

CELEBRATING **40** YEARS

Our Deaf Community

Our 40 year anniversary is a wonderful time to sit back and think about all of the gifts which the deaf community has! The gift of a shared language, a shared culture, a shared history and a shared lived experience. Every person in our community is a unique individual. Our deaf community has many great gifts which we share when we come together.

As we look back on so many happy photos of our community – at Masses, retreats, get togethers, lunches, dinners – we remember all the wonderful people who have been a part of Ephpheta over the years. Some may no longer be with us, some may have moved on – but all have helped to contribute to the successes of Ephpheta over the years. We have laughed together, cried together, celebrated our faith together – and how many cups of tea have been drunk over the



last 40 years???

In this edition of the newsletter, enjoy looking back through our photos of the Ephpheta community over the last 40 years.



A Message from Liz & Dave...

Liz's report

In this our 40th year of Ephpheta, I have spent some time looking through our old newsletters and photos. I am reminded of our rich history and the spirit of community which has been with the Ephpheta Centre since its first day in 1979. So many people have contributed to the life of Ephpheta in supporting and ministering to the community. When I look through the newsletters – and see so many events, so much volunteering, so much pastoral and spiritual support – I think of all the people who have contributed to the life of the community over the years. In every little act of service – through our wonderful volunteers and in the daily acts of people who support the Centre – is a living example of what Jesus asks us to do in the Gospels. This is to love God and to love each other. Jesus went out and lived with the people – the Son of God showed his love by being with people. He saw dignity and value in all the people who He met.

In each little act of service which has been done for the community in the last 40 years, this has brought the love of Jesus and the love of God to our community and to each other. All these little acts of service are all acts of love. And it is this spirit of service, love, and community which has been the spirit of the Ephpheta Centre over the last 40 years. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the Centre and – with the rest of the Ephpheta team – to be able to contribute in a small way to our history.

Until next time,
Liz



Dave's report

It is now May! What have we done so far? A productive year so far. We had a lovely Holy Week, and we had interpreted Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. The Holy Week is the solemn and beautiful week in the Catholic world. In many ways it is more sacred than Christmas, because we are celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus. The period between the sundown on Holy Thursday and sundown on Easter Sunday is called the Triduum. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

We had a spiritual catholic community retreat at Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre Mulgoa for a weekend in March. We are also planning Deaf Men's Day out, Deaf Women's Day Out and Deaf youth events throughout the year. Our Deaf Café events continue to be well received because we serve the most delicious biscuits and hot coffee! Voluntary work by many volunteers is always appreciated. Thank you!

We have been having community interviews with the members of the community who have worked with the Ephpheta Centre for many years. We already interviewed lovely Murreall and joyful Brother Reg. We will be interviewing more people who have served Ephpheta faithfully over the years.

We are a proud Catholic Centre and we try to spend most of our time working and supporting deaf and hard of hearing people in many areas. As always, we do our best and we also try and support them in engaging with other services. We are doing God's work and His Spirit is felt in our work with the community.

We will be having a series of celebrations for Ephpheta Centre which has been running for 40 years which we are very excited about. As always, please let me know of any new ideas and feedback, all gratefully accepted.

Over and out,
David





Ephpheta Sunday - 4th August

On Sunday 4 August we will be having our extra special Ephpheta Sunday 40 year celebrations!

Each year, the Catholic Church throughout the world celebrates the gifts which the deaf community bring to the life of the Church. To celebrate this very special occasion, everyone is welcome to join us on our celebrations on the day. This year is even more special as we look back on our 40th anniversary.

When: Sunday 4th August

Mass: Starts **11am** at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. Mass will be said by Bishop Vincent Long - the Bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta.

Lunch: PARKROYAL Hotel – **12.30pm - 4pm**.

Please join us for a beautiful 3 course lunch at the PARKROYAL Hotel Phillip St Parramatta. We will have some special guests and a photo display of the history of the Ephpheta Centre.

Cost: \$50 per person.

\$25 per child 12 - 18 years old.

\$15 per child up to 12 years old.

Ephpheta will be financially supporting this lunch. Please try and pay before the event.

Please talk to David or Liz if you need financial support.

RSVP: You must RSVP if you are coming! Must RSVP by **Monday 22 July 2019**

Please contact David to let us know 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 food requirements/allergies

If you are DeafBlind and need extra support on the day - please let us know **ASAP**.

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



Meet Our New Seminarians! John, Jack, Dong, and George

It is our pleasure this newsletter to introduce you to 4 young men who are currently studying to become priests. These young men are undertaking their pastoral placement with us – so that when they have become priests and are working in the community, they will have an understanding of our community. Please make sure that you say hello when you see them at Ephpheta – they are all learning Auslan so need to practice!!

John Pham - Archdiocese of Sydney

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

I was born and grew up in Sai Gon (Ho Chi Minh City) in Vietnam, and I moved to Sydney in 2007.

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

I have one younger brother who just has his first child at the end of last year. Since I am in Australia, I only see my parents once a year. It's either me going back to Vietnam or my parents coming to Sydney. Perhaps what I love the most about my family is the bond between us.

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

My favourite saint is St Theresa of Liseaux. There are reasons for this. Firstly, I love her because she is the patron saint for my First Holy Communion year group in Vietnam. Secondly, it is because she became saint because of her love for God and others, and through her ordinary works.

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

I love fish. I used to take care of a lot of fish when I was in Vietnam. I had 6 big fish tanks with more than 3000 small fish.

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

Probably camping 3 days and 2 nights in a forest with my friends from church.

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

I am very happy to come to Ephpheta and look forward to being involved more with the community in the future. I really enjoy my time at the community. Everyone at the Deaf Community is very friendly and welcoming. I am also having great fun learning Auslan!

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

I just want to say thanks to everyone for welcoming us into the community. Thank you for your hospitality and patience in teaching us Auslan.



Jack Elkazzi - Diocese of Parramatta

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

I was born at the Women's Hospital, Sydney, Australia. I have lived in Sydney for most of my life.

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 Lebanese. My father George, and mother Theresa, came to Sydney, Australia, in the late 60's, early 70's. I am the youngest of the three children. The eldest is my sister Jackie, followed by my brother John, then the lucky last, me!

One thing I love about my family is that, even after some difficulties, we have remained close.

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

One of my favourite Saints would have to be St Padre Pio. For me, St Pio is someone who imitated the life and love of Jesus and Mary through his self sacrifice and humble prayer. St Pio loved and devoted to the crucified Jesus so much that Jesus granted him to share in his passion and sufferings. The visible sign of this was the stigmata. That is, on St Pio's hands and feet there appeared the wounds of Christ. Through God's grace he worked many miracles, and like a Jesus, gave his life to serve the Church and all God's children.

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

I like to spend time in Church, reading, and going for walks.

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

When I was 20, I randomly decided to book a ticket to Melbourne. I had no family or friends there, but I manage to meet new people and had fun time.

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

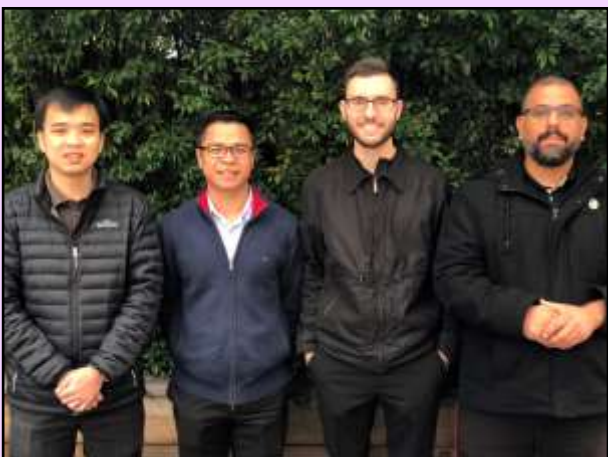
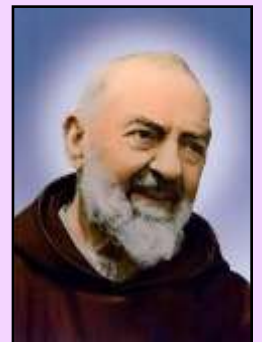
I consider my pastoral placement at the deaf community as a real blessing. Being a slow learner, I

am gradually learning Auslan. I have meet so many wonderful, patient and welcoming people. I look forward to time when I am able to have full conversation in Auslan.

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

I would like to thank God and the deaf community for this opportunity.

God bless +



Dong Nguyen - Diocese of Bathurst

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

I was born in a countryside place in Northern Vietnam. In 1996, my family moved to the South and we bought a farm for coffee and pepper plantation. I came to Australia eight years ago to become a seminarian for the Diocese of Bathurst. However, at the moment I'm doing my formation training in the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Sydney. This is my last couple of months in the Seminary. After that, I will go to back to Bathurst and serve the People of God there, hopefully as an ordained minister.



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

I come from a big family. I'm the fourth of nine children: six boys and three girls. All of them are in Vietnam except one younger brother who is now living in Melbourne. I have two sisters who are living in the Religious House as well. One sister is with the Divine Providence Congregation in Saigon. And my youngest sister has joined the Carmelites, who are living an enclosed contemplative life.



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

Fr. Damien of Molokai is my favourite Saint. He was a newly ordained priest when he felt the call to serve the people with leprosy (incurable disease at that time - 1850s) on the island of Molokai. He finally got leprosy himself and died after sixteen years living amongst his people. For me, he is a model for missionaries and a perfect example of love, the love that Jesus has asked us to have for one another, especially for the marginalized and the forgotten.

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

My hobbies are sport and music. Swimming is my favourite sport. However, as for team sport, I like playing soccer. I usually play soccer on the weekends with the Catholic youth and other brother seminarians. When I have a spare moment at home I (try to) play the guitar. I also like reading and cooking.

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

Leaving my family behind and coming to Australia to study for priesthood is probably the most adventurous thing I have ever done. I had zero knowledge about Australia or Bathurst Diocese when I decided to come and join Bathurst. My English was almost as poor as my knowledge about Australia. When I first came, I could neither understand Aussie English nor make myself understood. However, when I look back from where I am now, I think that it is the best adventurous thing that I have done.

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

When David, Nicole, and Liz came and introduced Ephpheta to us in the seminary, I was very impressed when I learnt that a community like Ephpheta exists. I wanted to 'come and see' (John 1:39). This is probably the second most adventurous thing I've ever done. I thank everyone in the community for their warm welcome and wonderful friendship. Please pray for me as I keep journeying on the way to priesthood.

George Stanton - Diocese of Parramatta

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

I was born in Australia and grew up in North-Western Sydney. I had always lived in this area until joining the seminary in 2015.

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

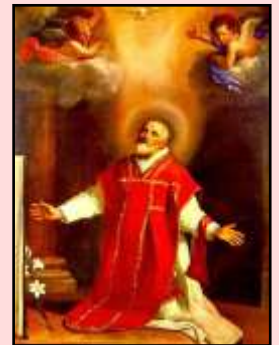
I have a younger brother and a younger sister. I love that we are very close even though we have different personalities and interests.

I also love the fact that I have a large extended family who have been very supportive of me throughout my journey in the seminary.



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

Besides the devotion I have to St. George and my guardian angel, I have also found a friend in St. Philip Neri. St. Philip was a priest who lived in the 16th century and is known as the "Third Apostle of Rome" (after Saints Peter and Paul) for re-evangelising the people of this city. He was a man known for his humour, service of the poor, and love of both the Eucharist and Confession. Everyone that met him could see that he had a heart on fire with the love of God and the joy of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, I believe St. Philip Neri is great model of holiness for us all. I see in his life a beautiful example of the power of our Christian witness.



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

In my spare time I enjoy reading, watching movies, and playing tennis with friends.

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

Perhaps travelling around Lebanon on a pilgrimage without a knowledge of Arabic, relying solely on the translations my fellow Aussies could offer me. Despite the language barrier, I learnt much about the history, culture, and holy sites of Lebanon on this pilgrimage. It was a memorable experience.

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

I feel most privileged to have the opportunity to learn Auslan and to share in the life of the Deaf Community here in Sydney. The Ephpheta Community has made me feel very welcome since my first visit to the Centre earlier this year. I am looking forward to continue learning Auslan and to meeting more and more of you over the months ahead.

May God bless you.

George Krams ("GK") is one of our very dear friends at the Ephpheta Centre.

Now aged 75, George has been an important part of Ephpheta since Day 1. All of us know George as being a lovely kind man of deep faith. We recently sat down and had a chat with GK!



When and how did you first learn about the Ephpheta Centre?

I was involved in the 1979 Canberra conference for CADHIPA and after that the Ephpheta Centre was established. When Ephpheta was first set up, Mass services were held at Paddington



What activities and events have you enjoyed with the Ephpheta Centre over the years?

I love Ephpheta because of accessible Mass services, Catholic Retreats and deaf friendly events. I think it is very important for the wider Sydney Deaf community to be together.



What are your favourite things about the Ephpheta Centre?

I love going to Mass services, especially signed services. Chatting with my deaf friends at the centre. Going to retreats organised by Ephpheta. I love these events organised by Ephpheta.

What changes have you seen at the Ephpheta Centre over the years?

There have been changes to sign language - old signs to new signs at Ephpheta, Irish signs, one handed fingerspelling. I prefer a lot of the older signs. Father Malone started signing in Mass services way back in 1960s. Nowadays, it is wonderful having Auslan interpreters in Mass. I love Irish signing. I think it's beautiful!



What are your hopes for the Ephpheta Centre for the future?

My hope in the future is for the Ephpheta Centre to move to Strathfield. A hub for the deaf community. Easier access. Better location. Close to the train station. My other hope is to see Deaf priests in Australia

In our newsletter in April 2002 we interviewed George.
Here is a copy from that newsletter...

GEORGE KRAMS

From time to time, we will write a profile of one of the Deaf members of our community. This time, we are telling the story of George Krams, a well known and faithful member of the Catholic Deaf Community.

George was born on 4th May 1944 at the Royal Women's Hospital in Paddington. He was born with cerebral palsy and he is deaf. When his mother was 7 months pregnant the doctors told her that her baby had died. Her friends prayed for her and her baby and she was amazed when George was born alive. At first the doctors believed that George was also blind but once again, many people prayed for George and when the doctors saw him 6 months later they found that George could see.

At three years of age, George started school at the Spastic Centre. He was the first deaf handicapped person to start at the Centre.

When he was 6 years old, George used to go to Darlington School in the morning and to the



George with one of his two much loved dogs

Spastic Centre in the afternoon. His mother started to worry about him and began to look for another school. She found St. Gabriels. The Spastic Centre didn't want George to go, so his mother just took him away to St. Gabriels. It was 1956.

George tells some of his story....

"When I was growing up I was frightened of death because I didn't know about God. Brother Cahill taught me religion. I was confused so I asked the boy sitting next to me. He explained to me about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and I became fully aware of it. Now I know God is looking after me so I'm not frightened of death any more."

Each weekend George's mother and father took a friend home with him. When he grew up, he decided that he wanted to be a priest. George and his mother and father had long talks and they saved their money to go to Lourdes, hoping for a cure for George. This was not part of God's plan for George. He tried many different places to try to join the priesthood but again and again

he was refused.

George then worked as a Process Worker in a Disabled Workshop, as a Factory Hand and lastly as a Public Servant in the Police Department for 23 years.

George's mother died in 1974 and he became active in the Catholic Deaf Association, being Treasurer for 12 years and Vice President for 2 years. George loved going to the National CADHIPA Conferences and was sad when they finished.

After his father died, George moved from the Eastern Suburbs to Strathfield and later to his home in Lidcombe. George loves cricket, although he has never played, and reading History books, especially the lives of the Saints.

George is a very independent person and the bottom photo shows him on his 'mobile scooter' which he uses very skilfully to get about the suburbs.

When asked who was the person who had most influenced him in his life George replied...

"My mother, who always strived for what was best for me. She taught me a lot about faith. Importantly the move to St. Gabriel's gave me a lot of friends and I have Mum to thank for that."



Many of you will remember **Peter Fitzgerald** who was our full-time Ephpheta chaplain from 1988 - 2000.

We were recently lucky enough to catch up with Peter and shared some of his fond memories of his time at the Ephpheta Centre!



What was your first encounter with the Ephpheta Centre and the Catholic Deaf Community?

When I was studying to be a priest, I had a holiday job for St Vincent de Paul. The manager of the Vinnies shop at Penshurst was Robert Profilio and the driver of the truck was Peter Dunne! Two deaf men! They taught me some basic sign language and I talked with them each day. That was my first encounter with the deaf community, and it was a very positive experience. I enjoyed learning sign language and learning where signs came from.



I was invited to join Ephpheta Centre as full-time chaplain. I had some formal lessons with the existing chaplain before I started in about August 1988. At that time Ephpheta was based in Paddington and soon after that we moved to Lewisham. There were no TAFE courses in those days, all the interpreters were CODA's. I learned Auslan and a lot of the one-handed Irish signs which we used at Mass – for example the sign which we use for “Ephpheta”. I remember I gave a course to some interpreters as to how they might sign at a liturgical service – they had no idea about these one-handed Catholic signs. This was especially the language of the ex- Waratah and St Gabriel's students – many of which we still use today.





What was your first role at EC?

When I started as chaplain, the rest of the team included. Mary Caruana, Br Reg, Sr Ann, Alice Hastings and Murreall O'Connor. We had many deaf volunteers to help us. Murreall helped me a lot with my signing.

Shirley Carroll started just after me, she was a

very practical person and moved the Ephpheta Centre into the computer age.

We dreamed of the day when Ephpheta would be led by a deaf person. We didn't know how we could do this or where we could find the money! But we wanted deaf people to take over. We saw this happen first with the western deaf group – with deaf people leading the way in chairing meetings, run by deaf people, established by deaf people. It was happening – but it seemed an impossible dream. But I am so happy to see that at Ephpheta we now have deaf people ministering to deaf people.

When I started, there was only one Mass a month at Stanmore. At around that time, the Parramatta Catholic group had started to meet – people like Anthony Hastings, Robert Pickup, Margaret Ryan, Brian and Margaret Johnson. We then started to have Mass in the west once a month. We had integrated Mass in hearing parishes which I would sign. We had the deaf choir with the overhead projector, I spoke about Ephpheta, Auslan and our work. I explained what deafness was and what it wasn't.

I tried to explain the importance of sign language and the problems deaf people have in church life and in the community.



At that time, I did not have interpreter support. From my first Mass I signed for myself. Robert Pickup and Anthony Hastings were good friends – they helped me to sign and were very supportive. But my most honest teachers were the young CODA's – they would see me sign and make mistakes and they would laugh at me! They would show me the right sign – their parents were too polite to correct me as I was the chaplain! But it was great because it meant that I learnt so much



I was only at Paddington for a few months before we moved to Lewisham and we were



there for a number of years. We named the building “Ann Walsh” House as Sr Ann was then a member of the team- she was a long-term teacher at Waratah and was widely loved by the deaf community. We were there for a number of years before we moved to Flemington. That was close to the train station and the church which we could use for our Sydney Masses.

Has the Ephpheta Centre and the deaf community had an impact on you and in what way? What did Ephpheta give to you?

“Ephpheta” – it opened me. When I started, I did not know much about the deaf community. I did not know about the restrictions that deaf people had to live with, about the richness of the culture and the language. I was opened to all of that. When I left Ephpheta, I said to everyone “You are my family. You have enriched my life and changed my life in ways which I could not imagine, in wonderful ways”.





The real gift that the Ephpheta Centre gave to me was friendship. I met so many wonderful people and made many long-standing friendships. I met Shirley Carroll and we remained close friends until her death. Robert Pickup was a very dear friend - I was very upset that I was overseas when he died. I wrote a letter that my father read out at Robert's funeral. I still catch up with Anthony

and many others from the community. Friendship was the great gift from the Ephpheta Centre to me.

What changes have you seen in Ephpheta?

When I was at Ephpheta, it was hearing people leading, encouraging and supporting deaf people – many good people such as Sr Ann and Br Reg who knew the community well. Then we saw deaf people coming into the team and more deaf people involved in ministry and supporting each other. Now it is deaf people running the Ephpheta Centre and ministering to deaf people. So, it has been a huge wonderful change. When I left in 2000, the change was just starting. We always imagined more deaf people becoming involved in Ephpheta. Then when Stephen became director and now David in leadership – that is wonderful.



What are your hopes for the future of the Ephpheta Centre and the deaf community?

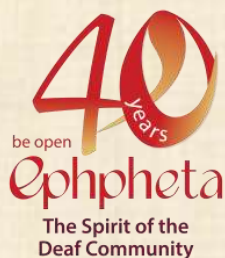
More of the same. That deaf people continue to be involved, that deaf people continue to be supported and encouraged by the work that Ephpheta is doing. That Deaf people have more of a voice in the Church and in the community. That as a Centre we can represent their views to church powers and on a broader spectrum as well. My final hope is that deaf people always find Ephpheta a comfortable and supportive place where they can not only learn but they can teach.

Our Deaf Community

If you google 'Deaf Community', chances are you will get a response like this:

The Australian Deaf Community is a network of people who share a language and culture and a history of common experiences. It is similar to an ethnic community. Members socialise, play sport and sometimes worship together (www.aussiedeafkids.org.au/australian-deaf-community).

While this definition is strictly true, there are some words which are not mentioned in this definition. And it is these words which have made our Ephpheta deaf community such a special place over the last 40 years! These words include love, friendship, laughter, celebration, faith, and joy. So many people have been a part of our Ephpheta community over the years – some people have been a part of Ephpheta since day 1, other people have come and moved on. Ephpheta has become an important deaf space, a safe space of our community where people can share, relax and feel at home. There have been so many wonderful celebrations over the 40 years – we hope you enjoy looking back on some of our photos when we have celebrated as a community together:







Fr Michael's Reflection...

There was a young man who went away to study. He went to a faraway city. Some years later, his younger brother was being married and so the young man returned home for the wedding. It was a beautiful wedding and he was happy for the loving couple. However, the young man found himself a little bit sad, because he realised that he did not know his brothers and sisters as well as he used to. He had been too far away to know many of the things that had happened over the years.



Keeping in touch is good for you, and not just because your mother told you to! It's good for others too. There is an art to being a welcome guest and a welcoming host, and it all begins with practice.

We can also become disconnected from the bigger family of God. I know that there was some surprise, at our recent Deaf Retreat, to learn that the kingdom of God is both in heaven and very near. It is in heaven, because Jesus goes to prepare a place for us. It is also very near because God came very near. Jesus Christ came and told us that the kingdom is "at hand" (so close you can reach out and touch it). St Cyprian said, "it may even be... that the kingdom of God means Christ Himself." In the kingdom of God also means all the faithful who live in Christ. Or the flock that He has gathered.

We are like sheep on the way to the good pastures. We look forward to reaching our home. If the kingdom of God is like a flock, some of the sheep already enjoy the life that the Good Shepherd promised. Others are still faithfully following Him. If they persevere, and are not found to be goats or wolves, they will reach their home. However, those who have not fully allowed the Good Shepherd to care for them will face the most unpleasant of sheep dips first. The whole flock of God will be gathered together. In other words, all the saints will live, in Jesus Christ, in the kingdom of God.

We are all the one family, but like the young man who went away to study, we don't know our brothers and sisters very well. We forget our older brothers and sisters. We forget to pray that Our Lord quickly lead them to the good pastures. We forget that they live with God and that God sends them to help us. We forget that they can show us the path to life and assist us on our journey. We only need to keep in touch.



Mother Mary, all you angels saints and martyrs, intercede for us this Easter.
Father Michael.

Internet Access at the Ephpheta Centre

We have recently connected the the NBN at the Ephpheta Centre! This is very exciting as it means we can have clearer video conversations with you through Skype.

We also have an Ephpheta Facebook page which contains lots of information about what is happening at Ephpheta and in the community!

If you would like more information about how you can have video calls with our staff or if you would like to know how to connect to our Facebook page, please make an appointment to come and chat with David, Donovan, Pat or Chrisso.

To follow us on Facebook our page is "Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people"



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...



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - 14th June

We know that lots of people in our community have been touched by cancer. Again this year our June Deaf Café will be a fundraiser to support the Cancer Council.

Please come along and donate to this great cause.



Cancer
Council

Australia's
Biggest
Morning
Tea

When and Where: Friday 14 June from 10am. Same as our usual Deaf Café.
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.

Homebush Mass - 30th June

Please join us for Mass at Fr Michael's parish on the 30th of June. This will be an integrated Mass with their hearing parish.

When: Sunday 30 June - 9am Mass

Where: Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church - 74 Underwood Road, Homebush



Deaf Men's Day Out - 27th June

Join us for a relaxed day out on a scenic train trip the famous Blue Mountains and Lithgow! We will catch the express train together and see the beautiful Grose Valley near Blackheath and the Ten Tunnels between Mount Victoria and Lithgow. Remember to wear warm clothes! We will stop and have lunch at a nearby pub together at your own cost. BYO lunch welcome.

When and Where: Thursday 27 June - meet at Central station 8.30am - Platform 1

Cost: Train ride and lunch at your own cost.

RSVP: Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email donovan@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 21 June.



Combined Men's & Women's Day Out - 31st July

Join us for a private tour of Elizabeth Farm! This house museum hides a dark and stormy past. Built for the young military couple John and Elizabeth Macarthur and their growing family, Elizabeth Farm has witnessed major events in the growth of the colony. There are some fascinating things for us to see and learn about the deep history it has.

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

When and Where: Wednesday 31 July - meet at 11am for a 11:30am start

Elizabeth Farm - 70 Alice Street, Rosehill. *Please meet at the double wooden gate on Alice Street.*

Cost: \$11. Please try and pay before the event.

RSVP: Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email donovan@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 12 July.



Deaf Women's Day Out - 21st August

Last year's event was so successful, we're doing it again!

Join us for a fun and creative day where we will release the artist within! No art or painting experience is required! We will have an artist from Life With Paint take us step by step through the process of creating our own masterpiece. Afterwards, we are able to take our works of art home!

Paints, brushes, aprons and canvas will be waiting for you. We will have a wonderful time learning and painting as a group! Grab a brush and let's create a masterpiece memory!



After the activity we will lunch together with the craft group.

When and Where: Wednesday 21 August. Meet at 10am for a 10.30am start.

The Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl.

Cost: \$30, which includes all materials and lunch.

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 16 August.

Special Mass and Morning Tea – 8 September

To continue our 40 year Ephpheta anniversary celebrations, we will be celebrating with his Grace Archbishop Anthony Fisher for a special Integrated Mass with the deaf community on Sunday 8 September 2019 at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney.

After Mass, we will be joining Archbishop Anthony in his home at Cathedral House (next to the Cathedral) for morning tea.

When and Where: 10.30am on Sunday 8 September. St Mary's Cathedral - St Mary's Rd Sydney

RSVP: So that we have an idea of numbers for morning tea, please let us know if you are coming.

RSVP to Chrisso christiane@ephpheta.org.au or 0405 749 488 (SMS) before Friday 30 August.

Please also mention any food requirements/allergies when you RSVP.





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 June, 12th July,
9th August, 13th September**

(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



- Our Deaf Youth Sydney project is open for any young deaf or hard of hearing person aged between 12-17 years.

- It is a great opportunity for young deaf and hard of hearing people to develop new friendships and networks, to see deaf adults in leadership and to have the opportunity to build new skills and develop confidence.

- We are planning our next exciting event!

- Keep a look out on the 'Deaf Youth Sydney' Facebook group for the next event flyer - coming soon!

- For more information please contact:**

- Donovan Mulligan
0408 697 773 (SMS)

- Email: donovan@ephpheta.org.au



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:

28 June, 23rd 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! 😊



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:

17 May, 19th July

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! 😊



Out and About in the Deaf Community

Community Retreat

On 16 and 17 March we enjoyed a wonderful community retreat at Mulgoa. The retreat Centre is run by a group of lovely nuns known as the Schoenstatt Sisters.

We had a wonderful weekend! Despite the rain which did not stop! Fr Michael led some very interesting sessions on Saturday on the Parables. We all learnt how the parables are a story with “two sides” and the community made a new sign for “parable”. There is the story on one side and the hidden meaning on the other side. Fr Michael told us how Jesus used the parables to explain difficult things to his Disciples and to the people of his time. What is interesting is – 2000 years later – we are still talking about what the true meanings of the parables are. We all had a lovely dinner on Saturday night and then had great fun with a game organised by Pat where we had to try to match which baby photo belonged to which person.

On Sunday, David and Liz led the Lenten group and then we joined with the congregation for Mass. We had our last session after lunch and then drove home in the rain!

Thank you to Fr Michael for leading the retreat. Thank you to everyone who came along and joined in our discussions and activities. Thank you to the Sisters who took such good care of us over the weekend, especially to the Sister who was so keen to learn Auslan.



Our Easter Liturgies

Holy Thursday

We had two integrated Mass services at St Nicholas Catholic Church, Penrith and at St Jerome's. Pasquale was a very excited deaf parishioner at St Nicholas as he got his feet washed by the Priest. He was so grateful and felt it was a very moving experience.

Good Friday

We had a lovely day at Ephpheta with over 70 people attending. We had moving performances by Mary Profilio, Robert Beath and Jitka Navratil. A most beautiful service led by Fr Michael. Afterwards we had yummy hot cross buns laden with butter.

Easter Saturday Vigil

We also had an interesting evening Mass at St Jerome, next to Ephpheta Centre. We had four interpreters with us. At the beginning of the service, the inside of this church was dark and the pictures/statues were draped in purple cloth. Half way through the Mass, the coverings were removed and the lights came back on as a sign of the return of Jesus at Easter in the resurrection.



Easter Sunday Mass

This Mass was held at St Patricks Church, Blacktown. A good number of deaf people came. It was a lovely service.



Deaf Youth Sydney

On Friday the 5th of April, we had our first youth event of the year! We went to KIKOFF in Canterbury and played bubble soccer. It was great fun watching our youth come together and knock each other over as inflatable soccer balls!

The instructor tried incredibly hard to get them together to run activities and games, but some just preferred to enjoy their time and run around. It was great fun!

We finished the night with a pizza dinner - perfect end to the night filled with chats and new friendships made! We are looking forward to our next youth event - keep a look out on Facebook for more details.



Where are our deaf youth?! Hiding in the soccer balls!

Thank you from Heather!

In April I returned to Nepal as a volunteer Teacher of the Deaf in a school which is very close to Mt Everest. It is very, very cold there in winter but they have no heaters in the school or the hostel where the Deaf teacher and students live.

Robert Beath knitted many scarves to send to Nepal to keep the Deaf children warm at school and at home. Blue Mountains Deaf also gave very generous donations to buy important resources for the Deaf students and Betty Pickup knitted some beautiful scarves for the teacher which she received on her birthday.

Thank you all so much for your wonderful support for the Deaf in this remote part of Nepal. They appreciate your kindness very much!

Heather Morris



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!

Our craft ladies are very busy with a number of exciting projects which they have on!

If you could like to come along to craft, please remember to bring along a project which you can work on! Bring your knitting, crocheting, sewing or quilting! Craft group like to work on their craft projects from 10am - 12pm each Wednesday. So if you would like to be a part, please make sure you bring along something to work on!

We all meet together for morning tea before 10am and then again for lunch at 12 noon. All are welcome to come and work on your projects and share your skills.



Craft ladies doing what they do best!
Secret projects (a wedding gift for Chrisso!)
and celebrating with birthday cake!



Deaf Men's Day Out

On the 22 March we had a very interesting tour of Rouse Hill House and stables – it was established in 1813 by Richard and Elizabeth Rouse (they were famous for their horses, having won the Melbourne Cup twice) and has been in the same family for 7 generations. The house is on 1200 acres and is in Georgian style.

The last family lived there until 1980s. Now the Rouse Hill Farm has become the heritage site and museum.



Before Rouse Hill, it was called Vinegar Hill and also the same place (Rouse Hill Farm) where the war began between the British and Irish rebels, the first war in NSW. There is much more history around the Rouse Hill Farm area. We finished the day with a lovely pub lunch together at the Australian Brewery.

Please see page 14 for our next planned event for Men's Day Out!



Deaf Women's Day Out

On Thursday 16 May we had a magnificent trip to Palm Beach on the official "Home and Away" tour!



23 deaf ladies, 2 Auslan interpreters and Ephpheta staff headed off bright and early from the city on a bus trip up to Palm Beach where much of the show is filmed. Some ladies have been watching the show since it first came on TV - it was so wonderful to be able to see the locations from many scenes through the years. We had a lovely sandwich lunch in the sun and had our photo taken on the Home and Away beach buggy. We also checked out Al's Bait shop!

We then had a very special visit to the Morgan house which has been featured in Home and Away for many many years. And we had a surprise visit from one of the characters Ash (played by George Mason) who was very happy to talk with us and have his photo taken with us. Then we headed back to Manly and a ferry ride home. A wonderful exciting day!



Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great

Recently Jim O'Connor's sister was awarded a very great honour for all the hard work she has done in the Diocese of Sydney and Broken Bay. Margaret was made a Dame Commander in the Order of St Gregory the Great. This honour is given to people who have contributed to the work of the Catholic Church and who are excellent examples of love and work of God in their communities.

Many famous people have been given this honour including the Governor General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove, Bob Hope's wife Delores Hope and of course our own Stephen Lawlor!

We congratulate Margaret on this wonderful recognition. She is a truly kind person with a wonderful giving spirit. Jim and Murreall were very proud to be present to see Margaret receive this honour.



Happy 75th George!

George Krams celebrated his 75th birthday party at West Gosford RSL on the 11th of May - it was a beautiful day. He was surrounded by wonderful St Gabriel and Ephpheta friends! Many people wore their favourite footy teams jerseys.

Wonderful speeches were made by his loyal work mates from the police dept, his neighbour, and a few other people. He got two awesome cakes - one yummy cake especially from good dear Mary Profilio!



George gave a moving speech about his life, and he thanked his mum for making sure he has a comfortable life and he is also very thankful that his mum took him to St Gabriel's school where he developed his love of his Catholic Faith for the rest of his life.

We had lunch and beers/wine to consume all day and we chatted away all day. So many smiling faces and yummy nibbles on a special day. Happy Birthday George!



Congratulations Chrisso and Max!

Congratulations to our very own Chrisso and her lovely husband Max Quartararo on their beautiful wedding on 9 March. Chrisso and Max were married at All Hallows Catholic Church Five Dock and had a

wonderful reception at Curzon Hall.

Chrisso and Max both looked stunning and it was a magical happy day! We ask for God's blessings on you both as you begin your married life together.



Photo booth fun at Chrisso + Max's wedding!



History Corner

By Brian Johnston

First Annual Deaf Retreat in St Mary's Cathedral

In 1924 the Catholic Deaf Association arranged to have a three days' retreat (two years after the opening of St Gabriel's Deaf School). Archbishop Michael Kelly allowed the use of Our Lady's Oratory in St Mary's Cathedral for their special retreat. The retreat held from Friday evening, 14 November 1924 to Sunday afternoon, 16 November was given by Father Daniel Hogan, M.S.C. (Missionary of the Sacred Heart). His sermons (religious talks) were interpreted in sign language by a Christian Brother from St Gabriel's (possibly Brother Allen).



Father William Malone
signing

The Catholic newspaper reported at that time: *"For the first time in the history of St Mary's Cathedral, sermons were delivered in the language of signs to deaf-mutes"*. The first sermon was given on Friday evening, the second sermon on Saturday at 4pm, and on Sunday there was a general Communion and the third sermon at 4pm. There was the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Eucharistic Adoration) after each sermon. The Deaf renewed their baptismal vows. Father Hogan gave the Papal Blessing at the end of the successful retreat.

First Signed Mass in St Mary's Cathedral

One of the Catholic Deaf Association's biggest achievements happened in 1966 when Pope Paul VI allowed the use of Sign Language in Mass. So, after permission was given for the Deaf Mass to be celebrated in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral, Father William Malone (chaplain to the Deaf) used Sign Language in Mass for the first time on Ephpheta Sunday, 7 August 1966.

This unique ceremony was televised for national viewing - the world first occurrence. The first Signed Mass was given front page news by the 'Catholic Weekly' newspaper of the following Sunday. I still very well remembered this special event as I went there when I was 15 years old.



Benediction of Blessed
Sacrament

Until 1965, all Catholic Mass was said only in Latin (Roman language) and from 1966 onwards, English, along with other different languages, can be used in the Catholic Mass. For many years before 1966, there was a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament service for the Deaf at St Benedict's Church, Broadway on one Sunday afternoon of each month. In or after 1966 it was replaced by a Deaf Mass service. Deaf Mass moved to the Deaf Society's new Stanmore Centre in 1976, three years before the new Ephpheta Centre was opened in Paddington in 1979 to provide services to the Catholic Deaf community.

Sources: TROVE: 'Catholic Press' newspaper of 20 November 1924, 'Freeman's Journal' newspaper of 13 November 1924, 'Catholic Weekly' newspaper of 14 August 1966 and Wikipedia: Latin Mass.

Mass Times

MAY

26th Sunday 11.00am
PUNCHBOWL

JUNE

2nd Sunday 11.00am
PUNCHBOWL

9th Sunday 10.30am
MANLY

16th Sunday 10.00am
BLACKTOWN

23rd Sunday 11.00am
PUNCHBOWL

30th Sunday 9.00am
HOME BUSH
See page 18 for more information

JULY

7th Sunday 11.00am
PUNCHBOWL

13th Saturday 6.00pm
NORTH GOSFORD

21st Sunday 10.00am
BLACKTOWN

28th Sunday 11.00am
PUNCHBOWL

AUGUST

4th Sunday 11.00am
PARRAMATTA
Ephpheta Sunday - 40 Year Celebration
See page 3 for more information

11th Sunday 10.30am
MANLY

18th Sunday 10.00am
BLACKTOWN

25th Sunday 11.00am
PUNCHBOWL

SEPTEMBER

1st Sunday 11.00am
PUNCHBOWL *Father's Day*

7th Saturday 6.00pm
MANLY

8th Sunday 10.30am
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL
Mass with Archbishop Fisher
See page 19 for more information

Church Addresses



Chapel of St Francis de Sales
4 Turner St Punchbowl



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



St Patrick's
51-59 Allawah St Blacktown
Integrated Mass



St Mary's
6 Raglan St Manly
Integrated Mass



Gosford Mass Announcement

Please note that our Mass times for Gosford will continue on Saturday nights through 2019. They will be held at 6pm, not Sunday morning.

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

24 November 2018 - Pauline Jean Brennan
(Michael Paul's stepmother)

10 April 2019 - Heather Kerr

10 April 2019 - Christopher Cooper

20 May 2019 - Gaie Barrett

For those who are sick

Melvyn Hunt

Dawn Loader

Clara Williams

Pamela Steward





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:

Brett	brettb@ephpheta.org.au
Chrisso	christiane@ephpheta.org.au
David	david@ephpheta.org.au
Donovan	donovan@ephpheta.org.au
Liz	liz@ephpheta.org.au
Nicole	nicole@ephpheta.org.au
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!