

Our Pilgrimage to Rome!!

WOW! What a wonderful experience we had on our pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi!!

From 14 - 26 March a group of 30 pilgrims from the Catholic community (including Ephpheta staff and interpreters) went on pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. We had a fantastic time! Led by Fr Michael as our spiritual leader, we had many wonderful experiences. We visited some beautiful churches in Rome, some of us met Pope Francis, we saw many interesting historical places (such as the Colosseum) and then we had 2 wonderful days in Assisi.



Our group in Assisi

When we were in Rome we stayed in Domus Australia which is a hotel owned by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. It was a beautiful place to stay, with its own chapel. On different days we had tours to different places with our wonderful tour guide Sonia – we had our own deaf Mass on most days either in the chapel at Domus or at a famous Church – including the

Basilica of St John Outside the Walls and the Porziuncola (small chapel) in the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels in Assisi that St Francis repaired in reply to the call from God to “rebuild my Church”. It was a very special experience being able to celebrate Mass in these wonderful spiritually and historically important places.



Thank you to everyone who came along and experienced our pilgrimage – thank you also to everyone for their prayers and words of support. Grazie!! (thank you!)

For community experiences, stories, and more photos from our pilgrimage, please see inside the newsletter.

A Message from Liz & Dave...

Liz's report

Hello!

It has been a time of highs and lows over the last couple of months.



The "high" of course was our Ephpheta pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. I was one of the staff working on this pilgrimage and while there was a lot of planning, worrying etc it was truly a wonderful experience. I learned many things while I was away – and not just from the places which we visited or the history which we learned (which was of course wonderful - especially learning more about the history of the Church and the lives of the Saints).

For me the experience of being away with our wonderful group of deaf people was inspiring to me – at the end of a long flight or a day in the rain, there was always someone who was kind or patient with me. When we were in a church or a garden or walking along, someone would point out to me some special thing which they had noticed and would share this with me. When we all got a bit sick with the flu, everyone looked out for each other.

Each day I learned from others in the group – how to see the positive, how to see the small things, how to take delight in many things. For this I say thank you.

The "lows" of course are the recent loss of some very dear people in our community including Jenny Hannan, Helen Farmer, and Rodney Clarke. At Ephpheta and in the community we are all feeling their loss. Our love and prayers to their families and loved ones. We ask Mother Mary to guide them, and all our faithful departed, to heaven.

Until next time,
Liz

Dave's report

Autumn is here but it is still hot which means our summer is stubborn! Some of us went on a Catholic Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for almost two weeks last March 2018 and we had an amazing spiritual journey. We learnt about the history of Rome and Assisi, the saints and the relationship they have with God. Our faith and our spiritual needs have been recharged.



I found this inspirational quote from Francis of St Assisi. "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

We learnt a lot about Francis who later became a saint. He is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment.

We explored the places where Francis slept, worked, and pottered about. Francis of Assisi died on October 3, 1226, at the age of 44. He became a saint just two years after his death, on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX. It is a popular day for pets to be "blessed". He loved nature and supported people and churches through his work.

More stories about our amazing pilgrimage can be found in the newsletter.

We will have a busy year as usual. Brett Beath our new staff member has been hard at work preparing Faith formation presentations. The dates of his presentations can be found in this newsletter.

Two of our loved deaf catholic members have passed away recently, Jenny Hannan and Helen Farmer. They were most loyal people and really enjoyed coming to Ephpheta's events and Mass services. May they rest in peace.

Once again, please let us know of new ideas, feedback and questions you have.

Yours in peace,
David

Fr Michael's Reflection...

Preparing for the Resurrection

This Easter season we have entrusted many loved ones into the hands of God. Our joy and hope in the resurrection is mingled with our sorrow at sudden and difficult farewells.

Jesus died and rose again to forgive us our sins and lead us to the kingdom of God. It is trusting in Christ that allows us to be hopeful and joyful, in anticipation of the life that Jesus promised. So, I want all of our deaf community to be well prepared for that life. I want us all to know and trust in the power of God and, so, I draw attention especially to the Sacraments that benefit us near the end of our life:

1. Confession
2. Holy Communion
3. Anointing

The earlier a person asks for these Sacraments the better! Some people miss out on making a really good confession or receiving communion before they die, because they can no longer think clearly or eat food. We rely on the grace of God and the right intention of a person that their sins are forgiven in the Sacrament of Anointing. However, it is always of great spiritual benefit for a person to have carefully confessed their sins and reverently received the Eucharist. Jesus taught that in eating His Body and Blood we "have eternal life".

Regular confession is important at any time in life, but it is good to boost even our good practices when we are very sick or in danger of dying.

Sometimes, a Catholic will make a "General Confession". This is when they think over all the sins of their life and confess them. They say even the things that they have already confessed before! This is not to doubt the Sacrament of Confession, but to trust absolutely everything to Jesus. They entrust anything they may not have confessed well, and everything they have never confessed, even the little things. This is good for Catholics to do, every now and then, in their life, and especially when their health becomes frail or they are in danger.

When a person's health becomes seriously fragile or they are in danger of dying, they should ask for a priest straightaway. Hospitals will usually have a Catholic priest on call or even working at the hospital. If you are able to write, tell someone that you would like a Catholic priest to bring the Sacraments. Then, write down your confession. Otherwise, you could ask for a Catholic interpreter to assist you with signing, with the understanding that they would be bound by the same secrecy as the priest. And, of course, you can ask for a signing priest.

Don't be afraid to ask for regular visits. People sometimes don't know that they can be anointed many times. It is a Sacrament to heal and strengthen both spiritually and physically after all!

When people are very sick they sometimes cannot receive the Eucharist. However, usually, a person can receive a small fragment which is the same as receiving a normal-size host. The usual rules about not eating before communion do not apply when a person is very old or sick. And they can have some water to help them to swallow.

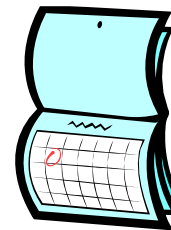
Mother Mary, pray your Son lead all our loved ones to heaven and "pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen."

God bless,
Father Michael.



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...



Men's Day Out - 31st May

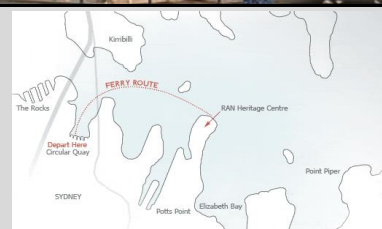
Join us for a day out at the Navy Museum. We will enjoy a range of displays that will provide us an experience of Australia's Navy.

After the tour we will have lunch in RAN Heritage Centre together at your own cost.

When and Where: Thursday 31 May - meet at Circular Quay at 9.30am
We will catch the ferry to RAN Heritage Centre.

Cost: Free. Please bring money for your lunch after the tour.

RSVP: Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email donovan@ephpheta.org.au before Monday 28 May.



Women's Day Out - 7th June

Join us for a day out at the Museum of Contemporary Art. We will have a private Auslan tour of the Biennale of Sydney exhibition "SUPERPOSITION: Equilibrium & Engagement". The exhibition will present the work of 70 artists and art collectives from 35 different countries. The artworks represent different cultures, readings of nature and the universe, political ideas, interpretations of human history, including the history of art and definitions of contemporary art. It will be a fascinating tour.

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

When and Where: Thursday 7 June - meet at 10.30am for an 11am start
Museum of Contemporary Art - 140 George Street, The Rocks 2000.

Cost: Free. Please bring money for your lunch after the tour.

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 1 June.



Combined Men's & Women's Day Out - 26th July

Join us for a day out at the Museum of Sydney. We will visit and have a tour of a photographic exhibition revealing the dark side of the 'Roaring Twenties'. We will explore more than 130 mugshots taken by NSW Police between 1920 - 1930 and learn about Sydney's criminal underworld, and the police who fought to keep the streets clean.

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

When and Where: Thursday 26 July - meet at 11am for an 11.30am start
Museum of Sydney - Corner of Phillip and Bridge Streets, Sydney 2000.

Cost: Concession - \$11. Please bring money for your lunch after the tour.

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 20 July.



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - 8th 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 May and June Deaf Cafés as a fundraisers for the Cancer Council.

When: Friday 8 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 - 5th August

Ephpheta Sunday is a special day celebrated by Catholic Deaf Communities all around the world! We celebrate the gift that the Deaf community brings to the world. Once again, we will celebrate Ephpheta Sunday in our own chapel and follow with lunch in the hall next to the Ephpheta Centre in the grounds of St Jerome's Catholic School.



When: Sunday 5th August

Mass: Starts 10.30am at Chapel of St Francis de Sale - 4 Turner St, Punchbowl

After Mass: We will have lunch in the hall next to the Ephpheta Centre.

Lunch Cost: \$10 per person. \$20 per family with children under age 16. Under age 2 - free

RSVP: You must RSVP if you are coming!

Must RSVP by **Wednesday 1 August 2018**

Please contact David to confirm you are coming by either:

Email: david@ephpheta.org.au or 0408 669 672 (SMS only).

When you RSVP please let us know if you have any special food needs

Please **RSVP** as soon as possible to ask for a DeafBlind interpreter if you need one.

We look forward to seeing you all on this special day!!





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:

8th June, 13th July,

10th August

(always on the 2nd Friday of the month)

Time: **10am to 2pm**



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

See you there! 😊

Thursday Data Group

**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**



As you know, we have been running our monthly Data Group for over a year and it

has been very successful. The people attending now know A LOT about different Apps (especially video and messaging Apps), scams to watch out for, how different technology works and ways we can use our technology better and smarter!

We will have the last of our Data Groups on **28th June** - after that we will not have Data Group any more. Thanks to David for leading this great project over the last year.

When: 31st May, 28th June (**Last data group**)

Where: Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner St
Punchbowl

Time: 1pm - 3pm

Questions: please contact David Parker on david@ephpheta.org.au or SMS 0408 669 672.

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 date is:

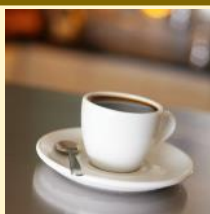
29th June, 31st August

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



See you there! 😊

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:

25th May, 27th July

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



See you there! 😊

Come and talk with us!

As you know, our work at the Ephpheta Centre is based around supporting the Deaf community of Sydney.

We are happy to meet with you and talk with you about any issues or problems which you may have and find ways to support you. We are happy to put you in touch with the right organisation who can help you with any issues which you may have.

Please email David Parker, Manager of Community on david@ephpheta.org.au if you would like to make an appointment to meet with David, 9am - 5pm, Tuesday - Friday.



Renewing Our Faith

Many thanks to Brett and Fr Michael for their great work in leading our "Renewing our Faith" program. This started very successfully at Seven Hills Mass in April – due to some events which came up unexpectedly we have had to push back some of the presentations. The new calendar with program dates and times is to the right.

The sessions are based around the wording of the "Apostles Creed" which is said at Mass in hearing parishes. This project started in response to feedback from the community that people were keen to say the Creed in mass and to know more about what each of the statements in the Creed mean. The aim of the presentations is that we will all know and have a deeper understanding of our faith and move towards saying/signing the Creed at Mass in the future.

If you have any questions at all about the presentations or the content, please talk with Fr Michael or email him on frmichael@ephpheta.org.au



Deaf Youth Sydney



Indoor Go Karting!



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

Where? **Extreme Indoor Go Karting**
3/66 Christine Road
Villawood NSW 2163

Time? 5:30pm - 9:30pm

When? Friday, 1 June 2018

Cost? \$15 for:
3 x 10min go kart sessions
Please bring extra money for dinner

Contact: **Donovan Mulligan**
donovan@ephpheta.org.au
SMS: 0408 697 773



Renewing Our Faith



See below for program dates and times.

Date	Where	Program
3rd June	Punchbowl	God
17th June	Seven Hills	Jesus - Part 1
1st July	Punchbowl	Jesus - Part 2
15th July	Seven Hills	Holy Spirit
19th August	Seven Hills	The Church

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

When: After 11am Mass

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

When: After 10.30am Mass

If you have any queries, please talk with Fr Michael or email him on frmichael@ephpheta.org.au

Out and About in the Deaf Community

Our Pilgrimage Journey...

On Thursday 15 March 2018, a very excited group of Deaf pilgrims, two leaders, one priest and two Auslan interpreters met at Domus House in Rome, which would be our accommodation for the next eight nights. My daughter, Imogen, and I were very fortunate to be part of this exciting pilgrimage.

A very adventurous and action-packed holiday followed. We visited so many beautiful and interesting places such as the Pope's Summer Retreat at Castel Gandolfo, the Vatican Gardens, Papal Palace Museum, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, St Peter's Basilica with the Pope saying a short prayer to the eager crowd, St Sebastian's Catacombs, and so many more places too numerous to list.



Who is this happy couple?



Our group at the Colloseum

Rome is a very interesting big city, fascinating to see the sights, the shops and watch the people of Rome. We also visited the town of Assisi, the birthplace of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. We stayed there for two nights in a lovely old hotel with large windows, over which you could see the valleys and the countryside of Assisi. It was extremely cold and hilly with lots of beautiful shops lining the narrow roads and the scenery of the countryside is extremely picturesque. Assisi is a town worth visiting and the little cafes and eateries

are a sight to behold, so medieval and quaint and cosy. The weather was very cold, averaging around three degrees every day with rain and clouds on some days, and weak sunshine on other days.

The company was pleasurable and we made many new friends, both Deaf and hearing. The leaders, priest and interpreters did an excellent job for the Deaf pilgrims. We are very grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a memorable and spiritual trip with the Catholic Deaf community. We came away with a lot of memories to treasure and cherish.



Jitka Navratil

When the Ephpheta Centre announced their Deaf pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, I read the details thoroughly. I decided to take the opportunity to travel to Rome - this was my first time traveling overseas!

I had a great time on the Deaf Pilgrimage, touring Rome and Assisi and visiting Basilicas, Vatican City, St Sebastian's Catacombs, Colosseum, Roman Forum, Holy Stairs and much more. Our accommodation at Domus Australia was a lovely religious guesthouse and the staff gave us a very welcome and fantastic service. My room was very cosy and comfortable.



Our last night in Assisi

The Auslan interpreters did a wonderful job and were so great for our tour - a big thanks to Nicole and Daina for their hard work during the tours. A lovely tour guide named Sonia gave us great information of many different and interesting places. Our Ephpheta staff were amazing to support us during the pilgrimage and looked after us so well (especially Liz who acted as our GP, looking after sick pilgrims nursing them back to good health. Well done Liz!!!). Our Deaf Pilgrimage, staff and interpreters became a part of our family in Rome - we all helped each other when needed.

Father Michael Lanzon, as our spiritual tour leader, gave us many masses at different Basilicas especially Holy Mass at a lovely 9th Century old chapel, Porziuncola inside at Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli at Assisi. He gave many beautiful blessings to us during our pilgrimage.

Vatican City is a beautiful place and at Vatican museums are WOW with world's greatest treasures at fifty-four galleries from all through the ages. I was so impressed with the great paintings at Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo. On sunny Sunday morning I saw Pope Francis at the window during Sunday Angelus at St Peter's Square. The tour guide, Sonia translated to English and our interpreters translated into Auslan because Pope Francis spoke Italian!

Assisi was my favourite place - I was so interested to learn about St Francis and St Clare in their amazing spiritual journey at Assisi in the early 13th Century. Assisi is a very beautiful picturesque place.

It was a great experience to see many interesting places included beautiful old Basilicas and museums and much more. Rome is a very different city from Sydney and has many great Italian

architecture on ancient Roman style buildings to Romanesque, Gothic and more. I noticed that Italian culture is laid back, enjoy their leisure walks with poodles and Maltese dogs that can be allowing to enter cafes, hotels, shops and public transport without restrictions. What a life for Italian people!!!!

Finally, I am so glad that I have had a great time in Rome with Deaf Pilgrimage and it was a good experience and a worthwhile experience to travel there.

Marilyn Andrew





Our Italian Pilgrimage Photo Album



Our main group landing in Rome - tired but excited!



Liz and Nic on the streets of Rome



Exploring the area near our hotel on our first afternoon



First dinner at Domus Australia



Vatican tour



Vatican Museum



Castel Gandolfo



Sunday Angelus in St Peter's Square



All of our group waiting to catch the train to Rome



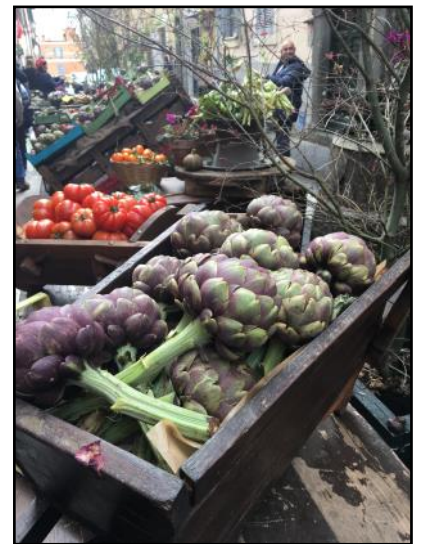
Castel Gandolfo tour



Tour in Castel Gandolfo



Castel Gandolfo



Fruit and veg for sale in the village of Castel Gandolfo



Pat and Fr Michael at Sunday Angelus in St Peter's Square



St Sebastian



In the Catacombs



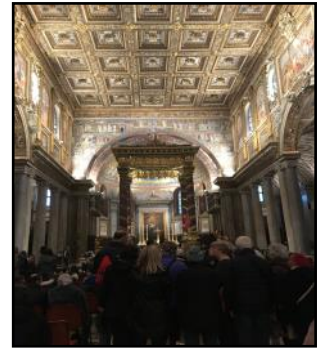
In St Peters



Mass at Domus Australia



Donovan and Pat



In St Mary Major Basilica



Donovan's special birthday in Rome!



Mass at St John Outside the Walls





Colosseum



View from our Hotel in Assisi



Dinner with some Italian Deaf people and Sr Veronica



St Peter's Square



Our hotel in Assisi



Mass at St Francis Basilica in Assisi



In Assisi



I was one of the 30 pilgrims traveling to Rome and Assisi organised by Ephpheta Centre, Sydney.

In my own eyes, I was really overwhelmed when visiting seven huge churches in Rome. There were so much to see their huge wonderful architecture especially their huge columns, high artistic ceilings, walls in rich colourful mosaics and paintings. What I needed another pair of eyes to have a proper look at them. What another thing amazed me was how the Catholic faith endures over hundreds years. For Italy has a very rich history and culture.

At our first day tour at Castel Gandolfo (the Pope's summer residence), I kept walking with great awe there. It occurred to me that we have stepped on almost every pope's footprints there since I was born in 1950 - Pope Pius XII, Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul I, Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and our current Pope Francis.



Meeting Pope Francis closely at St. Peter's Square, Rome, was unexpected for us to see this actual happening in our lifetime. Certainly, it was a very special moment to meet Pope Francis as if we felt Jesus' presence around us. We were filled with much joy by sharing our excitement afterwards.

I love the old rural town of Assisi. This town is two and half hours by train. We only stayed there for two days. The weather was freezing so we had to wrap up with lots of clothes! Thanks to lots of walking on old cobbled steep roads keeping us warm. This town is where St. Francis (1182-1226) lived there. St Francis who is a beloved patron saint of animals and the environment.

We had an Auslan Mass in the smallest 4th Century chapel in the middle of a huge St Mary of the Angels Basilica, led by Fr. Michael Lanzon who is a full time chaplain of Ephpheta Centre, Sydney. For me, it was an uplifting spiritual Mass in that tiny chapel because St. Francis of Assisi attended there a lot.

It was fun to go with Ephpheta group both old and new faces. It was nice to share the same experience while travelling together, of course, with love and laughter. Once again, many thanks to Ephpheta Centre to provide us two Auslan interpreters to make the trip a memorable time.

Gail Finn

What I found fascinating on my Rome pilgrimage was so many icons and mosaics on the walls and even ceilings inside the churches in Rome and Vatican. In some of these churches, it wasn't one icon/mosaic but several icons/mosaics expressing a story about what happened a long time ago in the lives of Moses, Jesus or Mary as examples.

Some of these icons and mosaics were powerful and felt alive for me, touching my heart and emotion in a way that didn't happen to me in Australia, this surprised me. What makes the difference? I'm not sure. I guess this is because these icons and mosaics were prepared with so much love, reverence, devotion and prayers. So maybe the artists of long ago were praying for me through their works in the silence of their loving hearts.

(No speech or words are used, no sound is heard; yet their message goes out to all the world and is heard to the ends of the earth. Good News Bible, Psalm 19:3-4)

I was very surprised to see St Francis of Assisi had a plain face, he wasn't handsome as shown by the movie. I learnt they based the painting of St Francis on one of his younger relative who looked like him many years after he died young. It means for me that God doesn't care what you look like on the outside, He looks at your heart. God could do great things through St Francis because he was prepared to open his heart wide to God. Can I trust in God and open myself fully to Him and let Him do things His way via me and my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus as we travel together as members of Christ's body?

Steven Hely

Craft Corner

What have the craft ladies been up to?

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!



Congratulations to the Craft Group for their **MAGNIFICENT** high tea which they held at the Ephpheta Centre on Wednesday 9 May. In true craft group style they provided a wonderful high tea with sandwiches, cakes, pies and slices - everything was delicious!

There was a 1950's theme and everyone looked wonderful. Congratulations for raising over \$500 which will be used to support young deaf children's education. Well done ladies!



A Proud Nonna!

Mary Profilio is thrilled to share the arrival of her new granddaughter Evelyn Grace.



Born on 2nd March to her son Andrew and daughter-in-law Laura. A healthy 9lbs 5oz baby girl who has brought so much love into the family. She's a beautiful blessing a true gift from heaven. May Our Lord continue to bless her throughout her life. Congratulations to the whole Profilio family on the safe arrival of your beautiful baby girl!



Combined Men and Women's Day Out

On 12 April, the Australian Museum welcomed our Ephpheta Centre community in association with NSW Seniors



Festival. The Australian Museum designed a full days program of different tours and activities for our group. Community members had the opportunity to see a fascinating mammoth display from the ice age period, learn about card games played in Aboriginal culture, and carve our own stone in the shape of animals using the same instruments that were used by cavemen in the ice age period.

It was a lovely day filled with learning and interactive activities for us. Thank you to the Australian Museum for making our community feel welcome.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Thank you!

On 11 May we transformed our regular Deaf Café into a fundraising morning tea for the Cancer Council. Thank you to everyone who came along and donated so generously. The Cancer Council is Australia's leading cancer charity, uniting the community, creating hope, providing support, and saving lives.

We had a great morning, enjoying a beautiful morning tea. Our numbers were down that day as many of us left to go to Helen Farmer's funeral. We know it was a very emotional day for many of our community members.

If you missed our May Deaf Café, don't worry! We will be turning our June Deaf Café into another fundraiser for the Cancer Council. All are welcome to join us.



Our Easter Liturgies

Good Friday Mass was held at Ephpheta Centre and we had three story tellers tell the story of Jesus when he was being crucified. Steven, David and Mary all told this story.

Saturday Vigil Mass for the first time was held at St Jerome Church next to the Ephpheta Centre. It was a beautiful Mass service of 2.5 hours from 6pm till 8.30pm. Unfortunately it meant some of our deaf community members had to catch the train late in the night. We will review this Mass service for next year to help support our senior deaf people.

Saturday Vigil Mass is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day. An Easter fire is lit and the Paschal candle is blessed and then lit by the Priests. So we are aware it was difficult for some of our deaf parishioners to come to Easter Saturday Vigil Mass because they travelled home in the night from the Punchbowl station which is not ideal. In all, we still managed to have a lovely Easter weekend. Let us remember that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.



In memory of Jenny Hannan

Many of you will know that we recently lost our dear friend Jenny Hannan.

Jenny was a valued person in our Ephpheta Deaf Community – she was a regular attendee at Mass, craft, Deaf Café and was a very willing volunteer anytime that there was a job to do. Jenny was a person of deep faith – as her brother John said at her funeral “her Catholicism and prayer life was strong and she believed God and Mother Mary were her allies and always with her. She had a good heart and just wanted everyone to be happy.”



Jenny had a long and happy marriage to her husband Peter who died in October 2016. Jenny found



life very hard without her beloved Peter, and was strongly supported by her sons Anthony and Mark and her friends at Ephpheta and in the deaf community.

Unfortunately, Jenny had many health problems and sadly passed away on 19 April 2018.

Our love and prayers to Mark and Anthony and their families. Jenny we loved you and will miss you.

In memory of Helen Farmer

We also have some sad news that our dear friend Helen Farmer has recently passed away.

Helen was a dearly loved person in our Ephpheta Deaf Community – she regularly came to Mass and other social events and helped to maintain our gardens at the Ephpheta Centre. Helen worked for many years as a gardener at Concord Hospital – she really loved her job and everyone at the hospital loved her. Helen had some serious health challenges over the last few years but through some really tough times still remained happy and



positive.

We will all miss her wonderful approach to life, her positive attitude and her friendliness to all her friends.

Helen passed away on 2 May 2018. Helen's family and friends will miss her deeply.

Our love and prayers to her mother Pat and to all of her family. Helen we loved you and will miss you.



History Corner

Ron Wild

By Brian Johnston

Ron Wild, one of the best known members of the Catholic Deaf Community, had a lifelong love of art, and worked as an artist professionally.

Ronald Joseph Wild was born deaf in Balmain, Sydney on 18 May 1934, the youngest son to Clarence and Adelaide (nee Wilkinson) Wild, and a brother to Walter, Leonard and Edward. Ron was educated at St Gabriel's School for Deaf Boys at Castle Hill from 1939 to 1952.

After leaving school, Ron was employed by the department store Mark Foy's in Sydney city for many years, painting backdrops for their shop window displays. He also painted many other special commissions for different organisations, and he was especially skilled at painting murals (large pictures painted directly onto a wall). He painted murals for the Phillip Street Theatre, the Manly Loft Theatre and the NSW Theatre of the Deaf and also for St Gabriel's School concerts. One of his biggest commissions was to paint a 60-foot long mural on the façade of the Art Gallery of NSW for a special 'Captain Cook Dinner' in 1969.

After his father's death in 1972, Ron and his mother moved from Balmain to Dee Why where his skills were evident in signs and figures on shopfront windows, and in murals in shops and private homes. One of his best works was his painting of Jesus Christ in St Kevin's Church, Dee Why.



Ron Wild



'Jesus healing a deaf man'
Painting by Ron Wild

Ron painted a series of four paintings showing early meeting places of Deaf people and the locations of the Deaf Society from the Society's beginning until 1994. These beautiful paintings are now shown in the hallway of the Deaf Society premises.

As a devoted member of the Catholic Deaf Association, Ron painted a mural of Jesus healing a deaf man from which the Ephpheta Centre logo evolved.

Ron died on 14 December 2008 at the age of 74 years. An exceptionally gifted artist, his works still decorate walls in buildings around Sydney. God certainly gave Ron such beautiful gift. A Certificate of Honour was presented to the family of Ron Wild by the Catholic Deaf Trust in 2009 to acknowledge his love, friendship, and many contributions to the Catholic Deaf Community.

Sources: Ancestry.com - family trees, Brian Johnston's book 'Memories of St Gabriel's' (2000), Bernadette Wallis' book 'The Silent Book' (2016) and Brisbane cemeteries records online.

Mass Times

MAY

27th Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL

JUNE

3rd Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL *Renewing Our Faith*
see page 7 for more information

10th Sunday 10.30am
MANLY

17th Sunday 11.00am
SEVEN HILLS *Renewing Our Faith*
see page 7 for more information

24th Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL

JULY

1st Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL *Renewing Our Faith*
see page 7 for more information

7th Saturday 6.00pm
NORTH GOSFORD

15th Sunday 11.00am
SEVEN HILLS *Renewing Our Faith*
see page 7 for more information

22nd Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL

AUGUST

5th Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL *Ephpheta Sunday*
see page 5 for more information

12th Sunday 10.30am
MANLY

19th Sunday 11.00am
SEVEN HILLS

26th Sunday 10.30am
PUNCHBOWL

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

CHANGE TO PUNCHBOWL MASS TIMES

As Fr Michael has now moved where he is living

**ALL OF OUR PUNCHBOWL MASSES
WILL NOW START AT 10.30AM**

Friday morning Mass

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

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: 0448 930 287

Email: Rebecca.Miller@catholiccare.dow.org.au

We pray...

For those who have died

26 February - Kathleen Payne

14 March - Isobel Lowe (Sue Lowe's mum)

24 March - Ruth Moore

6 April - Olive Weakley (Nerida Beath's mum)

19 April - Jenny Hannan

2 May - Helen Farmer

5 May - Daphne Blundell (Donna Blundell's mum)

7 May - Rodney Clarke

7 May - Richard Wicks (ex St Gabriel's)



Gosford Mass Announcement

Please note that our Mass times for Gosford have changed. It is now on Saturday night at 6pm, not Sunday morning. Next Gosford Masses dates:

7 July



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Join us on Facebook!

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

The Ephpheta Centre is supported
by the Charitable Works Fund.



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Pat	pat@ephpheta.org.au
Fr Michael	frmichael@ephpheta.org.au

EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS

Have you seen our website recently?

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

Please keep checking it!

If you have any ideas or feedback for our
website please contact David at

david@ephpheta.org.au

www.ephpheta.org.au

Please send your news, stories,
information and requests to 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!