

2018 - What a year!

This is our final newsletter of 2018!

We would like to thank you for another wonderful year at the Ephpheta Centre. It has been a very busy year with many community events and activities - and we have loved sharing it with you. Here's to next year - our Ephpheta 40th anniversary celebration!

The Ephpheta Centre Team



A Message from Liz & Dave...

Liz's report

I know I say it every year but... where did THAT year go!!

As we are preparing this – our last newsletter for 2018 – Ephpheta is a very busy place.

We are preparing our Christmas liturgies, planning events for next year and doing all the things in an office which we need to do to finish off for the year.

It has been a year of highs and lows. The highs of course include our pilgrimage to Rome in March and our many successful community events throughout the year – the highs for me also include the small things such as having a cup of tea and a laugh at work, seeing members of our Ephpheta team and community supporting each other in the good times and the bad. The challenges have included walking with people and their families as they suffer through ill-health and death, together with their family and life struggles. I consider myself very blessed to be working at the Ephpheta Centre. Ephpheta is a special place.

I recently was at a presentation given by Bishop Terry Brady and he was talking about places where he feels that Jesus is present. I felt – from the first time that I walked into the Ephpheta Centre (then at Flemington) almost 10 years ago for my job interview – that I was walking into a very special place, a place where the Holy Spirit was alive and at work.

I personally would like to thank the Ephpheta team and the community for their support throughout the year. I ask for God's blessing on each of you and your families throughout the Christmas season.

Until next time,
Liz



Dave's report

This is the last newsletter for 2018. I have been at Ephpheta for eight years. What a journey I have been on for the last 8 years! Ephpheta has gone from strength to strength due to the support of the amazing staff and community volunteers. Thank you all for your continued support. With you, my job is much easier.

2018 was another year of amazing experiences. Italy pilgrimage was one big positive experience for those of us who went last March 2018. The many funerals of dear departed deaf people were very hard for many of us. May these souls rest in peace.

Thank you all for coming to the special first ever International Day of Sign Languages event at Ephpheta Friday September 21st. More photos and information can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Deaf Festival was held on a very humid day of Saturday 20th October. Over a thousand people walked through the festival all day at Parramatta River. More photos and information can be found elsewhere in the newsletter as well.

Ephpheta Centre is very excited to run the Deaf Catholic Retreat at the Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre at Mulgoa (near Penrith) for two days and one night, on 16 and 17 March 2019.

Retreats are a good way to allow you to pull back, get inspired, become free, detox, and find your peace. The word, "retreat" comes from the Latin verb "to pull back.". So, a retreat, is a place where you pull back from the world. If you decide to go to a Ephpheta Centre's Catholic retreat, this will help you feel refreshed and revitalized, give you the opportunity for more time spent in prayer and contemplation, and deepen your relationship with God.

Happy reading. As usual, please let me know any issues, constructive feedback, and lovely stories as always! Thank you to the Ephpheta team and the community for their support. May you all have a special and peaceful Christmas!

Peace be with you all and be open.
David.



Fr Michael's Reflection...



A story I remember from my childhood was about a pilot during wartime. It was the First World War and he had a very simple aeroplane by today's standards. He had been in battle and his aeroplane was all torn up and his fuel was getting low. However, as the pilot looked down, he realised that all he could see was very low clouds in every direction. He knew he was low from his altimeter and that

was a problem, because he no longer knew where he was. What if he dived down through the clouds and ran into a steeple, or a tree or a mountain? He wouldn't see the danger until it was too late! So, he kept flying and began to seriously worry whether he would get safely to the ground to see his family and friends again.

He continued to look carefully around in hope. Finally, he saw what he was looking for, a gap in the clouds! It was closing fast, but the pilot had seen what he needed to - open and familiar fields! He wasted no time but dived through the hole in the clouds and made a rough landing in the field as his fuel ran out.

The pilot is like humanity, and each one of us, who have found ourselves far from God. However, Jesus Christ by becoming man, dying, and rising from the dead, has opened a way through the clouds of sin and death. The way is faith. When we fight the good fight, conscious of the shortness of this life and carefully looking forward to our true home, Jesus will lead us to His heavenly Father.

With this hope, even suffering and death lose their sting. We begin to see the way that even hardships and grief help us to realize what is truly important and look for God again. We learn how enduring these hardships in faith is to find a reward in heaven. As St Francis of Assisi said, in his famous poem "the Canticle (Song) of the Creatures",

*All praise be yours, my Lord, ...
through those who endure sickness and trial.
Happy are those who endure in peace,
by you, most high, they will be crowned.*

Dying still grieves us. We weep, struggle with sadness and depression, and feel the gradual loss of the familiar and loved. However, we also know that death is God's servant, and through her we have entry into everlasting life. St Francis prayed,

*All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death,
from whom no one among the living can escape.*

*Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Happy those she finds doing your will!
The second death can do no harm to them.*

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, thank you for being born for us, teaching and leading us, and for dying that we may live. Mother Mary and St Joseph, pray for us.

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...



Advent - 30th November

Advent is the time when we prepare for Christmas, for the arrival of the baby Jesus. This year, we are doing something a little different. This year we will make some special Christmas decorations which will show the true meaning of Christmas. Come and join us with Fr Michael, who will lead this activity. Ephpheta will provide all materials to use.



When: Friday 30 November after our 10.30am Mass

Where: Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

You are also welcome to join us for lunch after the Advent activity. So we have an idea of numbers please RSVP to Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au.

Giving Mass - 2nd December

Ephpheta Centre is supporting children in need this Christmas. We have set up a Christmas tree in our chapel with gift tags. Each tag has a different age for children. You can take a tag from our giving tree during November in the chapel and buy a present for the child you have picked. We will have our traditional Giving Mass at our December Punchbowl Mass.



When: Bring all gifts on Sunday 2 December at Mass. Ephpheta Centre, Punchbowl at 11am.

Bring: EITHER a gift for a child (choose a tag from the giving tree at Ephpheta during November) OR a gift, like food such as a purchased Christmas cake, bags of lollies, purchased food with a Christmas theme. You are welcome to donate any other food and bathroom things like body wash to help the poor or disadvantaged to be blessed around Christmas time.

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

Thank you.

Ephpheta Christmas Party - 2nd December

Please join us for our traditional Community Christmas Party after the Punchbowl Mass in December. This is always a popular event! All are welcome to join us for lunch. It will be provided for \$10 per person or \$20 per family with children under 16 years old (under 2 years old free). Tickets will also be on sale for a Christmas raffle.



When: Sunday 2 December after our 11am Mass

Where: Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

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

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before **Wednesday 28th November** so we know how many for lunch and any dietary requirements.

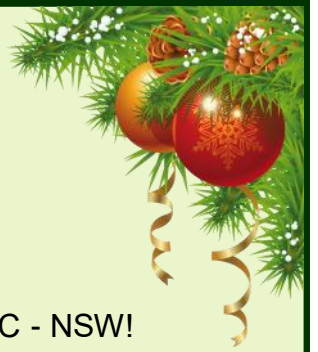
CDC - NSW RSL Lunch - 16th December

CDC - NSW will have their annual club lunch at the end of the year. You are welcome to come join the community and celebrate!

When: Sunday 16 December about 12.30pm (after Seven Hills Mass finishes)

Where: Seven Hills RSL - Corner Best Road and William Street, Seven Hills

After Mass: Buy your own lunch at Seven Hills RSL, chat with friends, and CDC - NSW!



Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 24th December

We welcome you all to our Christmas Mass. Many people come who don't regularly come to other Masses through the year and are very welcome. We love to see everyone at our Christmas service - from any religious background. Our Mass and supper is a great time to catch up with old friends, and wish people well for the Christmas break. We encourage you all to bring your families, bring your friends and of course bring a plate of food to share for supper!



When: Monday 24 December, 5pm – 8pm. Mass starts at 5pm

Where: Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

After Mass: Please bring a plate of food to share for supper after Mass
Please do not bring food that needs to be warmed up - no hot food.

Christmas Day Mass - 25th December

Ephpheta will be having Mass on Christmas morning again this year. This Mass will be said by Fr Terry Bell at the Ephpheta Centre.

When and Where: Tuesday 25 December - 10am Mass.

Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

After Mass: Join the community for morning tea at the Ephpheta Centre after Mass.



A Christmas Message



“Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing.”

May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and your families this Christmas and always.

Saying the Rosary - Starting 3rd February 2019

Following on from our community presentation in November, as a community we will now say the Rosary together **before** Punchbowl Mass on the 1st Sunday of each month. We will still have Mass starting at 11am - this will be something which we will say together in the Chapel at the Ephpheta Centre at **10am before Mass**.

The Rosary is a very powerful way of praying - we reflect on the events of the life of Jesus in the Gospel and focus our prayers on the intercession of Mary our Mother in heaven. If you have Rosary beads, please bring them along. If you don't have any - Ephpheta can give you some Rosary beads.



Don't worry if you don't know about or can't remember saying the Rosary - we will have a deaf community member lead us in prayer and we will have the words of all the prayers on a PowerPoint. If you have never said the Rosary before or worry that you don't know what to do - please do not worry but come along anyway! All are very welcome.



When and Where: Starting Sunday 3 February 2019 at 10am. In the Chapel **before** Mass (Mass starts at 11am). After this - on the **first Sunday of each month** at 10am in the Chapel at the Ephpheta Centre before Mass.

The Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl.

Questions: David 0408 669 672 (SMS) or email david@ephpheta.org.au.

Castle Hill Mass - 17th February

Our usual Mass at Seven Hills on the 17th February 2018 has **changed address and time** for February only. It is now at **St Bernadette at Castle Hill**.

When: Sunday 17 February - 10.30am Mass

Where: St Bernadette Catholic Church - 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill

This will be an Integrated Mass with their hearing parish.

After Mass we will have morning tea/lunch with our community at Castle Hill Mall.



Combined Men's & Women's Day Out - 21st February

Join us for a day out at Taronga Zoo! We will all catch the ferry together. The Ephpheta Centre has organised an Auslan interpreted Australian Walkabout Tour. We will have an experienced guide take us through the best displays of the zoo, meet the animals, and introduce us to Australia's native wildlife. We will also have all day zoo access and a trip on the Sky Safari cable car! We will also try to see some of the shows and animal keeper talks - Auslan interpreted! It will be such a fun day out!



After the tour we will have lunch together at your own cost. BYO lunch welcome.

When and Where: Thursday 21 February. Meet at 9:30am for the ferry (it departs at 9:50am).

Circular Quay Ferry Wharf, Circular Quay 2000.

Cost: \$30. Ephpheta will be financially supporting this event. Please try and pay before the event. Please talk to David or Liz if you need financial support.

RSVP: There are limited numbers available for this event. You must RSVP to Chrisso to secure your place 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 15 February.

Community Retreat 2019 - 16th and 17th March

Did you know... **Ephpheta is turning 40 next year!**

40 years that Ephpheta has been providing spiritual, emotional and community support. We are planning to celebrate in many different ways in 2019! A community retreat will be part of our celebrations!

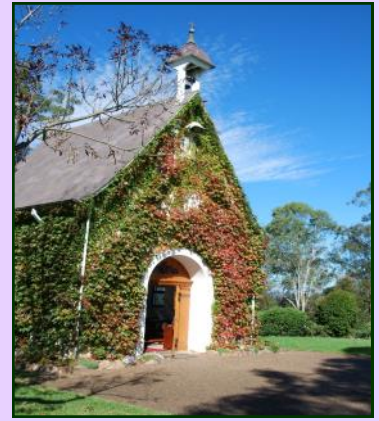
When: Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 of March 2019

Where: Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa

Cost: **\$125 shared room** (Saturday night only) per person

OR **\$145 single room** (Saturday night only) per person

Plus: **\$65** if you want to stay Friday night also
(no activities Friday night - you are welcome to relax and enjoy the centre)



This price includes accommodation and meals until afternoon tea on Sunday.

If you would like to come for the day the price will be **\$40 for Saturday** (including morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner) and **\$20 for Sunday** (including morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)

Ephpheta is financially supporting this event.

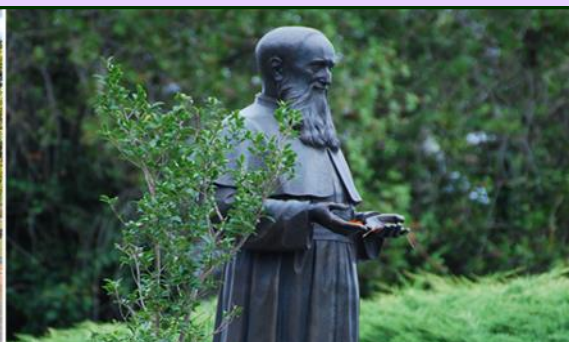
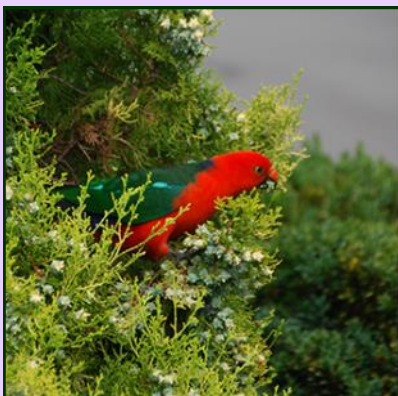
Numbers are limited so please **RSVP before 8 February**.

The Retreat will be about The Parables and will be led by Fr Michael.

To book your spot please contact Chrisso:

0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au

If you would like to attend, but need some help with the fees (if you would like to come but you can not afford to) please have a private conversation with David or Liz and they will try their best to support you.



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:

**14th December 2018,
8th February 2019**

(always on the 2nd Friday of the month)

Time: **10am to 2pm**



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

See you there! 😊

Deaf Youth Sydney Wet n Wild!



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

Where? **Wet'n'Wild Sydney**

427 Reservoir Road
Prospect NSW 2148

Time? 10am - 5pm

When? Saturday, 8 December 2018

Cost? \$30 includes:

- Entry to Wet'n'Wild
 - Lunch and 1 drink
- before Monday, 3 December 2018

RSVP:

Contact: **Donovan Mulligan**

donovan@ephpheta.org.au

SMS: 0408 697 773



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 **4th Friday** (not last) of every SECOND month. The next date is:

22nd February 2019

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! 😊

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. Always on the **3rd Friday** of every SECOND month. The next dates are:

16th November 2018, 15th March 2019

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

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

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

Email: donovan@ephpheta.org.au



See you there! 😊

NSW Seniors Festival - SAVE THE DATE

In 2019, the Premier's Gala Concerts will be taking place on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 February at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Sydney. The Comedy Festival will take place on Tuesday 19 February at Sydney Town Hall.



David will try to organise tickets for our community to attend these events. If you are interested, please contact David: email - david@ephpheta.org.au or 0408 669 672 (SMS).

Deaf Youth Sydney

For a number of years the Deaf Society and the Ephpheta Centre have worked together to support and provide opportunities to young deaf and hard of hearing people through our "Deaf Youth Sydney" project. This project has been a very successful collaboration which has given many benefits and provided many opportunities for our young deaf people – we have watched our young deaf people grow in confidence and abilities and they have made many new friends through our Deaf Youth Sydney events.



Due to changes in government funding, the Deaf Society will now provide a different model of service to our young deaf people and their families. The last combined event by the Deaf Society and the Ephpheta Centre was held on 8 October. The Deaf Society and the Ephpheta Centre would like to jointly acknowledge the work of each organisation in coming together to support our young deaf people.



But Deaf Youth Sydney will live on! The Ephpheta Centre will continue running this project and will organise fun events and activities for our young deaf people. You can stay up-to-date on what is happening through the Deaf Youth Sydney Facebook page. Keep an eye out for the next exciting event. The Ephpheta Centre is also grateful for the financial support of Dooleys Catholic Club for our Deaf Youth Sydney project.

Ephpheta Centre Closed

The Ephpheta Centre office will be closed for Christmas from **11.30am Friday 21st December 2018** until **Monday 21st January 2019**.

The Ephpheta Centre will re-open from **Tuesday 22 January 2019**.

In an emergency that cannot wait until 22 January, please email Liz on liz@ephpheta.org.au or SMS David on 0408 669 672. If it is not an emergency, please try and limit your contact with staff during the closing dates. We will always try and get back to you as soon as we can once the Ephpheta Centre re-opens.

The Ephpheta Centre team would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2019.

Our team would like to thank our wonderful community for all the support throughout 2018. Your continual support helps keep our Ephpheta deaf community alive and strong.



Out and About in the Deaf Community

Wine and Cheese Night - International Day of Sign Language

Thank you all for coming to the special first ever International Day of Sign Languages event hosted at the Ephpheta Centre on Friday September 21st. We had 6 presenters from all walks of life talk about trends and personal experiences. Nearly 100 people came to watch and to learn from our presenters. All but one were deaf. All night Auslan was used! We had two Auslan interpreters – Rosemary Profilio and Della Bampton and they did their jobs beautifully. A most enjoyable night filled with community spirit! Thank you to Todd Wright, Kate Matairavula, Andrew Niklaus, Mikaela Parker, Marcia Girke-Boyle, and Trevor Maggs for their wonderful presentations on the night.



Deaf Festival

On Saturday 20th October the annual Deaf Festival was held at Parramatta River. While it was a very hot and humid day, the spirit of the deaf community was alive and strong! Over a thousand people walked through the festival all day at Parramatta River.

The Ephpheta Stall was visited regularly by many people all day. We were very lucky to have another stall to display our materials as the craft group had so many things to show and to sell! The craft ladies had been preparing and getting ready for the day for months! They worked tirelessly all day! Many deaf based organisations were involved in the day.

There were many interesting deaf based organisations and a variety of stalls on the day. There was plenty of things to see and do - it was a full day of theatre, presentations, and many children and family friendly activities - even a performance by the famous Sally and Possum! A group of Deaf Aboriginals called Deaf Koori Mob introduced themselves and told the audience their stories and their clans and their totem identifiers. The smoking ceremony was very moving and we were all given the opportunity to be involved. Thank you to the



Deaf Society, the participating stallholders, and of course our deaf community for making the day for Ephpheta Centre a fun filled and successful day!



Combined Men and Women's Day Out

On September 27th we organised a combined day out for our deaf men and woman to Bowral! A group of nearly 40 community members joined us on the day. When we arrived, we split into two groups - those who wanted to visit the Corbett Gardens for the annual Tulip Time Festival and those who wanted to visit the Bradman Museum for an Auslan interpreted guided tour.



We were lucky to learn about the fascinating history of cricket dating back from the 14th century. The gallery had a major focus of the life and accomplishments of Sir Donald Bradman, the greatest batsman of all time. We learned of his extraordinary cricket career, and much more about Sir Donald - his life values, role as a successful businessman, cricket administrator, husband, father and national icon.

It was a perfect spring day out - the sun was shining and the displays of colourful flowers were blooming at the gardens! There were over 75, 000 beautiful tulips to see, stalls for us to look at, and some entertainment.

We ended the day with a lovely lunch and many hours of chatting - it was a perfect day out. Thank you to those who joined us! Details for our first outing for 2019 can be found on page 6. We look forward to organising more wonderful outings for our community in 2019.



Deaf Men's Day Out

We started our day above ground with a memorial walk, which



provided us different information about North Fort and it's involvements in WWII. It detailed the names of the fallen soldiers from the different wars. We learned about the history of the cannons that fired missiles and had the opportunity to carry the shells of the missiles - they weighed 172kg!!

We then went into the underground tunnel, which we learned they started digging in 1935. It took three years to complete. There was no air conditioning underground but the tunnels were incredibly cool for what was a very hot day!

We finished the day with a pub lunch, chat, and ferry ride home together. What a perfect day out learning and seeing many interesting parts of history!

Deaf Women's Day Out

On 24 October our group of deaf ladies (and one man!) got together for a different type of day out! We gathered at the Ephpheta Centre where we had Jane from Paint It Up! visit and set up a painting activity for us. We had the opportunity to release our creativity and artist within!

Jane took us step by step to painting our masterpieces - some of us had never painted in our lives but were very surprised at how well they turned out.



We learned about the different types of brushes and various techniques to use while painting.

After creating our painting, we enjoyed a wonderful pizza lunch together. Despite the wind that day, and wanting to set up outside, it was a wonderful day. Well done all - we have some very talented painters in our community!

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!



Craft ladies make a big donation! Following their successful 1950s style high tea, the craft group made a donation to support a wonderful cause, Deaf Children of Central Asia - supporting a young deaf woman, Dana Pitt and her past teachers of the deaf from Tasmania to work with deaf children in Tajikistan. You can read more about Dana's experience below. Warm thanks were given all round!

Our lovely craft ladies have also spent the last few months preparing for the Deaf Festival, which happened on the 20th of October. It was a busy and successful day - they had many hand made items for sale, which were very popular! Well done ladies - you all worked so hard!

Note the Craft Group will finish for the year on 12 December 2018 and restarts on 6 February 2019.

Dana's visit to Tajikistan

The first thing I'd like to say is "Thank you!" Ephpheta Deaf Craft Group for your wonderful donation of \$2,000 to Deaf Children of Central Asia. Your money is much appreciated and will help many deaf children and their families learn to communicate together .

In October I went with two of my old teachers of the deaf from Tasmania to work in Tajikistan. We visited many deaf children and their families and also met the wonderful Tajik Deaf tutors.



I enjoyed working with the children and showing the tutors some new ways to play and tell stories. Two audiologists from Tasmania also volunteered and tested 45 children of families related to the Project. Most of the children tested were found to be profoundly deaf and definitely in the right program.

It was challenging for me to communicate in a different Sign Language (Tajikistan/Russian), but the biggest challenge was some of the stories told. So many stories broke my heart. I heard many stories about deaf children brought up with no sign language or no communication and how frustrated they had been before learning sign or going to school.

I was really sad to hear how some deaf children became disabled by drugs the doctors told parents would cure their child of deafness. Some children are still going to hospital every month for injections to cure their deafness. It was terrible to see a child on heavy drugs, very thin, and brain damaged. Also, some doctors encourage families to pay \$USD18,000 to have cochlear implants. Parents are often on low wages and work very hard to save up to get cochlear implants for their children with little information and no support provided after the operation.

I was proud to go to Tajikistan as a Deaf woman, to be a role model and show that deafness can be normal. We are truly lucky in Australia to have lots of support from high quality doctors, good education, accurate information as well as our wonderful Deaf or hard of hearing community to support each other.

I am glad to be part of this project that really makes a difference. Thank you for your support.

Dana Pitt





YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE ANNUAL
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

Mass for People with Special Needs and their Families 2018

Sunday
2
December
The Entrance



Date: Sunday 2 December 2018

Time: 9.30am Parish Mass
10.30am Family Hospitality

Venue: Our Lady of the Rosary Parish
The Entrance

RSVP: Monday 26 November 2018

Email: registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

If you would like to assist during the mass,
please contact Susan Lee 0421275338 / 9476 5338

Note: This Mass is not an

Ephpheta event but it is supported by the Ephpheta Centre.



This Mass will be
Auslan interpreted.

History Corner

Saint Mark the Deaf

By Brian Johnston

Whilst on holidays in Crete in July 2015 Brian and Margaret Johnston were able to visit the Holy Church of Saint Mark the Deaf about 30 kms southeast of Rethymno on the large island of Crete. Before going to Crete I had read a brief story about St Mark the Deaf in Crete in the Ephpheta Centre newsletter *Deaf Catholic News*.



Saint Mark the Deaf
(Greek Orthodox)

Crete is located south of Greece in the Mediterranean Sea. At first it was very hard for us to find the Church of St Mark the Deaf and we took some time to find the correct small lane leading to the church in the very hilly countryside. It is on the grounds of the Holy Monastery of Saint George Arsaniou.

We were surprised to see the Church of St Mark the Deaf there as a very beautiful small church with the church name sign shown in both in Greek and English language.

It is the only church dedicated to St Mark the Deaf in the entire world. The Divine Liturgy there is signed. Note St Mark the Deaf is not Catholic, but Greek Orthodox. Though the Orthodox Church has some deaf saints, Saint Mark the Deaf has become the patron saint of the deaf.



Very little is known of St Mark the Deaf (some call him Saint Mark the Deaf Mute) other than what is written in the Synaxarion (reading on the life of a saint in the Greek Orthodox Church) probably from the 13th century for his feast day on 2nd January:

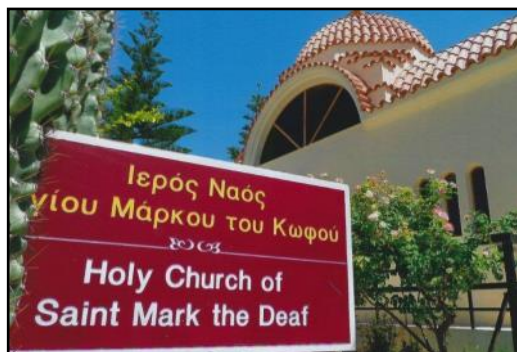


Photo of Holy Church of St Mark the Deaf
Taken by Brian Johnston

“Saint Mark the Deaf was an ascetic (humble man) that lived a venerable (honourable) life and died in peace”. Also “Mark did not hear an earthly word, and before he left the earth, his earthly ears were extracted (removed)”.

On a personal note my father was a soldier fighting against the Germans in Crete in 1941. When the Germans successfully took over Crete my father was one of the hundreds of lucky Australians who escaped by ship to Egypt from Crete.

Mass Times

NOVEMBER

18th	Sunday	11.00am
	SEVEN HILLS	
25th	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	

DECEMBER

2nd	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	<i>Giving Mass + Christmas Party</i>
		see page 4 for more information
9th	Sunday	10.30am
	MANLY	
16th	Sunday	11.00am
	SEVEN HILLS	<i>CDC NSW RSL Lunch</i>
		see page 5 for more information
24th	Monday	5.00pm
	PUNCHBOWL	<i>Christmas Vigil Mass</i>
		see page 5 for more information
25th	Tuesday	10.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	<i>Christmas Day Mass</i>
		see page 5 for more information

JANUARY

12th	Saturday	6.00pm
	NORTH GOSFORD	

FEBRUARY

3rd	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	
10th	Sunday	10.30am
	MANLY	
17th	Sunday	10.30am
	CASTLE HILL	<i>Replaces Seven Hills</i>
		see page 6 for more information
24th	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	

Gosford Mass Announcement

Please note that we will begin Gosford Masses in January in 2019.

The times will be the same as 2018 - now on Saturday night at 6pm, not Sunday morning. Next Gosford Masses dates:

12 January, 9 March

Church Addresses



Chapel of St Francis de Sales
4 Turner St Punchbowl



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



Our Lady of Lourdes
7 Grantham Rd Seven Hills



St Mary's
6 Raglan St Manly
Integrated Mass

Friday morning Mass

Where: Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner St, Punchbowl

When: Every Friday

Time: 10.30am

Our last Friday morning Mass will be on 21 December 2018.

Mass will start again on Friday 1 February 2019.

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

27 May - Peggy Kennedy

9 September - George Strano (Mary Dunne's brother)

28 September - Chris Baddock (Mary Profilio's brother)

2 October - David Jones

3 October - Beryl Rudd

11 October - Tess Page

18 October - Wanda Stewart

For those who are sick

Dennis Johnston

Marget Grehan

Thelma Harris

Christopher Cooper

John Windsor



4 Turner St, PUNCHBOWL NSW 2196

Phone: (02) 9708 1396

TTY: (02) 9708 6904

Fax: (02) 9709 5638

Email: office@ephpheta.org.au

www: www.ephpheta.org.au



Join us on Facebook!

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

*The Ephpheta Centre is supported
by the Charitable Works Fund.*



Staff Email Addresses:

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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!