

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2020!



Source: www.dailytelegraph.com.au

Over the break in the Christmas holidays, we all saw the dreadful tragedy of the bushfires. It has been a really hard time for so many of our brothers and sisters – who have lost lives and homes. So many of our native animals have died or been injured. It will take years to try to repair some of the damage which has been caused. So – as we all start 2020, let us continue to pray for and support those people whose lives have been so badly affected. We have seen pictures and stories that have broken our hearts.



Source: [10 daily.com.au](http://10daily.com.au)

But we have also seen pictures and stories that make us so proud – of our amazing RFS bushfighters and volunteers who have shown unbelievable courage and bravery. Of people who are helping those who have lost everything. Of people who are helping to heal the injured wildlife. We thank God for these people who are so brave and give so much to help others.

So as we start this new year – let us place our trust in God and give thanks for all the wonders which He has given us – for courage, bravery, friendship and community.



Source: www.9news.com.au



Source: www.theatlantic.com

Prayer for a New Year

Dear God, thank you for a new year. May we all want to start this year with a fresh start.

We know you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do.

Help us to put aside worry about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Amen.

(adapted from New Year's Prayer – Loyola Press)

A Message from Liz & Dave...

Liz's report

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2020. I hope that this year brings God's many blessings to you and the people in your life.

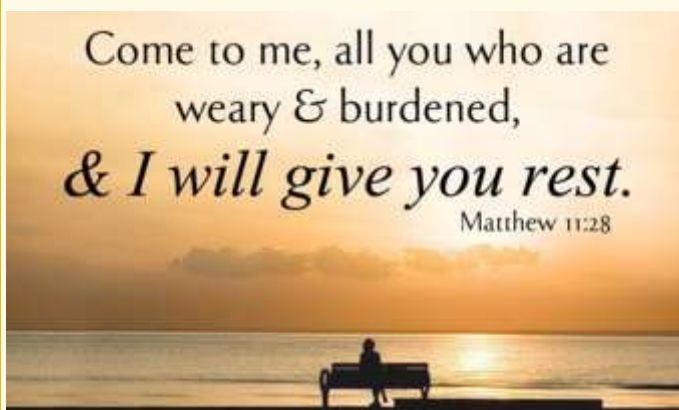
As we at Ephpheta are starting a new year at work and are busy planning and working for the community – I was thinking about how busy we all are. Busy with family, work, worries – the many responsibilities which we all have. And especially in this age of mobile phones and technology – and I am the world's worst when it comes to using my phone! – I was thinking about how we can find true rest and peace.

Our true rest and peace will always be with God. When we try to find things in this world which offer the promise of peace – a holiday, a cruise, the latest device – these do not live up to their promise. A holiday will always come to an end, a machine can only do so much and will break in time. But the love and peace which God offers to all of us will never end. The rest and peace of God can be found in the largest things but also in the smallest – in a smile, in a flower, in a prayer.

So as we head into a new year, try and find some time to spend with God. Even as we fall into bed exhausted at the end of the day, take a few moments and thank God for your day and the people in your life. When we spend some time with God, we will know true rest and peace.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead.

Until next time,
Liz



Source: www.samoaglobalnews.com

Dave's report

Hello! 2020 is here. I wish you fellow readers a very Happy New Year! May a 2020 be a journey of support, compassion and faith. People around Australia and the world have watched how dangerous bush fires were and that many acres of forests were destroyed. At least 20 people have been killed in the fires and many families were displaced (forced out) from burnt down homes.

Acts of community spirit and kindness have spread around Australia. Free food and free places to sleep for volunteers, volunteer fire fighters (RFS – Rural Fire



Source:
Sydney Morning Herald

Service) were provided. RFS were made up of female and male volunteers. Aborigines. Muslims. Sikhs. All types of people rallied to help with the fire-fighting efforts. Different people from different places in Australia provided wonderful support! They also helped save many animals such as wombats, kangaroos and koalas. A wonderful community spirit, we have in Australia!

A prayer of strength:

Lord, my Rock and Redeemer thank you that you are great and abundant in power, your strength is beyond measure. The Bible says that you are able to bless me abundantly, so that in all things at all times, you will supply everything I need, and I will abound in every good work. Give me strength I need today Lord, may I thrive in the power of your spirit. May your love be the passion in my heart. May your joy be my strength when times are hard. May your presence be my peace that overflows. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

We are getting ready for another busy year! We will have Bible Study Sessions/Saint Stories, Lent sessions, Community outings and Deaf Café events.

Once again please contact us to talk with us about stories, news, feedback and please drop in for a cuppa. Our doors are open. Be open.

Over and out,
David.



Fr Michael's Reflection...

Good people naturally respect holy places and things connected with Holiness. Eg. churches, Bibles, the Holy Land, etc. This is called "reverence".



God, our Creator, leads us to Him through our reverence for the holy. For example, at the burning bush, God said to Moses, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5)

Relics are things; like the Cross of Our Lord or the clothes of Mother Theresa. They can even be the body of a saint, or some part of it. Relics remind us of the Lord and the Saints. Relics are holy, because they are connected with the Holy.

In the early Church, Christians often visited the underground burial places in Rome. The Christians sometimes hid there during persecution or visited to pray. They prayed near the bodies of the saints and martyrs. They asked their heavenly family for help.



Miracles were given to people who reverently touched or prayed with the clothes or remains of the saints. Christians were confident that after their soul was raised to life with God in heaven, no one on earth could stop the resurrection of their body on the last day. So, with reverence, the bones of the saints were often separated and shared with different communities for use in prayer. Relics are very often placed in altars of Churches.

There has always been a risk people will think about relics wrongly, or try to make money from them. Relics are not magic items, and they should never be sold. They are holy, because God is holy and honoured in His Son, Jesus, and all the saints. Our prayer with relics is directed to God and His saints, not the relic itself.

There are many superstitions around relics. A Christian should use relics in a way that honours

- the saints,
- themselves, and
- God their creator.

It is good to have relics. We honour the saints and ask their help. We pray with faith and reverence for the holiness and goodness of God.

God bless,
Father Michael.



Continuing our series of community interviews in 2019, we are very proud to introduce **Mary Profilio**.

Mary has been a member of our Ephpheta community for many many years. She is a member of our pastoral volunteer team, craft group and always helps as a reader at Mass. At our community events you are sure to find Mary helping out the Ephpheta team. And – as we all know, and as is shown from her sign name – her cake making is out of this world!! Thank you Mary for your kindness and gentle spirit – you are a generous friend to all in our community!



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

I remember going to Catholic Deaf Mass at Strathfield when I was growing up – Fr Ryan encouraged all deaf people to go to Mass. This was before the Ephpheta Centre was first set up. Fr Ryan was a good signer – he was chaplain for the deaf students at St Gabriels. He would organise Mass and wonderful events for the Catholic deaf. It was very sad when he passed away – he was only 44 years old when he died. After this Fr John McKinnon took over for a while. I remember that Mass at Strathfield stopped and then was moved to Stanmore. I took the family there a few times.

Not long after that, the Centre at Paddington was set up by Sr Ann and Sr Helen. Anthony Hastings' mum Alice and Mary Caruana worked at Paddington – they were wonderful. I remember going to the Ephpheta Centre at Paddington with my husband Bob and our children.



What role has the Ephpheta Centre had in your life?

I remember my husband Bob loved coming to Ephpheta – he loved being involved and volunteering with anything which needed to be done. He loved coming to Bible study. Both of us loved to help with any volunteering – helping with food, volunteering. I am still a volunteer with Ephpheta.



Ephpheta is really my second home. Whatever Ephpheta or the community needs, I am happy to help.

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

I love going to Mass with interpreters which means I can understand. If I can't get to the Ephpheta deaf Mass I will go to my hearing church but it is not the same. I love Deaf Mass on Sundays and Friday. I love going to Lenten groups – it is important to prepare for Easter. I love going to deaf café. I love helping with volunteering. I enjoy the deaf craft group – I am very grateful to Shirley Carroll for setting that up. I am very happy to be involved with craft group and it is going very well. I thank Ephpheta for our trip to Ireland for the conference and for the pilgrimage to Rome - it was a fantastic experience.



What are your favourite things about the Ephpheta Centre?

So many things – I love all that Ephpheta does for us. I love everything – it is all wonderful, I love going to Mass and receiving Holy Communion. I have really enjoyed the retreats which Ephpheta has provided over the years.

I enjoyed meeting Fr Cyril Axelrod a few years ago. I remember his sermon when he talked about faith. He said that there is no measure of faith - it is something which we cannot



measure. No one has a bigger faith or a smaller faith, everyone has the same faith. We are all the same. That had a big impact on me and is something which I have thought about often over the years.

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

Ephpheta has changed a lot over the years – with deaf café, pilgrimages, more visits to deaf people.

Improvements to mass with interpreters – that has been very important. I don't know what I would have done without Ephpheta after my husband Bob passed away – there was so much support given to me and my family. Ephpheta offers excellent support to people after someone has passed away.

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

It would be nice to have deaf priest, but I know that is not possible at the moment. It is very important to have a priest who signs. It would be great to have a fulltime priest. I don't think that there is much that Ephpheta needs to do to improve things. I think that the Ephpheta team do a wonderful job and I wish them all the best for the future.



St Therese of Lisieux

There is great excitement in Sydney about the arrival of the relics (see relics article on page 3) of St Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin. The Martin family became well-known throughout the world, because of the writings of St Therese (1873-1897). Therese became a Carmelite nun and went to live in a convent at a very young age. People may never have known of her, except her superior (head Nun) ordered her to write her life story. The story she told was so inspirational that it changed the lives of people around the world. The story gave insight into a life of deep faith, into a holy Catholic family, and innocent and intelligent love of God.



Therese's story was mixed with great tragedy. The Martins lost three infants and a five-year-old child. Therese was also very sick as an infant, then as a child, but survived. When she was still very young, her mother died of breast cancer. Although her children did not know her long, Zélie helped them to grow in faith and love of God. Their father, Louis, had a remarkably strong faith too. He did his best to bring his daughters up well on his own. He supported them with his trade as a watchmaker and his wife's lace making business. Therese's story tells of the great love and affection Louis had for each of them. His five surviving daughters would all become nuns with his blessing.

Therese would enter the Carmelite convent at the age of 15. She even asked the Pope in person to let her enter at a younger age than was allowed! In her story she spoke of this adventure to Rome, and others, from her deeply spiritual perspective. She gives many insights into the faith as she describes her life. It is for these accessible, little lessons and her great popularity throughout the world that she came to be called a Doctor of the Church. She is known by many as "the Little flower" and "St Therese of the Child Jesus".

Therese would have further trials in life. She saw the decline of her father's health as his mind failed him. She suffered from tuberculosis and endured a dark night of the soul. She clung to hope in God, though her usual joyful sense of God was taken from her. Before she died, she promised the other nuns that she would spend her heaven doing good on earth. "I will let fall a shower of roses", she said.



At her death at the age of 24, a shower of roses was literally reported to have occurred, giving her friends great confidence that she had indeed found her place in the heavenly garden of the Lord. She would "spend her heaven doing good" as she had promised.

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...



CatholicCare Workshop - 11th March

Following the recent introduction of CatholicCare service to the community, we will have a follow up workshop at the Ephpheta Centre with CatholicCare staff to explain more about how they can support you!

Please see page 14 for more information.



St Therese - The Little Flower - 15th March

**National Pilgrimage of the Relics of St Therese and her parents
(St Louis and St Zelig Martin)**

Catholic Mission Australia has organised for an Australia-wide pilgrimage of the relics of St Therese (the Little Flower). Ephpheta has organised for the deaf community to participate in this important event. We will go out for morning tea after Mass (at your own cost).

What: Mass at St Therese Catholic Church Padstow

Where: St Therese Catholic Church - 11 Harvey Ave, Padstow

When: Sunday 15 March 2020. Mass starts at 9.30am.

The relics of St Therese arrive at 7am in the Church.

You are welcome to arrive early and spend some time in quiet prayer.

Please contact David (0408 669 672 SMS or email david@ephpheta.org.au) if you have any questions.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an integrated Mass

MASS AT ST PATRICK'S BLACKTOWN IS CANCELLED ON THIS DAY ONLY



Deaf Men's Day Out - 26th March

Join us for a guided tour of Darlinghurst Gaol.

The Gaol has a fascinating history dating back to 1822. It was the gaol that housed some of the most notorious criminals in Australia's history. During the First World War, the site was used as a military detention camp, and in

1922, the gaol was converted to a technical college. Some people believe this gaol is haunted!

We will have a tour of the many different areas the gaol has and learn about the incredible history it has.

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

When and Where: Thursday 26 March. Meet at 10am for a 10.30am start.

Darlinghurst Gaol. Corner of Forbes Street & Burton Street - Darlinghurst.

Meeting Point: National Art School (NAS) Café - Forbes Street entrance.

Cost: \$15 - tour. Lunch at your own cost.

RSVP: Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email donovan@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 20 March.



Holy Week Program - 5th - 12th April

This year, we have our Easter timetable and everyone is welcome!

We have listened to the community feedback and you will see some changes to our regular Mass locations.

Date	Time	Where		
Sunday 5th April	11am	Ephpheta Centre	Palm Sunday	Deaf Mass
Thursday 9th April	7pm	St Nicholas' Catholic Church	Holy Thursday	Integrated Mass
Friday 10th April	3pm	Ephpheta Centre	Good Friday	Passion Service

Please join us for hot cross buns and tea/coffee after our Service

NO MASS ON SATURDAY

Sunday 12th April 10.30am Our Lady of the Assumption Easter Sunday Deaf Mass
74 Underwood Road,

We will have morning tea together in the Church hall after Mass at Our Lady of The Assumption.

Please bring a plate of food to share with the community for morning tea after Mass.



Lenten Groups 2020

This year we will be having Lenten groups, which will be held in the weeks from Ash Wednesday to Easter. A Lent group is a great opportunity to read and reflect on the Gospels through Lent.

The Lent groups will happen at the Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl **after Friday morning Mass**. Please join our Lent groups on the following dates:

- Friday 28 February
- Friday 6 March
- Friday 20 March
- Friday 27 March

If you would like more information or to join a Lent Group please contact Brett Beath 0407 064 872 or email brettb@ephpheta.org.au.



Deaf Women's Day Out - 23rd April

Join us for a fun artistic mosaic tiling workshop. We will discover the art of mosaic tiling, will learn how to use different materials correctly and make something for everyone to take home.

Bunnings will provide all materials for us to use. It will be such a fun day! After the workshop we will have lunch nearby together at your own cost. BYO lunch welcome.

When and Where: Thursday 23 April. Workshop starts at 10.30am.

Bunnings Greenacre - Corner of Roberts Road and Amarina Avenue, Greenacre.

Cost: Free. Lunch at your own cost.

Transport: If you need support with transport, please let us know. Aim to arrive at Ephpheta Centre before 9.30am and our team can drive you to Bunnings. We can drop you to Punchbowl train station after lunch. Otherwise please make your own way to Bunnings.

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 17 April.



Combined Men's & Women's Day Out - 28th May

Join us for a day checking out Sydney's new Zoo! It opened in December 2019 and has a many different and popular animals for us to see. We are in the process of trying to organise some interpreted animal shows and hopefully a tour - keep an eye out for more details!

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

When and Where: Thursday 28 May - meet at 10am.

Sydney Zoo - 700 Great Western Highway, Bungaribee.

Cost: \$30. Lunch at your own cost.

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 22 May.



Mass at Mortlake - 31st May

On Sunday 31 May 2020 we will join with the congregation at St Patrick's at Mortlake (near Concord) for morning Mass.

Last year David and Liz visited this church and spoke about the work of the Ephpheta Centre. They received a very warm welcome and we are looking forward to joining with the congregation and Fr Tom again.

Please join us for Mass followed by morning tea. Ephpheta staff and Auslan interpreters will be there.

When: Sunday 31 May 2020 - 9am

Where: St Patrick's Catholic Church - 33 Gale Street, Mortlake

Please contact David (0408 669 672 SMS or email david@ephpheta.org.au) if you have any questions.



Ephpheta Lenten Appeal

In the 40 days of Lent, we are called to do 3 things.
These are:

- to fast (to give up food or to give up something);
- to pray;
- to do good works for the poor ("almsgiving").

It is a time of sacrifice and service. This year, we are doing something special as a community to support people who do not have enough food.

Ephpheta Food Collection

Between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday we will have a collection box outside the chapel. Please bring in an item of food **from the list below**. Each week when you are doing your food shopping, you could buy an extra item for a person who does not have enough food. As you put it in the box at Ephpheta, pray for the person who will receive the food.

After Easter we will take your donations to the food bank operated by the House of Welcome in Granville. This is operated by St Francis Social Services. It offers support, welcome and shelter to asylum seekers and refugees. Many of the people the House of Welcome supports do not have enough food for themselves and their families. The House of Welcome offers a Food Bank where people who do not have any money can come and get basic food items for their families.

What to donate:

Non -perishable food (ie long lasting out of the fridge) such as:

Cooking oil	Canned fish	Instant noodles
Long life milk	Rice	Salt, pepper and cooking spices
Sugar	Canned vegetables and fruit	Biscuits
Flour	Tea and coffee	Honey and jam

Please no soup, baked beans or tinned spaghetti

Non-food items such as:

Nappies (larger size)	Cleaning products	Soap
Toothpaste/toothbrushes	Toilet paper	Sanitary pads
Laundry detergent	Shampoo/conditioner	Deodorant

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL PRODUCTS ARE NEW AND NOT OUT OF DATE FOR FOOD DONATIONS



When: please leave your donations at the Ephpheta Centre any time between Ash Wednesday (26 February) and Good Friday (10 April).

Questions: please contact David or Liz or any Ephpheta staff

Thank you for your generosity and support for our brothers and sisters in need.



Deaf Bible Group and Lives of the Saints Group

This year we will be setting up a group to help you know more about our faith – about stories from the Bible and the lives of the Saints.



What and why?

The Bible is an amazing old book. Inspired by God, this collection of old texts has been studied for thousands of years. In each group, we will pick a story from the Bible, reflect on the meaning and talk about what we learn from that story.

We will also learn more about the lives of the Saints. We probably know that Saints are Holy people but what does that really mean? Holy people make God the most important focus of their life. The Saints listened to God and let God work through them. They tried to see people as God sees us and treat them as God treats us. The Saints love people especially the poor, the sick and people who no one else loves. In each session we will focus on one Saint, look at their lives and discuss what we can learn from that saint.

What if I don't know much about the Bible or the Saints?

Everyone is very welcome to come. You don't have to be Catholic or know a lot about the Saints or the Bible. You don't have to do any reading or bring anything with you to join in. Ephpheta staff including Fr Michael (with an interpreter) will lead the groups.

When is this happening?

See the timetable for 2020 below for the dates of the group talks (sessions) You are very welcome, we would love to see you. Don't worry if you can't make it to the group talk – we will make videos on our Ephpheta website soon.

You are welcome to:

- Join us for Mass at the Ephpheta Centre at 10.30am on each Friday.
- Join us for morning tea after Mass and before each session.
- Join us for lunch for the price of \$5 (or bring your own lunch) after each session

Sessions will run from 11.30am on the following Fridays at the Ephpheta Centre. They will go until about 1pm.

Friday 1 May (Bible group) 11.30am	Friday 5 June (Saints) 11.30am	Friday 3 July (Bible group) 11.30am
Friday 7 August (Saints) 11.30am	Friday 4 September (Bible group) 11.30am	Friday 2 October (Saints) 11.30am

Any questions please contact David (0408 669 672 SMS or email david@ephpheta.org.au) or Fr Michael (0466 319 290 or email frmichael@ephpheta.org.au).



NOTICEBOARD



Deaf Café

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 \$5. The next dates are:

13th March 2020,

10th April 2020,

NO DEAF CAFÉ ON GOOD FRIDAY

8th May 2020

(always on the 2nd Friday of the month)

Time: **10am to 2pm**

Where: 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.

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

For more information please contact:

Chrisso Quartararo

0405 749 488 (SMS)

Email: christiane@ephpheta.org.au

David Parker

0408 669 672 (SMS)

Email: david@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:

24th April 2020, 26th June 2020

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:

20th March 2020, 15th May 2020

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 Christmas Party

We had a wonderful Ephpheta Community Christmas Party on 1 December last year at St Jerome's School Hall. It was a beautiful morning Mass led by Fr Michael followed by a lovely lunch. There were lots of prizes and happy prize winners! We had so many lovely volunteers who worked tirelessly to support Ephpheta staff on the day – we are so grateful. Thank you to everyone who joined us on this wonderful day. It was filled with community spirit.



December Deaf Cafe – LOOKWHO CAME TO VISIT!

Friday 13th of December we had our Deaf Café Christmas Party! It was a wonderful Deaf Café event. We enjoyed Christmas cakes and sweets and had a special visit from Santa and his cheeky elf who delivered a little gift to the community – jars of jelly beans!

Did you know the year 2020 is the 10 year anniversary of Deaf Café?!

We will have a special celebration this year to celebrate 10 years of Deaf Café!



Christmas at the Ephpheta Centre

On Tuesday the 24th of December, we had a beautiful Christmas Eve Vigil Mass and over 75 people came. Thank you to those who brought lots of food for us all to share! On Wednesday the 25th of December morning we also had a lovely Christmas Mass followed by a viewing of a captioned video by Bishop Anthony Fisher. 25 people came and we had a cheerful morning tea afterwards. After Mass, many of us went home to be with our families for the day.

2019 was a very big year of celebrations for our Ephpheta community. Our Christmas events in December were a lovely way to end the year. Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us!



CatholicCare Home Care Services

What is Home Care?

Recognising that many seniors want to stay in their own home and be near the communities that they know about, the Australian Government have developed a program that brings care services into the home.

When you receive a Home Care Package, the Government subsidises the cost of your care and gives you flexibility to decide what services suit you and your lifestyle.



How can CatholicCare help?

With the support of the Ephpheta Centre, CatholicCare can provide Home Care services to improve the quality of life, independence and personal well-being of deaf and hard of hearing seniors. We will work in partnership with you to identify your needs and co-design the best way to deliver these services so you can live an active and independent life.

What types of services are provided?

The services that can be provided in a Home Care Package include, but are not limited to:

- Support services – such as help with laundry, cooking meals, transport for shopping, attending appointments or social activities, home maintenance and modifications related to your care needs
- Personal care – such as help with showering or bathing, dressing and mobility
- Nursing, allied health or other support services
- Case management

Applying for Government Funded In-Home Support

The process for applying for Home Care can be quite a tangled one and many seniors report that they find it very confusing. CatholicCare's Home Care Specialists are experts and can help to explain the process and establish your Home Care.

Make an appointment

An Ephpheta Centre team member can help you to arrange for a CatholicCare Home Care Specialist to come and visit you in your home, or you can contact CatholicCare directly via email - connect@catholiccare.org. Interpreter services are also available and can be arranged upon request.



13 18 19



connect@catholiccare.org



catholiccare.org



CatholicCare



be open
Ephpheta

Project supported by
the Ephpheta Centre

Support for Deaf Seniors - CatholicCare Workshop

We were proud to recently introduce the community to CatholicCare and the service they can provide to deaf and hard of hearing people aged over 65. We will have a workshop at the Ephpheta Centre with CatholicCare staff to explain more about how they can support you!

When: Wednesday 11 March from 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Where: Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

RSVP: David 0408 669 672 (SMS) or david@ephpheta.org.au before Monday 9 March to let us know you are coming.

Deaf Youth Sydney

On Saturday the 7th of December, we gathered at Raging Waters for our last (and very popular!) youth event of 2019 for Deaf Youth Sydney.

We had a day filled with sunshine and great friendships. All our youth spent the day swimming, relaxing in the sun, and enjoying the WILD thrilling rides. The water was perfect and a great way to start summer holidays for our deaf youth!

It was a wonderful day spent together and no one wanted to go home. We are looking forward to organising more exciting events for our youth in 2020.



Combined Men and Women's Day Out

On 20 February we had a lovely day out at Old Government House. Our group was split into 2 tour groups and we all learnt a lot about the history of the area and the first Government of NSW. We saw old equipment from the time - the displays were well set up in the upstairs museum which we were all able to look at and browse. After our tours we had a lovely lunch together in the restaurant.



Thank you to those who joined us! We look forward to organising more wonderful outings for our community in 2020.



WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!

Do you have any ideas for Men's/Women's/Combined Days Out?

What would you like us to try to organise?

At the Ephpheta Centre, we love to organise things the community is interested in. A tour of a place or a workshop. Let us know what you'd like to do. We would love to hear from you!

Please contact Chrisso or David with your ideas for our days out for 2020!

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

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

In Memory of Br Gerry McGrath (1927 – 2019)

On 23 December 2019 Br Gerry McGrath passed away aged 92 years.

Br Gerry was a long-time teacher at St Gabriel's School at Castle Hill. He started there in 1949 and became Principal in 1965. He continued at St Gabriel's until 1989. In 1990 he had a period of study overseas and then was back as Principal at St Gabriel's in 1991, working in adult education there from 1996.

One of the eulogies at Br Gerry's funeral said:

"Gerry once recalled that halfway during his final year of training, his group visited St. Gabriel's, then a boarding school for Deaf Boys at orchard-covered Castle Hill. The plight of young boys unable to communicate with the dignity of human speech, in some mysterious way captivated his



imagination. He went to the Provincial, Br. Romuald Young, and asked to be sent to Castle Hill (not the acceptable practice at the time!). He left there 42 years later, the last 25 years as Principal. During those years, he changed the school from a boarding school for boys to a co-educational day school. Daily integration at the pupils' local regular school began in 1974. In 1980 the teachers and pupils moved into a new school building on the same site. There was creativity and beauty in the 'new' St Gabriel's building which Gerry helped design. Gerry retired from St Gabriel's in 1989."

Br Gerry dedicated much of his life's work to improving access and education to deaf students – this included overseas studies in relation to Cued Speech and new ways of teaching to deaf students. Br Gerry travelled the world to make sure that the best practices in deaf education were used at St Gabriel's.

We thank Br Gerry for his many years of service to the deaf community and to the Christian Brothers. He will be deeply missed. Rest in peace Br Gerry.



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 \$5. More information? Contact the Ephpheta Centre!*



Our lovely craft ladies gathered together to celebrate the end of 2019 with a lovely Christmas celebration on the 11th of December at Bankstown RSL. We all had a wonderful afternoon, feasted on a delicious buffet lunch and enjoyed each others company. Everyone was given a lovingly made Christmas cake or pudding to take home as a gift.

Of course the craft ladies remembered a few December birthdays and there was even more cake to share! The craft ladies have begun meeting again for 2020. We look forward to seeing what amazing craft and what adventures they get up to this year!

Deaf Mother's Club of the West (DMCW)

During the year Deaf Mother's Club of the West (DMCW) organised many interesting events and new faces joined our group.



March 2019 saw sixteen ladies gather at May Gibbs' Nutcote, Neutral Bay for



an guided interpreted tour of the beautiful harbourside home of the Australia's famous children's author who wrote the book "The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie".

In May 2019 a group of six ladies and one brave man gathered at Central Station for an interesting in-depth informative history tour of many Deaf Sydney landmarks (including the site of Australia's first Deaf School at Darlinghurst) led by Australia's only Deaf

International History (DHI) Board member, Brian Johnston.

Throughout the year visits were organised to Historic Berrima in August, Elizabeth Bay House (guided interpreted tour) in September and a very informative solemn guided interpreted tour of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park in October 2019.



Apart from historical visits, thirteen ladies took the opportunity to enjoy travelling on the new Metro train from Chatswood to Tallawong and return in July 2019.

In November members travelled from afar (especially Central Coast and Wollongong) to gather together at the

newly renovated Harbord Diggers Club for Deaf Mother's Club of the West final 2019 gathering – it was a day of great friendship.

By Margaret Johnston



Below is Deaf Mother's Club of the West 2020 dates:

Tuesday, 25th February 2020 – Luncheon gathering at The Marsden Brewhouse, Corner Hawthorne Avenue and Richmond Road, Marsden Park

Sunday, 22nd March 2020 – Light rail day trip from Circular Quay to Randwick

April 2020 – No gathering due to school holidays

Sunday, 24th May 2020 – Walking the 5 kms route from Shelly Beach to Manly Beach

Sunday, 28th June 2020 – Outing to Sydney Bus Museum, Leichhardt

Sunday, 26th July 2020 – To be confirmed

Sunday, 23rd August 2020 – Outing to the new Sydney Zoo in Western Sydney

Sunday, 27th September 2020 – To be confirmed

Sunday, 25th October 2020 – To be confirmed

Sunday, 22nd November 2020 – Christmas luncheon on Shark Island

Please note that some events may change due to circumstances beyond our control. For the months with events marked 'To be confirmed' Deaf Mother's Club of the West is awaiting confirmation from the venues.

Deaf Mother's Club of the West has its own Facebook Page. You will need to like the page to be kept up to date with any new information/changes. Deaf Mother's Club of the West will post their monthly event one month before and if you wish attend please comment under the post so we know you are coming.



Westmead Orphanage

Waratah School for the Deaf in Newcastle NSW was especially established for deaf girls, but deaf boys were admitted, and the Dominican Sisters did all that was humanly possible for their spiritual welfare. The problem arose, however, when the boys reached their adolescence and were really too big to be taught by women. Many of the boys only started school when they were 11 or 12 so had to leave school long before their education was completed.

In the early 1900s some boys were sent from Waratah to Westmead Orphanage, near Parramatta to continue their education with the Marist Brothers. These Brothers gave generously of their best, but they were not trained to teaching the Deaf.



*The former St Vincent's Home for Boys
(Westmead Orphanage),
now Westmead precinct of Western Sydney
University*

Westmead Orphanage was the St Vincent's Home for homeless boys established at Westmead in 1896. In 1908 two deaf boys from Waratah (possibly Ernest Lydiard and Patrick Fulton) were admitted to the Home at Westmead. 'These two deaf mutes' were described as very bright and happy lads, learning a useful trade. Many hearing boys there learnt sign language.

When the transfer of the first two deaf boys was a success, more Waratah boys were sent down when they reached 14. Other deaf boys known to be going to Westmead in the early 1910s are: Arthur Power (1909), Charles Brooks (1910), Arthur O'Neil, Patrick Clarke and Wilfred Hanagan (1912). The St Vincent's Home Admission Register did not record any deaf boys admitted to the Home, however, Waratah Admission Register showed 'Went to Westmead' besides some boys' names.

In 1912 a new extension to the St Vincent's Home buildings to accommodate the Waratah boys was opened. The special purpose of the new building was for all boys training in particular trades, but especially to include deaf boys. The Marist Brothers taught deaf boys printing, bootmaking and carpentry. Westmead Orphanage was next door to old Parramatta Showground.

A special teacher from Darlington Deaf School was provided there but he did not remain long, leaving one Marist Brother to fill the role for a time. Eventually, in 1922 the venture closed when St Gabriel's School for Deaf Boys was opened at Castle Hill. About a total of 27 deaf boys went to Westmead Orphanage from Waratah from 1908 to 1922.

The old St Vincent's Home (Westmead Orphanage) buildings are still standing (just west of Westmead Station), having been recently restored, now the Westmead precinct of Western Sydney University.

Sources: Book 'Memories of St Gabriel's' (2000) by Brian Johnston, book 'A Simple Work' - Story of St Vincent's Boys Home, Westmead, St Vincent's Home Annual Reports and 'Freeman's Journal' newspaper of 21 November 1911.

Mass Times

MARCH

1st	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	
7th	Saturday	6.00pm
	NORTH GOSFORD	
15th	Sunday	9.30am
	PADSTOW Relics of St Therese	
	See page 7 for more information	
	Blacktown Mass is cancelled for this date only	
22nd	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	

APRIL

5th	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL Palm Sunday	
	See page 8 for more information	
9th	Thursday	7.00pm
	PENRITH Holy Thursday	
	See page 8 for more information	
10th	Friday	3.00pm
	PUNCHBOWL Good Friday	
	See page 8 for more information	
12th	Sunday	10.30am
	HOME BUSH Easter Sunday	
	See page 8 for more information	
19th	Sunday	10.00am
	BLACKTOWN	
26th	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	

MAY

3rd	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	
9th	Saturday	6.00pm
	NORTH GOSFORD	
17th	Sunday	10.00am
	BLACKTOWN	
24th	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	
31st	Sunday	9.00am
	MORTLAKE Integrated Mass	
	See page 9 for more information	

JUNE

7th	Sunday	11.00am
	PUNCHBOWL	
14th	Sunday	10.30am
	MANLY	



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

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

23 December 2019 - Br Gerry McGrath
(ex St Gabriel's)

7 January 2020 - Peter Heron
(Mark Heron's father)

12 January 2020 - Thelma Harris

17 January 2020 - Janice Thompson





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Join us on Facebook!

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

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



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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!