself as selfish and shallow.

I wanted to cry, but thank goodness, I prayed and thanked God for what I have and my short comings would be my cross to carry.

That moment is embedded in my memory. The influx of visitors became steady and constant. Craft such as patchwork, needlework were included, such was the expanse of our deaf language here and the evidence of talent and expertise enhance our chapel today.

We attended World Youth Day events, and in Australia our very own interpreters were seen on National television sending the very words of our Pope, direct to deaf folk the world over. We are proud indeed of such a magnificent effort.

Ephpheta became well known for the generous serving of delicious coffee and hospitality offered to our fast growing membership.

My experience with Ephpheta has been wholesome, fulfilling and rewarding. It was with some misgivings we accepted the move to Punchbowl. But doubts fell away quickly as we moved in, delightful indeed was the response of one and all.

Our new young leaders- aware of, and appreciative of all past endeavours - have already ensured Ephpheta advancing as Ephpheta does.



We have the attention of hundreds, previously unaware of our existence, reaching out through the deaf culture and our language. All are welcomed with everything Ephpheta stands for. In our beautiful Chapel, we thank Our Lord every day, for all we have and ask Blessings to continue our work, secure in the knowledge of His Greatness.





Please join us for a  
special Mass in memory  
of all mothers

# Mothers' Day Mass

**Rookwood Cemetery**

**12.00pm**

Mary, Mother of Mercy Chapel  
Barnet Avenue

*(Adjacent to the Catholic Office)*

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

Ephpheta staff (including interpreter) will be there.

This Mass will be Auslan interpreted

**Followed by refreshments. All Welcome**





## 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!

Check out Ephpheta Centre's beautiful new altar cloth, made by our wonderful craft group! This is one of their many projects they work on. Keep your eyes peeled for other projects the ladies get up to! Thank you!



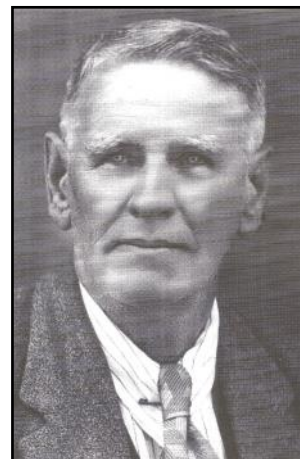
## History Corner

### Edward Rice - First Waratah boy

By Brian Johnston

Edward Rice had the distinction of being enrolled at the Dominican School for Catholic Deaf Children, Newcastle/Waratah, NSW as their first boy pupil in 1877.

Edward 'Eddie' Rice was born at Branxton, west of Maitland NSW on 7 December 1864, son of Bernard 'Barney' Rice and Elizabeth Wilson (who themselves arrived in NSW from Ireland in 1856 with their two children, James and Mary Ann). Eddie had three other brothers born in NSW, James Jnr (born 1857 – elder brother James Snr died as a baby soon after arrival), John (1859) and Patrick (1862). The family later moved from Branxton to Theresa Park in the Camden area, NSW.



Edward Rice  
First Waratah boy  
(1877 - 1882)

In 1877, at the age of 12, he went from Camden to the Dominican School for Catholic Deaf in Newcastle. The new Deaf school was not opened at Waratah till 1888 and St Gabriel's School for Deaf Boys was opened in Sydney in 1922. Probably Eddie had very little schooling before going to Deaf School, he almost certainly knew no sign language. There is no record of him attending the State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Darlington, Sydney.

He was the third student of Sister Mary Gabriel Hogan, herself Deaf. At the age of 18, he left school in 1882. He returned to live with his family at Theresa Park, Camden. When his mother died in 1905, he lived at Moreton Park (Douglas Park) nearby. Incredibly, his two younger brothers, James and Patrick were later known as 'James Ryce' and 'Patrick Wrice' respectively.

Eddie later moved to live with his deaf friends, Michael and Mary Jane Carmody at their home at 3 Reginald Street, Abbotsford, Sydney in the 1930s-1940s till his death in 1946.

He was a long-time loyal member of the Catholic Deaf Association of NSW and attended many Catholic Deaf Retreats. In the 'Catholic Press' newspaper report on the Retreat at St Gabriel's in 1935 Edward Rice was mentioned for his fame as the first boy pupil of Waratah and that 'he has manifested unswerving loyalty and fidelity to everything connected with his religion and his example has been an inspiration to succeeding generations of deaf-mutes'.

Eddie Rice died in Sydney hospital on 19 November 1946 at the age of 82, and was buried in Catholic Cemetery, Botany. He never married. His probate papers show that he was a retired butler, leaving his will to Mary Jane Carmody, his beloved long-time carer.

Sources: Books 'Memories of St Gabriel's' (2000) and 'Open Minds Open Hearts'- Stories of the Australian Catholic Deaf Community (1999), 'Catholic Press' newspaper of 5 December 1935, Ancestry.com website and State Archives of NSW.

# Mass Times

## MAY

13th	SATURDAY	11.15am
	<b>ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL</b>	
	see front page for more information	
13th	SATURDAY	12.00pm
	<b>ROOKWOOD</b> <i>Mother's Day Mass</i>	
	see page 16 for more information	
14th	Sunday (Mother's Day)	9.30am
	<b>NORTH GOSFORD</b>	
21st	Sunday	11.00am
	<b>SEVEN HILLS</b>	
28th	Sunday	10.00am
	<b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	

## JUNE

4nd	Sunday	10.00am
	<b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	
	Community Presentation see page 6 for more information	
1th	Sunday	10.30am
	<b>MANLY</b>	
18th	Sunday	11.00 am
	<b>SEVEN HILLS</b>	
25th	Sunday	10.00am
	<b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	

## JULY

2nd	Sunday	10.00am
	<b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	
9th	Sunday	9.30am
	<b>NORTH GOSFORD</b>	
16th	Sunday	11.00am
	<b>SEVEN HILLS</b>	
23rd	Sunday	10.00am
	<b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	

## AUGUST

6th	Sunday	10.00am
	<b>EPHPHETA SUNDAY</b>	
	see page 7 for more information	
13th	Sunday	10.30am
	<b>MANLY</b>	

### **Friday morning Mass**

**Where:** Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St, Punchbowl  
**When:** Every Friday  
**Time:** 10.30am



## 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*

### **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***

**21 January 2017** - Jack Platt (Barbara Blakeney's father)

**25 February 2017** - Marie Rogan (Joyce Tully's cousin)

**24 February 2017** - Norma Conacher

**28 February 2017** - Joan Knight (Garry Knight's mother)

**30 March 2017** - Paul Briscoe

**9 April 2017** - Elizabeth Hurley

Victor Barry

#### ***For those who are sick***

Helen Farmer

(Please pray for those who are sick)





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<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!