



## ST GABRIEL'S 100 YEAR CELEBRATION!

What a wonderful time we had on the weekend of 17 and 18 September celebrating 100 year of St Gabriel's School at Castle Hill.

Our weekend began with a tour of the school buildings as we shared stories of the old days at St Gabriel's and then enjoyed morning tea watch a slide show with many interesting photos of the school's deaf students over the years.



We then had a fantastic lunch at Ryde-Eastwood Football club - there was lots of chatting, sharing stories and a visit by Br Reg Shepherd.

On Sunday we celebrated Mass at St Patrick's at Parramatta led by Bishop Vincent, then afternoon tea and more chatting!

It was such a fabulous weekend - we hope you all had a wonderful time! Lots of photos in the newsletter for you to enjoy!!



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# A message from Liz & Dave!

## Liz's report

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2022. For many people, Christmas is a hard time of the year. All the world seems to be celebrating - the shops are full of presents and decorations, people talk about their plans for Christmas and the holidays.

But if you are missing someone you love, this time of the year can make you feel even more alone. Maybe a person you love has died or you are no longer with them. Christmas can make us feel even more isolated and alone.

Queen Elizabeth said - after 9/11 - that "grief is the price of love". What this means is that if we love someone, and they are no longer with us, the reason that we feel sad is because we loved that person. If we had not loved them so much, we would not feel so sad. We grieve because we loved.

So if this time of year makes you feel sad, that is ok. You feel sad because you loved someone, and that person is no longer here with you. We all grieve in different ways. The feeling of grief comes from giving and receiving love, and then no longer having the person that you love with you. If you are feeling these things, please be kind to yourself. Love yourself and be patient with yourself. Allow yourself to be with people who care about you and love you, and who you can trust.

Remember that our loving God is always with us and always with the person who you are missing.

I wish you all peace and love this Christmas.

Until next time, Liz



## Dave's report

Summer has finally arrived. We are looking forward to our holidays. We need time off to recharge. The year 2022 is almost over. We had many wonderful events and happy Deaf Café events around Sydney. What a big year it's been!

This year we have seen lots of rain, many people affected by COVID, wars, droughts. It goes on and on. When will it ever stop?



Through it all we have seen the resilience of human spirit! What is resilience? Resilience is similar to endurance, patience, and longsuffering, and it's a character quality that God grows in us through the process of making us holy. The bible has the example of Jesus as our model of perseverance and resilience.

Resilience is a gift from God. When we face overwhelming barriers, when we feel exhausted, we need God's help. God is able and willing to strengthen us for the work to which he has called us.

Stay tuned for many more photos of our Christmas Community lunch and other events.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from all of us at the Ephpheta Centre. All the best for the remainder of 2022 and see you in 2023. As always, we are open and please get in touch with us.

Feel free to have a cup of coffee with us. Just make an appointment and we will make time to see you.

Stay safe, David.





Fix  
a quarrel.  
Get in contact  
with an old friend.  
Get rid of suspicion  
and replace it with trust.  
Write a love letter. Share  
some treasure. Give a soft  
answer. Support youth. Show  
you are loyal in word and deed. Keep  
a promise. Forget a grudge. Forgive an  
enemy. Listen. Say sorry if you were wrong.  
Try to understand. Don't envy. Look at your  
demands on others. Think first of someone else.  
Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh  
a little more. Deserve confidence. Do not be self-satisfied.  
Do not hurt others. Express your gratitude. Go to church.  
Welcome a stranger. Make a child happy at heart. Take pleasure  
in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it  
again. Speak it still once again. Christmas is a celebration, and there is  
no celebration that is better than knowing the true meaning of Christmas.  
Then, only then, is it possible to grasp the importance of that first Christmas.

# Christmas Blessings to all!



Augustus Caesar ordered a census, so Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea.

It was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David.

Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (She was now pregnant.)



Mary gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full. (Luke 2:7)



When the baby was eight days old, he was circumcised, and he was named Jesus. This name was given by the angel before the baby began to grow inside Mary. (Luke 2:21)



Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem to fulfil the purity laws of Moses and to offer a sacrifice of two doves or two young pigeons for Mary's first-born.

The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. So he was there when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to do what the Jewish law said they must do. Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God." (Luke 2:22-27)

Simeon thanked God for sending Jesus to save us. Anna the prophetess was there too, and told everyone who was waiting for God to free Jerusalem about Jesus.



After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. (Matt 2:1-12)

An angel appeared to some shepherds and said, "Don't be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make everyone happy. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all praising God, saying, "Praise God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please him."

The shepherds "went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box. When they saw the baby, they told what the angels said about this child. Everyone was surprised when they heard what the shepherds told them. Mary continued to think about these things, trying to understand them. The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

(Luke 2:8-20)



After the wise men left, an angel from the Lord came to Joseph in a dream.

The angel said, "Get up! Take the child with his mother and escape to Egypt. Herod wants to kill the child and will soon start looking for him. Stay in Egypt until I tell you to come back."

So Joseph got ready and left for Egypt with the child and the mother. They left during the night.

Joseph stayed in Egypt until Herod died.

(Mat 2:13-15)

After Herod died, an angel from the Lord came to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the child with his mother and go to Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are now dead." So Joseph took the child and the mother and went to Israel... After being warned in a dream, he went away from Judea to the area of Galilee. He went to a town called Nazareth and lived there. (Matt 2:19-23)



Happy Christmas!

Love Fr Michael.



# Ephpheta Community Christmas Mass and Lunch

4th December

St Bernadette's Catholic Church, Lalor Park



We are so excited to be able to celebrate Christmas together again.

All are welcome to join us for Mass and/or lunch.

Tickets will also be on sale for a Christmas raffle.



**When:** Sunday 4 December

**Mass:** 10am at **Lalor Park**

**Where:** St. Bernadette's Catholic Church - 10 Gardenia Grove, Lalor Park.

**Lunch:** In the hall next to the Church after Mass

Mass starts at 10am. We will then go to lunch in the school hall after Mass.

**After Mass:** Lunch - \$15 each. Children under 12 years old - \$5 each

Please also bring money for our Christmas raffle.

**RSVP:** Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au)

**before 27th November** so we know how many for lunch and any dietary requirements.

**How to pay:**

1. Post us a cheque or money order to the  
Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner St, Punchbowl
2. Give cash to any Ephpheta staff
3. Pay online into our bank account

**Account Name:** Ephpheta Centre Cheque Account

**BSB:** 062 784

**Account Number:** 1000 01233

**Reference:** Christmas + your name

## Advent Activity - 27 November

This year we will learn about the **Jesse Tree** - the stories of Jesus' family tree. This is a lovely way of preparing for Christmas.

There is a new story each day, showing us how God prepared the world for Jesus to be born . It is a lovely Catholic tradition as we prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

The Ephpheta team will post a video on Facebook and the website each day through Advent as we prepare our digital Jesse tree.

We will start the day with Mass at 11am and then have morning tea. Fr Michael will then teach us about the Jesse tree and we will decorate Fr Michael's parish Christmas tree in the church and his Nativity set. We will also provide a light lunch. Everyone is welcome.

**When:** Sunday 27 November. Mass starts at 11am

**Where:** Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church Underwood Rd, Homebush

**RSVP:** David Parker or other Ephpheta staff before Friday 25 November.



## Christmas Mass Times

These are our plans for Christmas Mass. All are welcome to come and celebrate the joy of Christmas at Mass with us.

All Masses are at **Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church,**  
**74 Underwood Road, Homebush.**



<b>Saturday 24 December</b> (Christmas Eve Vigil)	5.30pm Deaf Mass	Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee in the Hall after Mass
<b>Sunday 25 December</b> (Christmas Day)	9am Integrated Mass	PLEASE NOTE AT 9AM NOT 11AM

Please do not come to Mass if you are unwell.

All of these Masses will be live-streamed so if you cannot come to Mass or do not feel safe coming to Mass, please watch the live-stream on Ephpheta Facebook

Any questions, please contact David Parker.



# Ephpheta closing and arrangements through January

The Ephpheta team will be taking a break as usual over the Christmas - New Year period. We have all been working very hard to support the community this year.

So please only contact us if it is a **genuine emergency during this time.**



**Ephpheta staff will be on leave from 5pm on Thursday 23 December until 9am on Monday 30 January.**

We are trying to provide interpreters for 11am Mass each Sunday through January at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church at Homebush. This information is still being confirmed as many interpreters are not available in January. We will try to let the community know through Facebook, our website and email if these Masses are able to be interpreted through January.

If you are interested, please contact Liz or David. There will be no live-streaming of Mass through January.

If you would like to go to Mass, please go to your local parish. You can watch "Mass for You at Home" with interpreters on Channel 10 at 6am each Sunday or on Aurora or 10play at any time.

**Emergency Contact numbers from 23 December until 29 January:**

**David:** 0408 669 672 (SMS only)

**Liz:** 0400 300 295 or [liz@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:liz@ephpheta.org.au)

**Fr Michael:** 0466 319 290

**PLEASE ONLY USE THESE NUMBERS IF IT IS AN GENUINE EMERGENCY**

## Combined Men's & Women's Day Out - 17th February

First Combined Day Out for 2023! Join us for a day out in the Central Coast visiting The Chocolate Factory in Gosford - the home of nougat, delicious marshmallows and fine chocolates!

We will have morning tea together and a guided tour of the factory where we will learn how they create all of the delicious nougat, marshmallows and chocolates!

After the tour we will do a little bit of cheeky chocolate shopping and have lunch together at your own cost.

We can all meet and catch the train together and spend the day together. It will be so much fun!

**When and Where: Friday 17 February.** We will meet at Central train station. We will give a detailed travel plan when you RSVP.

Chocolate Factory Gosford - 6 Jusfrute Drive, Gosford 2250.

**Cost:** \$18. Morning tea and tour. Please try and pay before the event. Bring money to buy lunch.

**RSVP:** Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) before Friday 10 February.



# LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

## Lent 2023 - Save the Dates

Ash Wednesday Mass	Wednesday, 22 February
Lent Prayer Group – OLA, Homebush	Sunday, 26 February
Stations of the Cross – St Mary's Cathedral	Friday, 3 March
Stations of the Cross – OLA, Homebush	Friday, 31 March
Lent Prayer Group – OLA, Homebush	Sunday, 2 April

More details to come in the next newsletter.

## Auslan Play Group (0-5 years)

Our new Auslan Play Group - a social group for mums, dads, carers and their children aged 0-5 is going very well.

It has been a wonderful year of getting to know the littlest members of our deaf community and watching them grow!

**When:** Saturday 10 December 10am - 1pm  
Tuesday 7 February 10am - 12pm  
Saturday 4 March 10am - 1pm

**Where:** Parish Hall, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Underwood Rd, Homebush  
(the parish hall is behind the Church)

**What?** A morning tea for mums, dads, carers and their children aged 0-5 years.

Ephpheta will supply morning tea for the mums and dads but PLEASE bring food and drink for your children. Parents are responsible for their children throughout this event and children CANNOT be left. If you or your child are sick, please stay home.

**Want more information?** Contact Pat at Ephpheta on 0414 412 852.



## Mini "Deaf Cafes"

Here is the list of our next round of mini Deaf Café's at different locations throughout Sydney - so we can all get together and meet in a safe way. Please bring money to buy your own food and drinks from the club.

<b>Thursday 24 November</b> Time 10am	<b>Western Suburbs Leagues Club</b> 10 Old Leumeah Road, Leumeah <b>(NOT Wenty Leagues Club at Wentworthville)</b>
<b>Thursday 8 December</b> Time 10am	<b>Canterbury Leagues Club</b> 26 Bridge Road, Belmore
<b>Friday 3 February</b> Time 10am	<b>Penrith RSL Club</b> 8 Tindale Street, Penrith
<b>Thursday 9 March</b> Time 10am	<b>Dee Why RSL</b> 932 Pittwater Road, Dee Why
<b>Thursday 6 April</b> Time 10.30am	<b>City Deaf Café</b> 95-99 York Street, Sydney

Numbers are limited.

Please **RSVP** to Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email

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

Ephpheta staff to let us know **WHICH** mini café you are coming to.

**Please do not come if you are sick.**

We look forward to seeing you!



# Auslan Prayer Group through Advent



Advent is a time where we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus and preparing for Jesus to come again.

During this time there will be an opportunity to pray together as a community as well as learning more about the saints that we celebrate during this beautiful season.

This is open to all deaf people.

## The Rosary in Auslan – Tuesdays at 2pm on Zoom (Starting Tuesday 29 November)

The Rosary is a very old series of prayers. We pray and reflect on the birth of Jesus, his life, his crucifixion, and his resurrection.

During Advent we will be praying the Joyful Mysteries, focusing on the birth of Jesus Christ.

## Advent Saint Stories on Zoom (Starting Friday 2 December)

During Advent we will be learning about the lives of the Saints that we celebrate during the season of Advent. Here is the list below:

Saint Story	When?	Time?
St Andrew	Fri 2 Dec	2:00pm
St Nicholas	Fri 9 Dec	2:00pm
St Juan Diego	Thurs 15 Dec	2:00pm
St Lucy	Thurs 22 Dec	2:00pm

If you would like to join please contact

Brett Beath 0407 064 872 or email [brettb@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:brettb@ephpheta.org.au)













# St Gabriel's SCHOOL





## Our Day Out in Bowral

On 28 September we had a wonderful day out to see the tulips in Corbett Gardens in Bowral. Over 30 deaf people enjoyed the spring sunshine as we looked at the beautiful flowers. Many caught the train together which was fun.



After looking at the tulips we had a lovely lunch together before looking at the shops and heading home. It was a perfect and fun filled day!

## Men's Day Out - Riverboat Postman

On 13 October over 20 deaf men of different ages went on a wonderful 3 hour boat cruise on the Riverboat Postman with morning tea and lunch. The boat captain gave a history of the Hawkesbury area. We learnt a lot about Aboriginal people who lived in this area for thousand of years. There were caves with their paintings. We learnt lots about this area!



We really enjoyed the views of the coastline and few islands from the boat. It was a wonderful day.

Many thanks to Dooleys Catholic Club at Lidcombe for sponsoring this event.

## Eileen O'Connor Pilgrimage - Coogee

On 15 November our deaf community spent the day in Coogee visiting the home and resting place of Eileen O'Connor. We learned of her interesting and great life she led, how strong and resilient she was even after all the pain she endured.



Eileen is still buried and resting in the Chapel within the Coogee house. Following the tour, we had Mass together led by Fr Michael and Fr Anthony Robbie.

We enjoyed a lovely lunch together at Coogee Beach afterwards. It was a peaceful and beautiful day spent together.

## Craft Group

Ephpheta Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at the hall behind Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church (74 Underwood Rd, Homebush).

We start at 10am and finish around 2pm. Please **bring your own lunch** - Ephpheta provides morning tea for a gold coin donation.

List of dates are in the calendar. If you would like a program contact Ephpheta.

Numbers and space is limited so **please** contact the Ephpheta team to let us know you would like to come.

To keep everyone safe, please **do not** come if you are feeling unwell.

See below for our Christmas Lunch! It will be a fantastic day!!



*A visit from the Mayor of Strathfield on 9 November!*



*Rebecca and Lynne's new handmade projects. Well done ladies!*



## Craft Christmas Lunch

Wednesday, 14 December 2022

11am - Coffee shop, Ground Floor

12pm Lunch - Level 1, The Lloyd's Bistro

All at DOOLEY'S Lidcombe Catholic Club

11-17 Church St, Lidcombe 2141

Buy your own coffee/tea and lunch

RSVP: Pat 0414 412 852 or Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS)

before 9 December

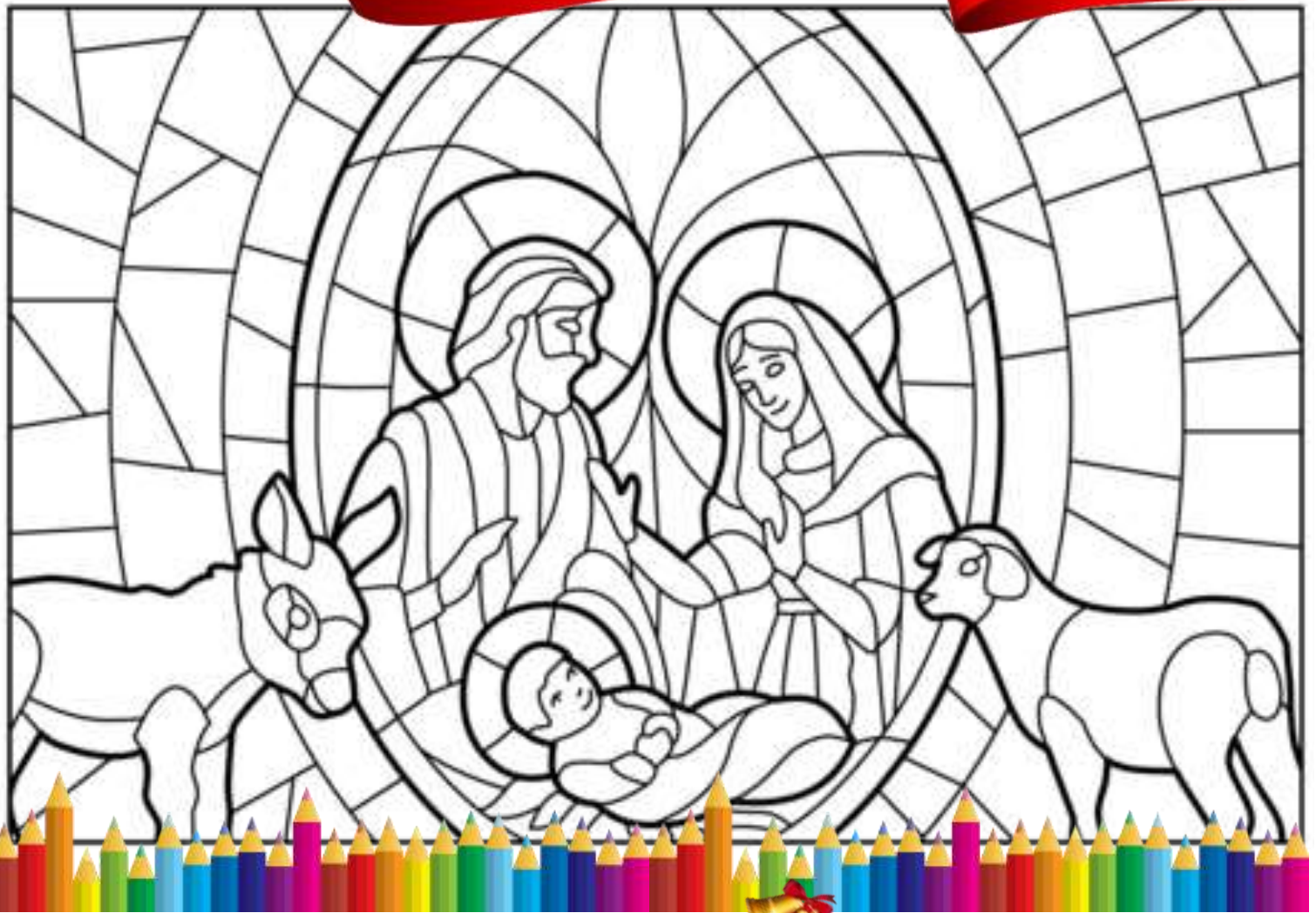
# CHRISTMAS GAMES

## Mary Visited Elizabeth

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on the bottom. Circle 15 things that are different.



# CHRISTMAS GAMES



F	J	Y	N	A	G	I	F	T	S	L	A
A	I	T	E	C	F	A	N	G	E	L	D
M	N	I	S	R	J	R	N	S	G	D	H
I	G	V	C	A	E	T	I	J	M	C	E
L	L	I	R	C	T	E	R	E	N	N	N
Y	E	T	O	K	L	A	Y	I	N	J	C
E	B	A	O	E	D	E	R	E	M	D	I
R	E	N	G	R	R	G	T	R	E	E	S
O	L	G	E	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P
R	L	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	I
I	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	E
R	M	A	N	G	E	R	M	E	R	R	Y
I	S	Y	U	C	L	J	O	L	L	Y	S
S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D	A



F I N D A

W O R D



CHRISTMAS  
CRACKERS  
TREE  
DECORATIONS  
FAMILY  
FRIENDS  
GIFTS  
MANGER  
NATIVITY

MERRY  
SANTA CLAUS  
JOLLY  
JINGLE BELLS  
SCROOGE  
PRESENTS  
GRINCH  
ANGEL

# Christmas Recipes!

A recipe for you to try and make this Christmas time!

**Martha's Cookbook**  
(Recipes from the  
**Deaf Community's Kitchen**)

## Rocky Road

By Margaret Johnston

### About this recipe...

This recipe was given to me by my mother-in-law (Molly).  
It is a very popular recipe – makes good Christmas gifts.



### Ingredients

- 1 packet (250g) marshmallows
- 1 packet (375g) milk chocolate melts
- 40g Copha
- ½ cup unsalted peanuts, slightly chopped
- ½ cup desiccated coconut

### Method

- Cut marshmallows in half with scissors and arrange on a tray.
- Melt the chocolate melts in microwave following directions on packet and melt copha in saucepan over hot plate.
- Add copha to the melted chocolate mixing well.
- Mix nuts and coconut together then add to the chocolate mixture.
- Pour over marshmallows making sure the mixture gets underneath them.
- Place in refrigerator until set.
- Cut into squares.



# Christmas Recipes!

A recipe for you to try and make this Christmas time!

**Martha's Cookbook**  
(Recipes from the  
**Deaf Community's Kitchen**)



## White Christmas

By Mary Profilio



### About this recipe...

A popular recipe at Christmas time. This is a traditional recipe but you can make it in many ways - try rolling it in small balls and serving in tiny paper muffin cases or drip melted chocolate over the top and serve any time of the year!

### Ingredients

- 2 cups rice bubbles
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 1 cup mixed fruit
- 1 cup powdered milk
- 1 cup icing sugar (soft)
- 250g Copha
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence

### Method

- Place all dry ingredients in bowl.
- Melt copha over gentle heat and add vanilla.
- Pour over dry ingredients and mix well.
- Line a lamington tin with greased greaseproof paper.
- Press mixture into tin with fork.
- Refrigerate until set then cut into squares.



# Lives of the Saints – St Francis de Sales

**Born:** 1567 in Genevea, Switzerland

**Died:** 1622

**How old:** 55

**When become a saint:** 1665

**Feast Day:** 24<sup>th</sup> January

**Patron saint of:** Deaf people, writers and journalists



Francis came from a rich family. He was the eldest of 12 children and His father sent him to the best schools. His parents wanted him to become a lawyer and enter politics.

When he was 20 years old Francis decided to become a priest, but his family wanted to him to marry a girl that they picked for him. But because of his great love for God, Francis followed God's will. He believed that it was more important to serve God than to have money or power.

Francis was a kind and understanding priest. He spoke very well. He taught the faith to children, helped men become priests and wrote books and letters. He was friends with two other saints, St

Vincent de Paul and St Jane Francis de Chantal. He helped found a religious order for women, the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary.



## **Why is St Francis the patron saint of deaf people?**

Francis used sign language to teach catholic faith to deaf people.

Francis met a deaf boy named Martin. Francis used sign language to communicate with the deaf boy. Francis taught catholic faith and prepared Martin for his first holy communion. With Francis' help, Martin knew the mysteries of the faith and how to live the Christian way. Through sign language Martin could explain good or evil thoughts as well as the different sins, mortal and venial sin.

Martin also went to Francis for confession. He would confess through sign, telling Francis what he had done wrong. When confessing Martin cried because he was truly sorry. Francis signed back to him and told him to lead a holy life and to have confidence in God.

Martin had a great love and respect for the Eucharist. Martin had a strong friendship with Francis. When Francis died, Martin was filled with grief because of the loss of the man who taught him so much.

### **Prayer based on "Be at Peace"** **by St Francis de Sales**

Do not fear changes in life; rather, have hope that as they arise, God, will lead you safely; and when life becomes too hard, God will be with you, and he will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same loving Father will care for you now and forever. He will either protect you from suffering or will give you strength to accept it. Be at peace and put aside all worries.





## Did you know... facts about Christmas!

- Santa Claus did not always dress up in **red** clothes.
- Santa Claus normally wore clothes that were in **green**, **purple**, or **blue**.  
For many years, this was the common theme for the jolly old man at the North Pole.  
However, **Coca Cola** decided to dress him up in colours that matched their brand, and that stuck. So this is why he is always in red clothes now!
- Christmas crackers were invented to encourage children (and their parents) to buy more sweets.  
London sweet maker Tom Smith created the first Christmas crackers in 1847.
- Nearly 60 million Christmas Trees are grown each year in Europe.  
Christmas trees usually grow for about 15 years before they're sold.
- Christmas trees were first decorated with foods such as apples, nuts and dates.
- 32.56 metres – The length of the longest ever Christmas Stocking. It was also 14.97 metres wide.
- Japanese people traditionally eat at KFC for Christmas dinner, thanks to a successful marketing campaign 40 years ago.  
KFC is so popular that customers must place their Christmas orders 2 months in advance.



# History Corner

## Deaf History International Conference – Slovenia and Croatia on 8-12 August 2022

By Brian Johnston

The 11<sup>th</sup> Deaf History International (DHI) Conference was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia and Zagreb, Croatia – the first time ever in DHI's history to have a twin city hosting one conference. This conference had been delayed by one year due to Covid.

Around 60 people attended the conference over four days and everyone enjoyed each conference talks. 22 countries attended, including Australia, USA, Canada, UK, Japan, Mongolia and many European countries including Ukraine.



*11th Deaf History International Conference  
in Slovenia*



*Brian Johnston with four Deaf people from  
Ukraine at DHI 2022 opening ceremony*

There were three people from Australia – Avni and Rebecca both from Melbourne and Brian Johnston. One of many conference sponsors was Australian Embassy in Zagreb and it was good to see their ambassador present as one of the welcome speakers in Zagreb.

Many wonderful conference talks were all relating to the theme of “Deaf People in the Shadow of the breaks and ruptures of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: 1917-2000” (Deaf People living under Communist rule). The talks were presented in person while some others through Zoom online showing on the big wall screen.

We had some special guests – a delegation of Deaf Ukrainians to present their talks on the Deaf History

within Ukraine. It was a special moment as we all felt for them in their war-torn country. Sadly, some deaf schools and one deaf museum were destroyed by the Russians this year.

The first two days conference was held in a beautiful city of Ljubljana and we then went on a day excursion around Slovenia before arriving in Croatia, a neighbouring country. It was Zagreb's turn to host the following two days conference. The attendees had another day out within Croatia, visiting many interesting places, thus ending a very enjoyable week in each other's company.

At the DHI General Assembly in between conference talks Brian Johnston (Australia) was re-elected as the Board Member for the next 3 years, along with President (USA), Secretary (USA) and other four board members (Belgium, UK, Canada and Germany).

The next DHI conference host will be Montpellier, France in July 2024. Also, the 2027 DHI conference host will be Chiba, Japan.

For further information refer to DHI website at <https://www.deafhistoryinternational.com/>

# 1st Sunday of Advent – 27 November

## Gospel Reading

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Jesus said to his disciples, “The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened before at the time of Noah. In those days before the flood, people ate and drank, men and women married.

They did not realise what would happen until the day Noah went into the boat. The flood came and all those people drowned.

It will be the same when the Son of Man comes. Two men will be working in the field. One man will be taken and the other will be left.

Two women will be grinding grain at the mill. One woman will be taken and the other will be left. So always be ready. You do not know when your master will come. If the owner of the house knew what time the thief would come, he would stay awake and make sure the thief could not break into the house.

You too must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at a time you do not know.”

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**



# 2nd Sunday of Advent - 4 December

## Gospel Reading

### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

John the Baptist came and began preaching in the desert of Judaea. John said, "Repent, change your hearts, because God's kingdom is coming soon." The prophet Isaiah had already written about John the Baptist. In the book of Isaiah, it says: 'Someone (John the Baptist) shouts in the desert: "Prepare the way for the Lord. Make his paths straight."' "

John's clothes were made from camel's hair. He had a leather belt round his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People went to hear John preach. They came from Jerusalem and all over Judaea. They confessed their sins and John baptised them in the river Jordan. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to the river to be baptised. But John saw them and he said, "You snakes! Who told you that you could escape from the punishment of God? you must show you have changed your lives and stopped sinning. You must not think you can protect yourselves by saying, 'Abraham is our father.' I tell you God could take these stones and, from them, make children for Abraham.

The axe is ready to cut down the trees. Any tree that does not give good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

I baptise you with water to show that you have repented. But someone will come soon that is more powerful than me. I am not good enough to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will separate the wheat from the straw and keep the good wheat. The rotten straw he will throw into a fire that will never go out."

### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



# 3rd Sunday of Advent - 11 December

## Gospel Reading

### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

John the Baptist was in prison. He heard about the things Christ was doing. So John sent his disciples to see Jesus. They went and asked Jesus: "John wants to know: are you the person that is coming, or should we wait for another person?"

Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you hear and see: blind people see again, crippled people walk, lepers are cleansed, deaf people hear, dead people are raised from death, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor. Anyone that believes in me will be happy."

When John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the people about John. "When you went into the desert, what did you expect to see? A blade of grass moving in the wind? No? What did you expect to see? A man in expensive clothes? No! People with expensive clothes live in palaces.

So what did you expect to see in the desert?

To see a prophet? Yes! I tell you, John is more than a prophet; in the scriptures (Bible), it is written about John: 'God said, I will send my messenger (person) in front of you. He will prepare the way for you.'

I tell you the truth: John the Baptist is greater than any person that has lived. But the least important person in God's kingdom is greater than John."

### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



# 4th Sunday of Advent - 18 December

## Gospel Reading

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

This is how the birth of Jesus happened.

The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, Mary found that she was pregnant. She had a baby in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to embarrass Mary or give her a bad name, so he made plans for a divorce quietly.

But the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to accept Mary as your wife. She has the baby in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus, because he will save people from their sins."

All this happened because God had made this promise through the prophet: 'A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son. He will be called Emmanuel, a name meaning 'God-is-with-us.'

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife Mary to his home.

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**



# Christmas Day - 25 December

## Gospel Reading



### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Caesar Augustus sent an order to all people living in the Roman Empire. This first census (registration) happened when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to go to their home towns to be registered. Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to Bethlehem, a town in Judaea, the birth place of King David. Joseph himself was a descendant of the family of David, and he went to register with Mary, because she was engaged to marry Joseph.

Mary was pregnant, and when they arrived in Bethlehem, the time was right for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to a son, Jesus. There was no room for them in the hotels, so Mary wrapped the baby with warm clothes and laid the baby in a manger (box) used for feeding cows.

Not far away, some shepherds lived in the fields, watching their sheep that night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them, the glory of God shone around them. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I come to tell you good news. The good news will give joy to all people. Today, in this town, Christ the Lord is born! Go, and you will find a baby wrapped in warm clothes and lying in a manger (box)."

Suddenly other angels appeared from heaven, and they all praised God and sang:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to all people."

### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



# Mary Mother of God - 1 January

## Gospel Reading

### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

The shepherds went quickly to Bethlehem. They found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger (box).

When the shepherds saw the baby, they told Mary and Joseph about the angels, and what the angels said about the baby.

Everybody was surprised about the things the shepherds said. Mary thought about these things, she remembered and kept them in her heart.

The shepherds went back to the fields. They praised God for everything they had heard and seen. It was the same as the angels told them.

On the eighth day, Mary and Joseph presented (offered) their baby to the Jewish priest in the Synagogue.

Mary and Joseph named him 'Jesus', because that was the name the angel gave before his conception.



### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

# The Epiphany of the Lord - 8 January

## Gospel Reading

### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the time when King Herod ruled. The wise men saw a star and came from the East. They asked, "Where is the baby born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the East and we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was very worried. All the people in Jerusalem were worried too. King Herod had a meeting with all the Jewish priests and scribes (writers). He asked, "Where will the baby be born?" They replied, "In Bethlehem because in the scriptures (Bible), the prophet wrote: 'A leader will come from Bethlehem and he will shepherd my people Israel'".

Then King Herod asked to see the wise men privately. He wanted to know the exact date when they first saw the star. Then he sent the wise men to Bethlehem, telling them, "Go, look carefully for the baby, and when you have found him, let me know so I can come to worship him."

The wise men went on their journey and again they saw the star. They were filled with joy. They followed it and the star stopped over the place where the baby was. They went into the place and they saw the baby with his Mother Mary, then they knelt down and worshipped him. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

But in a dream, they received a warning not to go back to king Herod; they went home a different way.

### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 15 January

### Gospel Reading

#### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him. John said to his friends, “Look, the lamb of God! He (Jesus) comes to take away the sin of the world.

This Jesus is the man I talked about.

Remember I said: ‘A man will come after me. He is more important than me because he lived before I was born.’

I did not know him myself. I came baptising with water so that the people of Israel would know that he is the Christ.”

Again John said, “I saw the Spirit, like a dove, coming down from heaven. The spirit came down onto Jesus. I did not know him myself.

But God said to me, ‘When the Spirit comes down on a man, that man is the one that will baptise with the Holy Spirit.’

Yes, I have seen this happen and I am the witness that he, Jesus, is the Chosen One of God.”

#### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 22 January

### Gospel Reading

#### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Jesus heard that John the Baptist was arrested and put in prison, and he (Jesus) went back to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to stay in Capernaum, a town near the Sea of Galilee. This happened to make true the things that the prophet Isaiah said a long time ago: 'In the land of Zebulun and Naphtali near the Sea of Galilee, beyond the River Jordan, the people that lived in darkness will see a great light. The light has come.'

Jesus now began to preach. He said, "Repent, change your hearts, because the kingdom of heaven is very near." Jesus was walking near the Sea of Galilee and he saw two brothers, Simon, named Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were fishermen and they were trying to catch fish with their nets. Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will show you how to catch people."

Straight away, Peter and Andrew dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus continued walking and he saw another two brothers named James and John, sons of Zebedee.

They were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. Straight away, James and John left their father in their boat and followed Jesus.

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News about the kingdom of God. And Jesus cured all sick (ill) people.



#### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

## 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 29 January

### Gospel Reading

#### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the hill and sat down. His disciples sat around him. Jesus began to teach the people: "The people that are poor in spirit, they will be happy, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

The people that are gentle, they will be happy, because they will receive everything from the Lord.

The people that mourn (cry), they will be happy, because God will comfort them. The people that want justice, they will be happy, because God will satisfy them.

The people that are merciful, they will be happy, because God will be merciful to them. The people that are pure in heart, they will be happy, because they will see God.

The people that make peace, they will be happy, because they will be called (named) children of God.

The people that want to do good things but suffer, they will be happy, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

If you suffer because other people persecute you, hurt you and criticise you because you follow me, you will be happy. Rejoice with me (Jesus), because I will give you a great reward in heaven."

#### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**



## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5 February

### Gospel Reading

#### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth.

But if the salt loses its taste, then it is finished as salt. It is good no more.

It must be thrown away and people trample (walk and crush) on it.

You are the light of the world. A city built on top of a hill is not hidden.

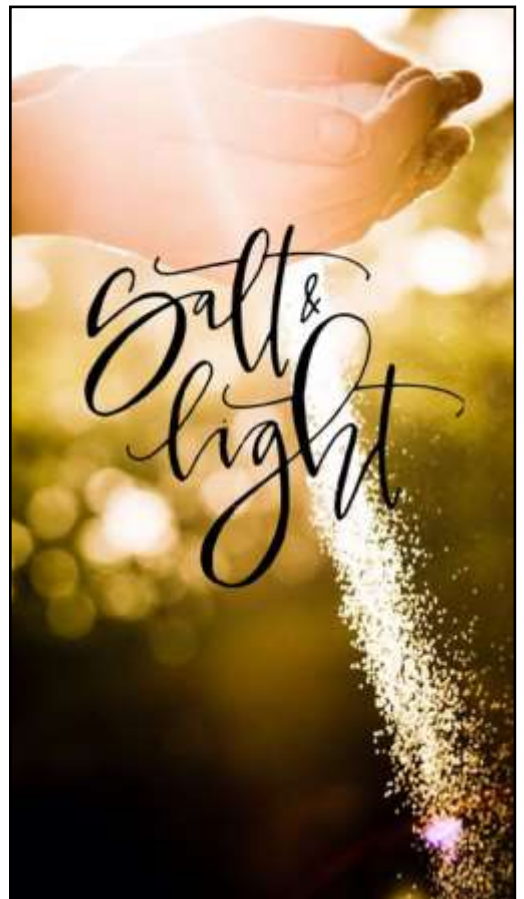
Everyone can see it. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl. No!

People put the lamp on a stand so that it gives light for everybody in the house.

In the same way, you should be a light for other people.

So other people will see your good works, and they will praise your Father in heaven."

#### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12 February

### Gospel Reading

#### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not think that I have come to destroy the law of Moses, or the teaching of the Prophets. I have come, not to destroy the law, but to make the law perfect. I tell you the truth \_ the law will not disappear until heaven and earth are gone.

Nothing in the law will be changed, until everything happens the way God wants. So if any person won't obey the commandments, and teaches other people to do the same, that person will not be accepted as important in the kingdom of heaven.

But if any person follows the commandments and teaches other people to do the same, that person will be accepted as very important in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, if your faith and the example of your life are no better than the Pharisees and the scribes (writers), you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



#### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

## 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19 February

### Gospel Reading

#### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to his disciples: "You know it was said in the past: 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I (Jesus) tell you, if someone hurts you, do not take revenge. If someone hits you on the right cheek, turn and let that person hit the left cheek also. If a person wants to sue you in court to take your shirt, let that person take your coat as well. If someone forces you to walk one mile, go two miles. When someone asks you for something, give!

When someone wants to borrow something, lend!

You know it was said in the past: 'Love your neighbours and hate your enemies.' But I (Jesus) tell you, love your enemies and pray for those that hurt you.

If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven. Your Father lets the sunshine on good and bad people. He gives rain to honest and dishonest people. If you love those that love you, why should God reward you?

Even the tax-collectors do the same. If you are friendly only with people you like, why think you are better than other people? Even the pagans (non-believers) do the same. So you must be perfect, the same as your Father in heaven is perfect."

#### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



# 1st Sunday of Lent - 26 February

## Gospel Reading

### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

The Spirit led Jesus into the desert and he was tempted by the devil. Jesus fasted (no food) for forty days and forty nights. After this, Jesus was very hungry. The devil came to tempt Jesus and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to change into bread." But Jesus answered: "The scriptures (Bible) say: People cannot live on bread alone. The word that comes from God keeps people alive."

Then the devil brought Jesus to the holy city and made him stand on top of the Temple. The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, jump.

The scriptures (Bible) say the angels will protect you with their hands, and you will not hit the rocks and hurt yourself." But Jesus said: "It also says in the scriptures (Bible) that you must not test the Lord your God."

Then the devil brought Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. The devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, and all their power.

The devil said to Jesus, "I will give you all this, if you kneel down and worship me."

But Jesus replied to the devil, "Go away, Satan (devil)! The scriptures (Bible) say:

'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

The devil left Jesus. The angels appeared and looked after Jesus.



### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



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**EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS**

Have you seen our website recently?

Our website is now being updated regularly so it is  
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Please keep checking it!

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

[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!