

CELEBRATING **40** YEARS

## Ephpheta Sunday 2019!

What a wonderful celebration we had for our 40<sup>th</sup> Ephpheta Sunday!

On Sunday 4 August the community had a fantastic celebration of Ephpheta Sunday in Parramatta. Over 160 people joined together for Mass at St. Patricks Cathedral and lunch at Park Royal Hotel. A wonderful time was had by all.

We have included lots and lots of photos showing highlights of this special day!

Thank you for everyone who came along and made the day such a happy one!!



*Thank you Mary Profilio for the delicious cake!*



# A Message from Liz & Dave...

## Liz's report

I was recently reading an article written by a friend. He was talking about the ancient Japanese art of *kintsugi*, - this is where a broken pot is mended with gold. I had never heard of this before but was interested to learn more. Instead of the artist trying to cover up the fault, the broken pot is mended with gold.



Instead of the cracks being hidden, they are made a feature. This is to show the history of the pot and show the beauty of the broken thing which is made whole again.

What if we could learn to do the same with our lives?

When we are cracked and broken, we often try to cover up our brokenness. But when we fail or make a mistake - this is when we learn. Our mistakes and failures teach us things about ourselves and about other people.

And when we are cracked and broken, this is when we should turn to God and His unfailing love. God loves and accepts us in our humanity and in our brokenness. And God tells us to love and accept each other in the same way.

No matter how wounded we are, God can heal us. If we have a willing and loving heart - and come to God for help - God can take the shattered pieces of our life and heal us. We receive this healing when we pray, when we spend time with God and especially in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the highest point of love and tenderness, of the power of God's healing. Through it, God can make us into something even greater - a glorious whole that is made stronger, more beautiful, more complete. Just like the broken pot.

Until next time,  
Liz

## Dave's report

We are fast approaching Christmas of 2019! This year is another very busy year. What an Ephpheta Sunday it was! We worked so hard to organise the 40<sup>th</sup> celebrations on Ephpheta Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2019. We had a beautiful Mass service led by Bishop Vincent Long and then we went to the ParkRoyal Hotel for lunch. 160 people came and we all had a super busy but super fun day! Thank you all for coming and sharing the spirit with us all. More stories and lovely photos are in this edition.



Australia's first Saint, Mary MacKillop is celebrated on the 8th of August each year at Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney. We honour her for her work in the Australian community on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are now planning for the Holy Land pilgrimage most probably end of August or October 2020. We will retrace the steps of Jesus in Israel. It is going to be a trip of a lifetime. We have meetings very soon to let you know more.

In the **We Pray** section on the second last page of the Ephpheta Newsletter, we have decided not to put sick people's names in this section. We have been getting reports of people wanting their privacy and their names not being published. If you would like to publish a person's name who has passed away in the newsletter, please make sure that you have permission from their family to do so beforehand.

We continue to have busy Crafts, Deaf Café, Deaf Youth Sydney, Men and Women events. We appreciate our volunteers for helping the Ephpheta Centre as always. We are also lucky to have two young priests in training to come to Ephpheta and learn some Auslan and visit Deaf seniors. Thank you everyone!

Once again, please contact Ephpheta Centre for your feedback, questions and stories.

God bless you all.  
David.



## Fr Michael's Reflection...

Glory, praise, and honour to God for the Ephpheta Centre! Thanks to God for all the graces and gifts that He has given over the past 40 years. Thanks to all the kind-hearted people who have helped and supported the work of Ephpheta. Thanks to all those who have brought the Ephpheta community to life and nourished it by giving of themselves. Thank you to Jesus for the life of faith and love that has been received and handed on in this community. May Jesus lead us to everlasting life.



Jesus revealed God to humanity when he became man. We saw God, who is Love, walking among us. He called us to be remade in the image of God who created us. We know that image, because we know Jesus, who loved us with the love of God. It was people remade in that image by their faith and actions, who established the Ephpheta centre and built a community around it.

A famous painting in Ephpheta, painted by Ron Wild, a member of the community, shows a moment in the Gospels when the love of God for the deaf was witnessed; the healing of the deaf man. The word "Ephpheta" comes from the word Jesus said to the deaf man when He healed him. This glimpse of the love of God is full of meaning.

As we look back on 40 years, this little Scripture can be an encouragement to the Ephpheta community. See how we were like Jesus. Jesus was seen in us. Even though there were mistakes and sins, there were also times when we were like Jesus or made in His image. This Scripture can also be an inspiration for the future. It can show us how to be more like Jesus and more like God.

Think of the hard life of the deaf man in the Scripture. He had no proper language like you have. He would have had almost no access to the minds of those around him, as the miracles of Jesus and hope in Him were discussed. He would have been brought along, not knowing what the fuss was about. Perhaps, he was embarrassed and disturbed to see those who brought him pleading with a man for him, as a crowd watched on.

I imagine the man was a little relieved, when the first thing this man (Jesus) did, was take him aside from the crowd to communicate privately. Thanks again to everyone who helped to start Ephpheta and work for the good the community. Sometimes you must not have known how best to proceed, but you gave it your best and left the rest to God. And, I don't know if you have noticed, but you have all grown in understanding of how to interact with one another as brothers and sisters, respecting each other's gifts and supporting one another. May we continue to become more like Jesus in this regard.

[Jesus] put his fingers into his ears,  
and he spat and touched his tongue;  
and looking up to heaven,  
he sighed,  
and said to him, "Ephpheta," that is, "Be opened."

Jesus *signed*. Descriptively, yes. Still, before any known sign language, Jesus communicated with the deaf man by touch, gesture, body language, and facial expression. He also spoke a single, distinct word, "eph-pha-tha".

Hearing people are sometimes surprised by how directly (and sometimes explicitly) Deaf people communicate. I imagine some Deaf people are surprised by how directly Jesus communicated, putting his fingers in the man's ears and spittle on his tongue! Yet, remember that the love and familiarity of Jesus towards the man is the same as that of the Creator who made the first man from moistened earth and breathed life into him.

Mother Mary, Mirror of Grace, help us to reflect the image of your son in our lives. Help us to love one another as Jesus loved. Amen. Father Michael.



We recently had a chat with the lovely **Mary and Colin Cook**.

Mary and Colin are 2 long-standing members of our Ephpheta Catholic community.

Mary started attending CDA for their Christmas party from about the age of 6. After leaving school, Mary regularly went to CDA meetings and met with Fr Malone. Mary was involved with CADHIPA Parramatta Committees for many years. They are regular

volunteers at Mass and at our community events and

are wonderful supporters of the Ephpheta team. Thank you Mary and Colin for your time and your wonderful contributions and devotion over the years.



### **What was the first time that you came to the Ephpheta Centre?**

**Mary:** I first heard about Ephpheta through my involvement with CDA. We used to go to Ephpheta for special events – we were very busy with family life and the children. I started going more after Ephpheta moved to Flemington especially for special Masses. I enjoyed going to craft group. I learnt a lot especially from Shirley Carroll.

### **What are your favourite things about the Ephpheta Centre?**

**Mary:** I love the Ephpheta Centre. I love the activities which they organise. I love Deaf Café and Mass. I really enjoy deaf Mass – it is accessible and easy to follow and

understand. Other Masses are hard to follow without access for deaf people. I also enjoy

attending different workshops where I enjoy learning new things. The Ephpheta Centre is a really lovely place and we are lucky to have it.

**Colin:** I also love Men's Day Out. I love catching up with friends at Deaf Café. I really enjoy the events which are organised and the support which Ephpheta gives. We also love volunteering with the newsletter mailout.





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

**Mary:** I was really pleased after Stephen Lawlor was made director – we saw a lot of improvement and changes at Ephpheta after that. After Stephen retired the positive changes have continued. We really enjoy coming to Ephpheta.



**Colin:** We have seen the numbers of people coming to Deaf Café grow and grow. We have enjoyed coming to know Fr Michael better since he started at Ephpheta. I think things are going well at Ephpheta.

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

**Mary and Colin:** I hope that Ephpheta will continue. With Mass, and all their activities. I would really like to thank the Ephpheta team for all the support which they have given to us. I thank the Ephpheta team for all the things which they organise for us so well. I hope Ephpheta will continue and become even stronger.



It is our pleasure to introduce **Stephen and Nola Lawlor**.

Stephen was involved for many years as a pastoral worker and then Director of the Ephpheta Centre. Nola was also one of the first deaf employees at the Ephpheta Centre. Stephen and Nola are well known and loved by many in the deaf community. They are both wonderful people. In 2012 Stephen received a Papal Knighthood for his service to the Church. We took the opportunity to catch up with them and ask them a few questions.



### **What was the first time that you came to the Ephpheta Centre?**

**Stephen:** It was around 1980 or 1981.

Fr Peter Fitzgerald encouraged me to get involved with Ephpheta Centre. So, every month I went to Ephpheta at Lewisham. I took my family there as much as we could.

**Nola:** In about 1972 I found out about a new Catholic club for deaf people which had many ex- Waratah and St Gabriel's students. Father Ryan ran this group – he taught us about many different things including Catholic teaching. It was after this time that Ephpheta started.

After I was married and was raising a family life got very busy. It was lovely that deaf friendly and accessible Masses were available to us. We were lucky to have other deaf families so we were able to have social outings together. There were lots of Church outings. The Mass services were wonderful with growing numbers of deaf people.





## What role has the Ephpheta Centre had in your life?

**Stephen:** I was at Ephpheta as a member of the Ephpheta community. I was the chairperson for the Parramatta deaf catholic group. I was interested in going to this group because many of our deaf friends had families at the same time. We all participated in the group's activities and our children grew up together. It was rather nice and easy going!

When I was about 50 years old, I decided that I was not happy continuing with my job as a printer. The industry had changed due to technology.

After a few years doing different work, Fr Peter Woodward approached me and asked me whether I would like to work as a pastoral worker? I started working part time and then after a year went to full time.

After a number of years, I was approached by the Archdiocese of Sydney about becoming the director of the Ephpheta Centre. This was a big step for me.



**Nola:** In about 2005 I started work at the Ephpheta I worked with Sr Mary Silk,

Shirley Carroll and some other people. We did lots of food preparation for hearing impaired people. We served tea for morning tea after Mass. We helped take some of the community home after Mass services. We did lots of pastoral visits.





## What are your favourite things about the Ephpheta Centre?

**Stephen:** I always loved being involved in accessible Mass services - understanding the services, homily and presentations. I also love getting involved in the community. The community spirit was very strong. We had many activities such as fancy dress comps, BBQs, fund raising events, and so on. Ephpheta taught me a lot and the Deaf

community taught me a lot as well. I really loved to be part of the deaf community.

**Nola:** My most favourite thing about Ephpheta is going to the Mass. Being able to understand what is going on during the Mass service. Signed services are great.

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

**Stephen:** I have seen BIG changes happen at Ephpheta. We were able to have more accessible Mass services. We always have tried to make Ephpheta the place where people are made welcome. Other deaf organisations look up to Ephpheta. At that time, we didn't have many interpreters involved. Nowadays we have many more interpreted events. How much we have gone through! This year is Ephpheta's 40th year of operation. I hope we will maintain this good work for the next 40 years!

**Nola:** When I think about my old days compared to today and future at Ephpheta. I think Ephpheta is still going well. It is important we have more new people join up.

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

**Stephen:** I would love to see Ephpheta to keep running with an expanded team. Ephpheta should keep on providing improved services to the deaf community. I hope to see more deacons and priests who can use Auslan competently to provide Mass services for the deaf community.

**Nola:** I hope to see Ephpheta Centre still grow and the use of technology to help us understand our Catholic faith. Love is important. Maintaining spiritual connection is very important.





It is our pleasure to introduce **Margaret and Brian Johnston.**

Both have played important roles in the life of the Ephpheta Centre and have made great contributions to the Catholic Deaf Community over many years. Brian has been involved on many deaf committees and organisations in a variety of capacities. We are also grateful for Brian for his long- running contributions to the Deaf history page in our Ephpheta newsletter. Margaret has been involved in many deaf organisations and committees over many many years. They are both valued members of our Ephpheta community and wonderful people. We thank them for their years of service and support.



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

**Brian:** In 1979 I went to a special conference in Canberra called “Deaf People in the Church”. This was organised by a priest in Melbourne with his Catholic deaf group. This conference followed a conference in Sydney in 1977 which focused on deaf Catholics had in the Church. So after the Canberra conference, Ephpheta was set up in Sydney in 1979. This was a big breakthrough when people were working full-time to support deaf Catholic people. Ephpheta started with a small team. I was involved for many years with CADHIPA (Catholic Association for Deaf and Hearing Impaired People of Australia). I was on the first Sydney CADHIPA committee. I was also involved in both the Sydney and Parramatta Catholic Deaf Associations.

**Margaret:** I first heard about Ephpheta Centre when my then boyfriend (who later became my husband), Brian, took me to Ephpheta Sunday Mass at St Francis of Assisi's Catholic Church, Paddington in 1985. That day was the first time I had ever seen Mass signed and finally had a better understanding of the service even though I was not Catholic.

### **What was the first time that you came to the Ephpheta Centre?**

**Margaret:** After the Ephpheta Sunday Mass in 1985 Brian and I attended the Ephpheta Sunday luncheon that was being held in the Centre. It was the start of many lifetime friendships with the Catholic Deaf Community members.



## What role has the Ephpheta Centre had in your life?

**Margaret:** After my marriage to Brian in 1986 I continued to attend Mass run by the Ephpheta Centre. Due to our family's involvement with the Church I decided to become Catholic. Fr Peter Fitzgerald received me in to the Catholic Church with the Catholic Deaf Community at Lewisham Chapel during the Easter Vigil in 1989. I have been involved with Ephpheta Centre for many years as a Choir Member (later Choir Leader), Pastoral Council Member and currently as a Pastoral Care Volunteer

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



**Margaret:** Ephpheta Centre organised for Catholic Deaf Community members to be part of the many 200,000 people to attend the Open Air Mass at Sydney's Randwick Racecourse during Pope John Paul II's visit in 1986 and it was a lovely atmosphere to be there. As our children grew we enjoyed the Family Weekends

held at Mulgoa run by the Ephpheta Centre and the Catholic Deaf Trust which enabled the families to come together and have fun. I also attended the Deaf Encounter Christ weekend which was very spiritually uplifting.

## What are your favourite things about the Ephpheta Centre?

**Margaret:** The love of pastoral care volunteering under Ephpheta Centre has enriched my life which has led me to a new path and new challenges. Due to family and work commitments, I have yet to enjoy any pilgrimages organised by Ephpheta Centre (Brian has been to many) and I hope I get the chance one day.





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



**Margaret:** Ephpheta Centre has made Mass easier for us to understand by having Auslan interpreters in attendance. The involvement from hearing staff to Deaf/Hearing Impaired staff has been an impact and Ephpheta Centre is relying on volunteers to continue their work.

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

**Brian:** My hope for the future of the Ephpheta Centre is that deaf people will continue to be involved and will continue to be supported by the Ephpheta Centre. That deaf people are more involved in the Church and the community, that Ephpheta will continue to be a comfortable and helpful place for deaf people and their friends. I hope that more chaplains and priests will learn sign language.



**Margaret:** That Ephpheta Centre will still be around for the next generation (who knows what the future holds).



**ARE YOU INTERESTED?**

## **Israel Pilgrimage TO BE CONFIRMED**



### **Deaf Catholic Ephpheta Holy Land Pilgrimage 2020**

The Ephpheta Centre is planning a special deaf pilgrimage to the Holy Land in late 2020. We are still organising the final details.

#### **DRAFT details**

**Dates:** August **OR** October 2020 (not yet confirmed)

**Number of nights:** 10-12 nights

**Estimated price:** around \$5,000

This will include airfares, accommodation, coaches, and some meals.

We will have Ephpheta staff, Auslan interpreters and a priest on our pilgrimage.

If you are interested in maybe joining us, please contact David or Donovan at the Ephpheta Centre before **16 September 2019**. We can then start to put arrangements together and give you more information. We will have a meeting later in the year with all people who are interested.

#### **Contact and more information:**

David Parker: 0408 669 672 (SMS only) or [david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)

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





# Our Ephpheta Sunday Celebrations

Every year in early August the Catholic Church throughout the world celebrates a special event known as Ephpheta Sunday. This is linked to the reading which happens through Mass of when Jesus meets the deaf man (the reading is set out in the Gospel of Mark) and He says to the deaf man “Ephpheta” (which means to “be open”). Every year on Ephpheta Sunday the Church celebrates the gifts which deaf people bring to the life of the Church. It celebrates the gift of language and the gift of community. Ephpheta Sunday has always been the “big day” in the Ephpheta Centre’s calendar since the Ephpheta Centre first opened its doors in Paddington in 1979.



And this year – what a **big day** we had!!!

On Sunday 4 August we started our Ephpheta Sunday celebrations by joining the congregation at St Patrick’s Cathedral at Parramatta. About 160 deaf people participated in the Mass which was brilliant. Bishop Vincent Long celebrated the Mass – he was joined by our chaplain Fr Michael Lanzon, Fr John Hill (former chaplain at JPC in Melbourne), Fr John Paul Escarlan (who helps with deaf chaplaincy in the Parramatta diocese and undertook his pastoral placement at Ephpheta), Fr Shinto Francis (assistant priest from St Bernadette’s at Castle Hill who undertook his pastoral placement at Ephpheta) and Fr Fernando Montano (parish priest of St Bernadette’s Castle Hill, former chaplain for the deaf in Hong Kong and long-time friend of the Ephpheta Centre). We were so lucky to have these priests who are good friends of Ephpheta and our deaf community celebrate Mass for and with us.

We were so proud to have Stephen Lawlor lead the reading and Edith and Ernie Gartner present the offertory to Bishop Vincent.

After Mass, we made our way to the Park Royal for an afternoon of fun and friendship. We all enjoyed a delicious 3 course lunch. There were some interesting presentations by Stephen Lawlor and Murreall O’Connor (and videoed greeting from Br Reg and Br Gerry) and all of the Ephpheta team were involved in the presentations. Everyone enjoyed the fantastic photo display put together by the Ephpheta team (special thanks to Pat for her amazing work!!) and all had fun in the photo booth! Thanks to the great team of interpreters who made the day accessible for everyone.

It was a really lovely day filled with the wonderful spirit of our deaf community. We enjoyed catching up with our old friends and also making new ones.



Congratulations to Anthony Hastings for winning the Ephpheta Appreciation Award (for more on this see page 16).

Thank you to everyone who joined us on this special day – a special thank you to all the people who helped both before and on the day! We could not have done it without you!









# Congratulations Anthony!

Our special thanks and congratulations to Anthony Hastings for receiving the Ephpheta Centre Appreciation Award for 2019.

Anthony has been an important part of the Ephpheta community for the last 40 years. Anthony is such a significant person in our community – he is warm, humble and gentle. Anthony is a man of deep faith and has a deep love for the deaf community. Anthony is one of our valued pastoral volunteers and has given to Ephpheta in many many ways over the last 40 years.

Congratulations Anthony – hope you had a great time in England watching the cricket! – and keep up the wonderful work. We are so lucky to have you as a part of our community.



*Our wonderful interpreters for the day!*







*CODA LOVE!*



*Our friends from JPC!*





# 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...



## 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, please let us know if you are coming. RSVP to Chrisso [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) or 0405 749 488 (SMS) before Monday 2 September.

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



## Deaf Men's Day Out - 19th September

Join us for a day out checking out the Motorlife Museum!

We will have a guided tour of the museum and see many different cars, motorcycles and bikes that we have on display. We will also learn about the technology that helped shape the face of Australia during the late 1800s. There will be so much to see.

After the tour we will have lunch nearby together at your own cost. BYO lunch and drink.

**When and Where:** Thursday 19th September. Meet at 10am for 10.30am start.

The Australian Motorlife Museum. Integral Energy Recreation Park - 94 Darkes Rd, Kembla Grange

**Cost:** \$15 plus lunch at your own cost.

**RSVP:** Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS or email [donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au) before Friday 13 September.

*This day out is near Wollongong. Donovan will discuss transport options when you RSVP.*





## Wine and Cheese Night - 27th September



International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated every year around the world on 23 September along with International Week of the Deaf.

23 September is the same date that the World Federation of the Deaf was established in 1951. This year's theme is "Sign Language Rights for All!"

Ephpheta has decided to host a wine and cheese night on **Friday 27th of September** (not 23 September) to celebrate this special day. Todd Wright, President of Deaf Australia will start the night. We will have well known Auslan presenters to talk about Deaf stories in Auslan. Keep an eye on Facebook for more announcements. It will be a fun night!

**When and Where:** Friday 27 September. 6pm - 9.30pm

The Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

**Cost:** Gold coin donation

**RSVP:** Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email

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



## Combined Men's & Women's Day Out - 24th October

Join us for a private tour of Bare Island Fort at La Perouse! In 1885 British colonists thought an invasion by Russia was about to happen. To ease their fears, they built Bare Island Fort to protect Botany Bay. Since then it has developed a very interesting history - it has been an object of military pride, a place of shocking secrets and even been used as a location for a famous movie!



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

**When and Where:** Thursday 24 October - meet at 10am for a 10:30am start

Kamay Botany Bay National Park - La Perouse area.

*Meeting Point: cross the wooden bridge and meet at the Bare Island gate.*

**Cost:** \$15 and lunch at your own cost

**RSVP:** Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email [donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au) before Friday 18 October. *Contact Donovan if you'd like a map.*

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

Join us for a day out in the city where we spoil ourselves with all the delights of High Tea! The Grounds of the City coffeehouse is decorated in 1920s style which will transport us back in time. Before high tea, we can meet and do a little bit of shopping together in the city. It will be a beautiful day.



**When and Where:** Thursday 21 November. Meet at 1.30pm for shopping! High Tea booked for 2.30pm.

The Ground of the City - 500 George Street, Sydney. Not far at all from Town Hall train station.

**Cost:** \$35. *Please talk to David or Liz if you need financial support for High Tea.*

**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](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) before Monday 4 November.

## Praying the Rosary - 6 October and 3 November

We pray the Rosary together **before** Punchbowl Mass on the 1st Sunday of each month. We pray 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.



There will be **NO ROSARY on Sunday 1 September** because of Father's Day. There will still be Mass at 11am.

**When:** Sunday 6 October and Sunday 3 November at 10am.

**Where:** In the Chapel at the Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl.

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

## November Deaf Café - Special Event!

Our November Deaf Café on Friday 8 November will be a special day!

We will have some old fashioned games and competitions and a special picnic lunch (if the weather is fine).

Please join us for Deaf Café at the Ephpheta Centre!

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

**When:** Friday 8 November.  
10am - 2pm



## Advent - 22nd November

Advent is the time when we prepare for Christmas, for the arrival of the baby Jesus. Come and join us with Fr Michael, who will lead this activity. Ephpheta will provide all materials to use.

Please **save the date** for this activity. More details to come in the next newsletter!

**When:** Friday 22 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](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au).







# NOTICEBOARD



## Deaf Cafe

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people!



Deaf Café is for anybody, no need to book, just turn up. We will have the coffee hot and the cake and biscuits waiting!

You can meet and chat with new people or catch up with old friends over a cuppa.

Tea & coffee available all day! Gold coin donation. Bring your own lunch or you can buy your lunch for \$3. The next dates are:

**13th September, 11th October,  
8th November** (see page 20 our exciting event!),  
**13th December**

(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](mailto: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:

**25th October**

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

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

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

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

See you there! 😊



## 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:

**20th September, 15th November**

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

See you there! 😊



# Out and About in the Deaf Community

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

On the 14th of June we transformed our Deaf Café into our third fundraising morning tea for the Cancer Council! Thank you to everyone who came along and donated so generously. The Cancer Council is the nation's leading cancer charity, uniting the community, creating hope, providing support and saving lives.

We all had a lovely day, enjoying a beautiful morning tea and managed to raise over \$500 which we have donated to the Cancer Council. The Cancer Council have said a big "thank you".



## Thank you

for supporting Australia's  
Biggest Morning Tea 2019.

We raised

**\$ 504.10**

Every dollar raised helps support those  
impacted by cancer, so thank you.

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



With thanks to our wonderful 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!

Those who came to our Ephpheta Sunday celebrations would have seen our beautiful flower table centre pieces. They were made with love by our wonderful craft ladies!

Our craft group worked together as a team for many weeks to prepare our floral arrangements - it was a challenging job but they made every single flower look perfect. There were many different coloured flowers and every single arrangement had little details on them. They added a lovely touch to the tables in our room and definitely brightened up the room!



From all the Ephpheta team - a big THANK YOU to our wonderful craft group. You all worked so hard on preparing the flowers. It was great to have community involvement for our very special celebrations.

**Please note that craft group will be closed  
on Wednesday 13 October.**





## Happy 90th Jeanette!

Jeanette Bartle celebrated her 90th birthday with a beautiful party at Menai Catholic Club on the 17th of August. Her son Paul and wife Anna had organised the party and the decorations were beautifully done by Anna.

Jeanette was surrounded by friends and family on the day and really enjoyed herself.



She said she was worn out after her special party! So much chatting with so many people.

Congratulations Jeanette!

Happy 90th birthday from all of Ephpheta!



## Deaf Youth Sydney

On Thursday the 18th of July, we had a wonderful youth event during the school holidays. We saw Toy Story 4 with Open Captions at Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. A very cute movie. It was a lovely day spent with our youth! No one wanted to go home so after the movie and lunch we enjoyed the lovely Winterlight in Parramatta Park. It was wonderful to see many new friendships made and fun had.

We are looking forward to our next youth event - keep a look out on Facebook for more details.



## Great Grand Gartners!

Edith and Ernie Gartner are proud to share the news of their third great grandchild!

Cooper Phillip Moon was born on the 10th of May 2019. Edith and Ernie have two more great grandchildren. Alessia Josephine Mary Camilleri was born on 14th of May 2018. Tyler Joseph Moon was born on the 1st of June 2018.

Congratulations to the whole family on the safe arrival of your beautiful great grandchildren and growing family.

May God continue to bless you all. What lucky children to have you both in their lives!



## Deaf Men's Day Out

On the 27th of June we had a great men's day out. We started the day with a train trip from Central to Lithgow (the area was home to the Wiradjuri Aboriginal people). Lithgow was the birthplace of the Australian iron and steel industry.

We were expecting cold weather on the day. It was even snowing in the lead up to our day out! However, it was a lovely sunny day to go on a train trip. We went sightseeing through the beautiful Grose Valley.

Unfortunately there was no snow on the day and we also went past the old Lithgow Blast Furnace, the famous Zig Zag Railway, and the ten tunnels. We finished the day with a lovely lunch at Lithgow Pub.

Please see page 18 for our next planned event for Men's Day Out!



## Deaf Women's Day Out

On the 21st of August our group of deaf ladies got together for a something a little different! We gathered at the Ephpheta Centre where we had Jane from Life with Paint visit and set up a painting activity for us. We were excited to see that it was the same lady as last year - what a surprise!

Some of us had never painted before but were very surprised at how well they turned out. We all have different imaginations and creativity. This showed in all of our paintings.

After creating our painting, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch together. It was a lovely day. Well done all - we have some very talented painters in our community!

Please see page 19 for our next planned event for Women's Day Out!



## Combined Men and Women's Day Out

On the 31st of July a group of 20 deaf people had a wonderful private tour of the Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta with a lovely tour guide and two Auslan interpreters.

Elizabeth Farm was the place of wool pioneer John Macarthur (a British army officer) and his family from 1793. This house is the oldest standing European dwelling, but it was almost demolished in the 1970s!

Elizabeth Farm has been restored to its former glory and we saw many lovely replicas of furniture and carpets that were used in early 1800s. The colonial bungalow was beautiful and very wide! We also saw the surviving European olive trees planted in the early 1800s.

Afterwards, we had a most delicious lunch at Albion Pub in Parramatta! It was a wonderful day out. Thank you to those who joined us!

Details for next outings can be found on page 19. We look forward to organising more outings for our community. We welcome your ideas for what you'd like us to organise!







## Words of Remembrance for Mary Silk

*Many in our community will remember Sr Mary Silk who worked for many years with the Ephpheta Centre. All who met Sr Mary will remember her kindness, gentleness and sense of humour. Unfortunately, Sr Mary passed away on 21 May 2019. Some of the community travelled to Wagga for her funeral. Here is an extract from one of the eulogies at her funeral:*

Sister Mary Silk was born in Boroowa and educated in Young. Mary entered the Presentation Sisters in 1948 and enjoyed 68 years living out her Religious Profession.

Living in community with Mary we experienced a dynamic, energetic woman of great faith. Mary's ability to reach out to people in need was a special characteristic of hers.

Following 30 years as teacher, Principal and Community Leader, suddenly Mary experienced loss of hearing. She turned the loss into a new ministry of involvement with the hard of hearing. She became a leading light in the *Better Hearing Association* in Sydney where she undertook to visit each Parish and request hearing loops be installed.

Mary criss-crossed Sydney to conduct lip-reading classes for the hard of hearing. Mary was always involved in her parish and loved to share her Faith. Mary was a marvelous communicator.

Mary the woman we honour today was loving, faith-filled, and prayerful with a zest for living. No doubt Mary has already checked with God as to whether we are in God's hearing loop.

VALE MARY

Prepared by Srs Carmel Clancy and Rosemary Terry



*Sr Mary Silk with our Ephpheta Community in 2010*

# History Corner

By Brian Johnston

## Sister Mary Columba Dwyer

Sister Mary Columba Dwyer was Superior of Waratah Deaf School (Rosary Convent) in Newcastle NSW from 1895 to 1924 under whose wise guidance the School flourished and became renowned throughout Australia. The beloved and revered Sister Mary Columba had a tremendous part in the education of the Deaf for 37 years since 1886.

Sister Mary Columba was born Kathleen Dwyer in Albury NSW in 1860, one of ten children of Irish born parents, William and Anastasia Dwyer. In 1881 she entered the Dominican Sisters at Maitland and became Sister Mary Columba. Her name 'Columba' was named after the great Celtic saint. In 1886 she was sent to Newcastle, and began her life's work with the Deaf. She became a great friend of Sister Mary Gabriel Hogan, Deaf nun there.



*Kathleen Dwyer in 1881*



*Sr Mary Columba Dwyer*

Sister Mary Columba had two brothers who became a Bishop - Vincent Dwyer of Maitland the first Australian-born Bishop in 1897 and Joseph Dwyer the first Bishop of Wagga Wagga in 1918. Three other brothers died very young.

Sister Mary Columba was appointed as Mother Superior of the Waratah Deaf School in 1895. She continued as Superior right up to the time of her death in 1924. It would have been considered an advantage to have Mother Mary Columba as superior during the time her own brother was the bishop of the diocese.

Agnes Lynch (ex-student) remembered that when Bishop Joseph Dwyer visited Waratah in 1939 he spoke to girls in sign language. It seems that Sister Mary Columba encouraged her family to become fluent in sign language.

Mother Mary Columba died at Waratah on 23 March 1924 at the age of 64 and was buried at Sandgate. She died just one year after the establishment of St Gabriel's School for Deaf boys – that for which she so long worked and prayed had been achieved. In 1926 a beautiful monument (group of Statuary depicting Jesus healing deaf man) was erected in Rosary Convent grounds in memory of Mother Mary Columba.



*Monument to Sr Mary Columba*

Sources: Books 'The History of Catholic Deaf Education in Australia 1875-1975', 'Pictorial Centenary Souvenir' both by Sister Mary Madeleine, O.P. and 'Open Minds Open Hearts' -Stories of the Australian Catholic Deaf Community (1999), and Ancestry.com – Dwyer family tree and photos.



# Mass Times

## SEPTEMBER

1st	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b> <i>Father's Day</i>	11.00am
7th	Saturday <b>NORTH GOSFORD</b>	6.00pm
8th	Sunday <b>ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL</b> <i>Mass with Archbishop Fisher See page 18 for more information</i>	10.30am
15th	Sunday <b>BLACKTOWN</b>	10.00am
22nd	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	11.00am

## OCTOBER

6th	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	11.00am
13th	Sunday <b>MANLY</b>	10.30am
20th	Sunday <b>BLACKTOWN</b>	10.00am
27th	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	11.00am

## NOVEMBER

3rd	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	11.00am
9th	Saturday <b>NORTH GOSFORD</b>	6.00pm
17th	Sunday <b>BLACKTOWN</b>	10.00am
24th	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	11.00am

## DECEMBER

1st	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b> <i>Community Christmas Party - save the date! More information in next newsletter</i>	11.00am
8th	Sunday <b>MANLY</b>	10.30am
15th	Sunday <b>BLACKTOWN</b>	10.00am
22nd	Sunday <b>PUNCHBOWL</b>	11.00am

## Church Addresses



**Chapel of St Francis de Sales**  
4 Turner St Punchbowl



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



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



**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

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**Friday Morning Mass - 13 September is  
CANCELLED.**

Fr Michael is away on holidays on this date.

### 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](mailto:Rebecca.Miller@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

### We pray...

For those who have died

**12 May** - Kathleen Baldwin (nee Clarke)  
(ex Waratah)

**15 June** - Sharron Wilson

**9 July** - Mark McCusker (ex St Gabriel)

**16 July** - David Cramp  
(son of Marilyn and John Cramp and brother of Rebecca Cramp)

**18 July** - Pat Johnson (Pam Spicer's mum)

**19 July** - Gai Ann McCredie  
(Andrew McCredie's mum)

**25 July** - Valerie Ball  
(Margaret Johnston's aunty)

**11 August** - Barry Cassera





4 Turner St, PUNCHBOWL NSW 2196

Phone: (02) 9708 1396

TTY: (02) 9708 6904

Fax: (02) 9709 5638

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

www: [www.ephpheta.org.au](http://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	<a href="mailto:brettb@ephpheta.org.au">brettb@ephpheta.org.au</a>
Chrisso	<a href="mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au">christiane@ephpheta.org.au</a>
David	<a href="mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au">david@ephpheta.org.au</a>
Donovan	<a href="mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au">donovan@ephpheta.org.au</a>
Liz	<a href="mailto:liz@ephpheta.org.au">liz@ephpheta.org.au</a>
Nicole	<a href="mailto:nicole@ephpheta.org.au">nicole@ephpheta.org.au</a>
Pat	<a href="mailto:pat@ephpheta.org.au">pat@ephpheta.org.au</a>
Fr Michael	<a href="mailto:frmichael@ephpheta.org.au">frmichael@ephpheta.org.au</a>

#### EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS

Have you seen our website recently?

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

Please keep checking it!

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

[david@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)

[www.ephpheta.org.au](http://www.ephpheta.org.au)

Please send your news, stories,  
information and requests to Liz or David to  
be considered for the next newsletter!



#### What does "Ephpheta" mean?

The name Ephpheta of our Centre came from the  
bible - a story about Jesus meeting a deaf man,  
he says "*Ephpheta*" which means "Be open".

We are always open to you all!