

What a wonderful few months!

What a wonderful time we have had with the Ephpheta deaf community since our last newsletter. Despite the cold and wet weather in Sydney over the last few months, we have had many fabulous events with our deaf community.

We were delighted to see Mary Profilio and Nola Lawlor honoured for their many years of loving support for the Ephpheta Deaf community by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, in each receiving the Dempsey Medal on Sunday 6 July.



We also had a wonderful community celebration for Ephpheta Sunday on 3 August - it was a fantastic day to celebrate the many gifts which the deaf community brings to the life of the church such as faith, love and the beautiful language Auslan. It was a great day full of love and laughter.

The Ephpheta team is also working very hard preparing for our deaf Catholic retreat at beautiful Grose Vale (near Richmond) in late October. This will be a truly wonderful accessible

weekend for all members of our deaf and hard of hearing community. The theme for our retreat will be "Hope" and we have some lovely things planned for the weekend. All are very welcome to join us.

Please enjoy this latest edition of our Ephpheta newsletter, we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Until next time,

The Ephpheta Team



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A message from Donovan

Halfway to Jubilee year of Hope. Catholic hope is the deep trust that God loves us and will keep His promises. It's not just wishing for something good to happen - it's a strong confidence that, with God, everything will be okay in the end. Even when life is hard, Catholics believe that God is always with us and working for our good.



Hope is one of the three “theological virtues” in the Catholic Church, along with faith and love. These are special gifts from God that help us grow closer to Him. Hope keeps us moving forward, especially when life feels dark or uncertain. It reminds us that heaven is real, that Jesus has opened the way for us, and that God's mercy is greater than our mistakes.

Catholic hope means believing that no matter how broken the world seems, God is still in control. It helps us face suffering, sickness, and even death with courage, because we trust that something better is waiting for us - eternal life with God. It's the belief that love and goodness will win in the end.

This kind of hope isn't passive. It's not about sitting back and doing nothing. Catholic hope inspires action. It pushes us to love others, forgive those who hurt us, and work for justice, because we believe God is guiding history and using us to help make the world better.

In short, Catholic hope is trusting God's promises, even when we can't see the full picture. It's holding on to the belief that, with God's help, we can overcome any trial. It gives us peace in the present and confidence for the future - not because life is always easy, but because God is always faithful. I always feel that Faith is like Wi-Fi. You can't see but it's connected.

We celebrated 2 long standing, humble people in our community receiving a special award. These 2 Dempsey Medal recipients are Mary Profilio and Nola Lawlor. The medal recognises outstanding contributions to parish life in the Sydney Diocese. They both deserved this award for contributing to the deaf community. Congratulations to both.

Recently we had our Ephpheta Sunday, where our deaf community gets together every year. It has happened every year in August since 1914. Our 111th Ephpheta Sunday. We also have another award recipient who has contributed in the Ephpheta community all these years. Congratulations to Nerida Beath.

Now we are looking forward to our deaf community retreat in October, and the theme for our retreat is HOPE.

Donovan

Fr Michael's Reflection

The New World of AI

Maybe you did not know, but I have always liked computers. I was introduced to my first computer when my grandfather gifted our family a second-hand, but very powerful, Amiga500. Well... it was powerful nearly 5 decades ago. I loved exploring what it could do, especially playing games. It even came with a manual explaining the basics of programming, which I used to try to fix broken games.



Computers have become more powerful over the years. They have brought much change, good and bad. It is a tool, an instrument, which people can use for good or evil. The new "AI" (artificial intelligence) is the same. People can use it for good or evil. Personally, I think the possible good things are mostly limited by my imagination. However, some people have a very good imagination for how to use AI selfishly. There are lots of new email scams, and some people create fake videos to make money. They use people's hopes and fears to trick them into watching videos. This returns a little bit of money, not much. However, if they trick many people, even millions, then they get more money. For example, very many fake videos are appearing saying that the pope, religious or world leaders said something unexpected, strange, or wrong. I met a parishioner who was seeing pages of these fake videos pop up when he used YouTube.

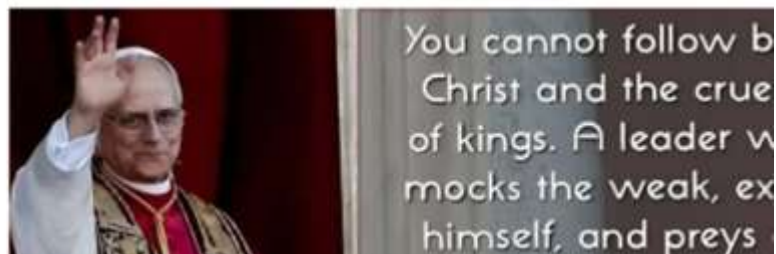
NEWS
Vatican warns about fake pope quotes, videos
By Catholic News Service May 23, 2025

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**George Weigel:
Meeting the world
to convert the world**
August 22, 2025



Sometimes people try to use AI for good, but the result is not very good. I have seen many images of Mary, Jesus, and the saints which look good at a distance. However, when you look up closely, the faces and hands are all wrong! I am confident the quality will improve. However, it is good to be careful when choosing images for teaching children or sharing.

AI is good at helping people do things they already know something about, but which are normally very slow, boring, or difficult to do. It can help you remember how to do something or learn something new. AI is like an expert trying to help, but from a dark room. You might get better results if you explain a bit about what you are trying to do. And... I wouldn't trust it. You need to check that the job was done properly.

I think using AI will make people forget how to do some things. It will also often be used for sin. However, it is only a tool, and one that you and I can use for good, clever, and beautiful things. Only... be careful to consider carefully, and research a little, before sharing those sensational quotes or videos of the Pope!

God Bless,
Fr Michael.

Upcoming Community Events

Deaf Festival 2025

The Deaf Festival is organised by Deaf Connect and the Deaf community. Everyone is welcome to come along on **Saturday 30 August** - it will be a fantastic community day. There will be lots to see and do - performances, workshops, shop with stall holders, fun and activities, meet Deaf led businesses, delicious food and competitions.

Ephpheta will be having a stall again this year we'd love to see our community there!



SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE

We know December is often a busy time of year - please save these dates in your calendar.

More information in the next newsletter!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Community Christmas Party	8	9	10 Craft Group Christmas Party	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Deaf Café	20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Vigil Mass	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!		

Community Day Out - 25th September

Join us for a day out at Sydney Opera House! It is one of the world's most recognisable famous landmarks and this is our chance to truly get up close.



We will have an Auslan interpreted guided tour, learn about the interesting history of the iconic building, discover the stories behind its creation and what makes the Opera House so inspiring.

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

When and Where: Thursday 25 September. Meet at 9.30am for a 10am start.

Sydney Opera House - Bennelong Point, Sydney

Cost: \$28. *Please pay before the event.* Lunch at your own cost

RSVP: There are **limited** spaces 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 19 September.

Community Day Out - 14th November

Join us for a day out at St Mary's Cathedral. It is a Sydney landmark and one of Australia's most significant buildings with a fascinating history dating back to the 1860s.



We will have an Auslan interpreted guided tour, learn about the interesting history, architecture and the different areas within the beautiful Cathedral.

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

When and Where: Friday 14 November. Meet at 9.30am for a 10am start.

Saint Mary's Cathedral - 2 St Mary's Road, Sydney. *Meet at the Cathedral Shop inside.*

Cost: Tour - free. Lunch at your own cost

RSVP: There are **limited** spaces 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 7 November.

Ephpheta Centre Deaf Community Retreat

Friday 24 October - Sunday 26 October 2025 (3 days, 2 nights)

We are so pleased to announce that we will holding a retreat for the Deaf Community this year.

A retreat is a lovely way for us to learn more about our faith and deepen our relationships with God and each other.

When: Friday 24 October, Saturday 25 October, Sunday 26 October 2025

Arrive around 10.30am on Friday. Leave after lunch on Sunday.

Where: Benedict XVI Retreat Centre at Grose Vale (near Richmond).

This is a beautiful peaceful centre not far from Richmond and Kurrajong

Who is this for?

Any member of our deaf and hard of hearing community who would like to learn more about their faith and God. Everyone is welcome.

What will we do on retreat:

Listen to interpreted presentations, be involved in discussions, chat with each other.

We will have Mass on site each day. Auslan interpreters provided.

Our theme for this year is "Hope".

Cost:

- **Own Room (1 person per room)** **\$400 each person for 2 nights**
- **Shared Room (2 people per room)** **\$250 each person for 2 nights**

Price **includes** two night's accommodation, (Friday night and Saturday night) all meals from morning tea on Friday to lunch on Sunday.

Morning teas, afternoon tea and supper included. Linen and towels provided.

- **Day only (not staying the night) - does not include dinner - \$60 per person per day**

Ephpheta is supporting the costs of the retreat.

Are you interested in coming?

Please contact Chrisso on 0405 749 488 (SMS) before 17 October to let us know if you are interested in coming or would like more information.

Places are limited.



Why does Ephpheta organise a retreat?

You might have seen the information about our planned Ephpheta retreat on 24- 26 October and be thinking “oh, I don’t think that is for me”. BUT we wanted to let you know that the Ephpheta retreat is for ALL deaf and hard of hearing people.



Our retreat weekend is a fantastic opportunity for ALL deaf and hard of hearing people to come together and take a break from our normal routines. The retreat centre is a really beautiful place in the bush - it is peaceful. All meals are provided and the food is delicious.

You do not have to be Catholic or even “religious” (whatever that means 😊) - all people need a break from their day-to-day routine in life. And we all think about the big questions in life - why I am here, how to I deal with the hard times in life.

Here are a few reasons why we have our Ephpheta retreat:

Retreats offer a break from everyday life

- Help us to slow down
- Provide time away from everyday distractions



A chance to grow closer to God

- Time for prayer, spiritual reflection and learning
- Opportunities for Mass and confession
- Helps us to be open to God’s voice and deepen our faith
- A place to find inner peace



Peaceful, natural settings support renewal

- Our retreat will be in a beautiful setting in the bush with comfortable accommodation
- Nature helps us feel more connected to God and creation

Support during difficult times

- Retreats provide healing, hope, and a space to reflect with each other on the love which God has for each of us

Opportunities for personal and spiritual growth

- Retreats can strengthen faith, renew purpose, and bring inner peace
- A chance to share faith, encourage one another, and feel supported

Returning refreshed and renewed

- Leave feeling spiritually recharged
- Better able to face daily life with hope, peace and a stronger connection to God

If you have any questions about if the retreat might be right for you, please contact Donovan, Chrisso or Liz. You can also talk to us if you need any financial support to attend.



DEAF CAFÉ

The Ephpheta Centre runs deaf café for our deaf community - social catch ups at different locations around Sydney.

Here is the list of our next round of Deaf Cafes at different locations throughout Sydney.

- **Friday 19 September. 10am**
 - Seven Hills RSL
 - 108 Best Road, Seven Hills
- **Friday 17 October. 10am**
 - Bankstown RSL Club
 - 1 Meredith Street, Bankstown
- **Friday 21 November. 10am**
 - Hornsby RSL Club
 - 4 High Street, Hornsby
- **Friday 19 December. 10am**
 - DOOLEYS Catholic Club
 - 11-17 Church Street, Lidcombe

We meet on the
3rd Friday of
every month

Please bring money
to buy your own
food and drinks from
the club

We look forward to
seeing you!

For more information please contact
Donovan Mulligan - 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email donovan@ephpheta.org.au



AUSLAN PLAY GROUP

Auslan Play Group is for young families in our deaf community - a social group for mums, dads, grandparents, carers and their children aged 0 - 5 years.

Ephpheta loves supporting new parents and watching them support others as their children grow.

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

New families are always welcome!

Upcoming dates:

- **Saturday 13 September**

- Family Fun Day

Contact Ephpheta for more information

- **Tuesday 14 October**

- **Saturday 29 November**

- Christmas Party

Contact Ephpheta for more information

Ephpheta will supply morning tea for the mums and dads when we are at Homebush but PLEASE bring food and drink for your children.

Parents are responsible for their children throughout the event and children CANNOT be left.

If you or your child are sick, please stay home.

For more information please contact
Chrisso Quartararo - 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au



EPHPHETA CRAFT GROUP

All are welcome to get involved in our program of events or bring your own projects to work on.

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

Dates for September - November 2025:

- **Wednesday 10 September**
- **Wednesday 24 September**
- **Wednesday 8 October**
- **Wednesday 22 October**
- **Wednesday 12 November**
- **Wednesday 26 November**

We meet on the
2nd and 4th Wednesday
of each month



Homebush Hall
Behind Our Lady of the
Assumption Catholic Church
74 Underwood Road,
Homebush

For more information please contact Chrisso Quartararo - 0405 749 488 (SMS)

Out and About in the Deaf Community

Congratulations Nola and Mary

The Dempsey Medal is given to recognise people for their outstanding service in the Catholic Church. The medal is awarded by the Archbishop of Sydney. On 6 July 2025 we celebrated two members of our Catholic deaf community receiving the award for their many years of hard work for the Catholic and wider Deaf community.

Our special congratulations to Nola Lawlor and Mary Profilio on receiving this very special honour. We thank you both for your many years of loving service to the deaf community in Sydney. Through your support of the deaf community and the Ephpheta team - with helping at Mass, visiting sick people in their homes and nursing homes, by supporting all of the work of the Ephpheta Centre - you have made such a difference in the lives of so many people. You are both loving faith-filled women - we are so proud of you both!

On pages **12 and 13** we have shared the homily Archbishop Anthony Fisher shared at Mass on 6 July.



Mary and Nola with their proud families and fellow Dempsey Medal recipients on 6 July



Archbishop Anthony
Fisher's Homily
on 6 July 2025

Dempsey Medal
Award Mass



Speaking the truth in love
Eph 4:15

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY, 6 JULY 2025

The first Hobbit film was released in 2012 and grossed over \$1b at the box office. Gandalf the wizard tricks Bilbo the hobbit into joining a band of dwarves led by the stubborn and courageous Thorin Oakenshield in a bid to reclaim treasure stolen by the evil dragon Smaug. Along the way Bilbo matures, learning what really matters, what battles are worth fighting. But his companions' development remains arrested, so that when the dragon is ultimately defeated, lust for gold divides them. Only our hobbit returns home satisfied with his little treasure, handing the next adventure over to his nephew Frodo.

Much could be said about the meaning of J.R.R. Tolkien's epics, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. We find the ancient struggle between light and darkness, themes from Catholic social teaching in an age of capitalist exploitation, reflections on reconciliation between races, and insights into the responsibilities of leaders—issues as relevant today as they were in the 1930s, when Tolkien first put pen to paper.

Whilst *The Hobbit* is a story about those with authority, it also speaks to 'everyone' about loyalty, courage and character: the qualities, then, of any good individual, especially of any truly Christian individual. Yet Tolkien's epics are also deeply *ecclesial* ones, as none of our heroes achieves greatness alone, but only as a part of a group united in a common mission. Sadly, Hollywood today lacks the sacred imagination to appreciate such themes, and tends to reduce such stories to entertainment only. But such dwarfed moral sensibilities and structures of meaning are impoverishing and make it especially hard for people to cope when the hard times come, as they do for the Halflings in Tolkien's tale.

In today's Gospel (Lk 10:1-12, 17-20), Jesus sends "seventy-two others"—that is all of us—on mission, as labourers in His vineyard, as heralds going before Him, introducing Him to others, bringing peace and healing to people's hearts and homes, above all proclaiming the closeness of God's kingdom. He also tells us how to go about that mission—in pairs, without money, gear, luggage. In other words, when it comes to the missionary stuff, you've got to let go of the comforts and securities, the risk assessments, strategic plans, and the rest, and rely upon divine providence and other people's generosity. God and God's children will look after you. "The labourer deserves his wages" and so the People of God will provide for their clergy and missionaries. Many will welcome you. There will be real spiritual victories. And there will be heaven at the end...

Sounds pretty good, this apostolate stuff! But read between the lines: your vineyard will be understaffed; you will be “like lambs among wolves” in a hostile world; whole towns will rebuff you; there will be serpents and scorpions underfoot; there will be your own demons and those of others too. Mission is not all plain sailing!

Good and bad, then, idealism and realism. Christ knows us all too well: that we can be cocky and complacent; that we enjoy the effects of God’s grace but attribute it to our own efforts. The seventy-two return in our Gospel like the dwarves in Tolkien’s tale, claiming the credit and measuring their success by who they’ve subjugated. Jesus tells them not to rejoice in their spiritual power but only in the heavenly One whose instruments they are. Likewise in today’s epistle, Paul tells the Christians in Galatia to boast of nothing but the cross of Jesus Christ (*Gal 6:14-18*).

It’s a helpful reminder, I think we can all agree, for members of this evangelising and worshipping community, that whatever success we have is not about us or for us, it is God’s work and for the Redemption of humanity. We often talk of Christians as God’s eyes and ears, voice and hands in our world, and there’s an important sense in which that’s true. But it risks us thinking these things all depend on us, that God *needs* us, that it is really us doing the work. No, says Jesus today, it’s heaven at work in you. Not you helping God, it’s God’s grace enabling your actions. If you get to harvest a bountiful crop it is because Christ has seeded the soul of people’s hearts, watered it with His supernatural graces, begun the good work in them and brought it to fulfilment. We are just the combine harvesters.

So, in conforming our eyes and ears, minds and hearts, hands and actions to His, we come to appreciate the fecundity of God, the bounty we could never have brought about ourselves. The disciples think the demons fear them; but Satan only fears us when we have so conformed ourselves so closely to Christ that, when he confronts us, he finds himself in contest with Christ.

It is precisely in allowing Christ to shine in and through them that today’s Dempsey medallists have been able to live out the faith and virtues of Christian discipleship. Like Bilbo stepping beyond the comfort zone of the Shire to accompany Thorin’s company on a daring mission, you have each demonstrated generosity and daring in lending your gifts to Christ’s mission.

And what a range of gifts there are in your cohort! Among you are RCIA coordinators and catechists, choir directors and organists, sacristans, acolytes and lectors, pastoral carers, prayer leaders, parish fundraisers and gardeners, parish secretaries and social media managers, St Vincent de Paul volunteers, cooks, shrine builders, and tireless committee members. Together you represent a remarkable tapestry of service to the sick and housebound, the young and ignorant, the financially or spiritually poor, sustaining the daily heartbeat of our parishes. As you celebrate with Christ today like those returned disciples, you celebrate what He has done in and through you.

Dear friends, the success and vitality of our Church relies not upon solitary heroes or one-man-bands, but communities of people like our medallists, ready to give themselves to Christ’s mission and to let Him transform them to that end. Today we honour those hobbits who have stepped out of their comfort zones and dared to do great things, serving with humility, not for sordid rewards, and bringing the treasure of the Church’s worship, teaching and outreach to those around you. May their example inspire us all to continue the journey together, so that in all things God may be known, loved and served. Thank you and God bless you for your service!

Ephpheta Sunday Celebrations

On Sunday 3 August we celebrated a wonderful feast day of Ephpheta Sunday with our community.

This is a day when the Catholic church celebrates the gifts which deaf people bring to the life of the church - the gifts of beautiful Auslan, community spirit, friendship and love.

We started our day with Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church at Homebush and then went to Canada Bay Club for a delicious buffet lunch.

Congratulations to Nerida Beath for being awarded the Ephpheta Appreciation Award.

Nerida has been a long-time supporter of the work of the Ephpheta Centre. She is a wonderful woman of deep faith, love, gentleness and shows a great deal of kindness to other people.

Many thanks Nerida for all the support you have provided to us and the community over the years!



Feast Day of Saint Mary MacKillop

On 8 August, our deaf community was delighted to be invited to Mary MacKillop place at North Sydney to celebrate the feast day of Saint Mary MacKillop.



She was Australia's first saint and was remembered for her kindness, strong faith, and dedication to helping the poor and educating children. A special Mass was held with Auslan interpreters.

During the liturgy we learned about St Mary MacKillop's constant trust and faith in God, and her hope which sustained her through her life.

It was a lovely day to join with the thousands of people who participated in this special feast day to celebrate and reflect on her legacy of love, service, and faith.



Alpha in Auslan

On 22 July, Ephpheta was excited to be invited to the launch of Alpha in Auslan at Parramatta. Alpha is a series of friendly sessions where people can explore life, faith, and meaning together. It is designed for people of all Christian religions including Catholics.

This Auslan version makes the message of God's love for us all accessible through videos with Auslan (and captions).

Ephpheta plans to look through these resources for our deaf Catholic community - it is an important way of helping us share and strengthen our faith and learn more about God's love for us all.



A Visit Wrapped in Love

On 13 August, our Ephpheta Craft Group was delighted to visit the Wrap with Love Warehouse.

Wrap with Love is a volunteer run organisation that provides hand-knitted and crocheted blankets to people in need, both in Australia and around the world.

On the day our craft group donated 15 blankets and 80 knitted squares that will go on to become blankets! Wow!!

Well done to everyone involved. Each piece you've created is more than just a blanket - it's a gift of warmth, care, and compassion for someone in need.

It was a lovely day being shown around the warehouse and learning about the distribution process. Our day finished with a lovely lunch together at the beautiful area of The Grounds of Alexandria.



Community Day Out

On 5th June, we had a fantastic community day out - we visited Walsh Bay in Sydney to see the Titanic exhibition.

We learned a lot about the history of the Titanic ship and the people who were on board when unfortunate events happened in 1912. There was a display of different classes, lots of various information displayed about the process of building the ship and some individual information on people who were on ship, some survivors and sadly mostly went down with the Titanic. At the end of tour there was massive model of the sunken Titanic. They were split in half and are now settled down in deep dark cold freezing water of the North Atlantic Ocean 3,700m below the surface. Afterwards we all enjoyed lunch nearby under the Harbour Bridge. It was a really great day! Information for our next community days out are on page 5. We look forward to seeing you.



Ephpheta Youth Group

On 17th July, we had our first event back with our Ephpheta Youth group - bowling!!! After a few years since our last event, we were very excited to get things up and running again.

It was great to see and meet some new faces. We had so much fun bowling and playing Uno together, cheering each other on and laughing at funny moments - everyone had a great time. It felt good to be back together again.

We're looking forward to more fun events in the future.

If you know any deaf or hard of hearing youth aged 12 - 17 that would like to join us for social events, please contact Ephpheta!



Ephpheta Regular Sunday Mass times and places

A reminder about our regular accessible deaf Sunday Mass times and places.

Our Lady of the Assumption Church:

74 Underwood Road,
Homebush (10.30am - Deaf Mass).

Sept: 7, 28

Oct: 5, 12

Nov: 2, 9, 23, 30

St Paul's Catholic Church:

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills
(9.30am - Integrated Mass)

Sept: 14, 21

Oct: 19

Nov: 16



PLEASE NOTE:

On **Sunday 14 September** our regular Sunday Mass will be at St Paul's, Winston Hills at 9.30am.

1st Friday at Our Lady of the Assumption

Every first Friday of the month, we will be having the Rosary, Mass and Auslan Prayer Group at Our Lady of the Assumption, Homebush.



Every month	Upcoming dates
10:30am: The Rosary 11am: Mass, followed by lunch 1pm: Auslan Prayer Group	Friday 5th September Friday 3rd October Friday 7th November

Auslan Prayer Group

1st Friday - Face to Face at OLA - 1pm

4th Friday - Online on Zoom - 1pm



Auslan Prayer Group is about sharing our faith and our love for God and each other.

We come together in friendship with open hearts and open minds. It is a special place where each person is welcomed and valued.

In September we will be having stories of two men who will become saints in the Church.

In October & November we will be having reflections

Program for September - November

When?	Where
Friday 5 September Blessed Carlo Actius <i>Becomes a saint on 7 September</i>	Face to Face: Our Lady of the Assumption - 1pm
Friday 26 September St Pier Gयोग Frassati <i>Becomes a saint on 7 September</i>	Online: Zoom - 1pm
Friday 3 October Sunday Gospel Reflection - Faith and Service to God	Face to Face: Our Lady of the Assumption - 1pm
Friday 24 October Ephpheta Centre Community Retreat	NO PRAYER GROUP ONLINE
Friday 7 November Sunday Gospel Reflection - Faith and Service to God	Face to Face: Our Lady of the Assumption - 1pm
Friday 28 November TBA	Online: Zoom - 1pm

If you would like to join, especially online, please contact Brett Beath 0407 064 872.

Carlo Actius & Pier Giorgio Frassasti

On their way to becoming saints

On Sunday 7 September in Rome, Carlo Actius and Pier Giorgio Frassasti will become Saints. These men will be the first saints canonised by Pope Leo XIV.

Here are their stories...

Carlo Actius

Carlo was born in London on 3 May 1991. He was an only child. His parents worked in Germany, United Kingdom and then moved to Milan, Italy. Carlo loved visiting Catholic Churches. He had a strong devotion to Jesus, the Eucharist and Mary. When Carlo was 7, he made his first Holy Communion, went to Mass and prayed the Rosary every day and went to confession once a week.



Carlo loved travelling to Assisi and visiting the tomb of St Francis of Assisi.

Carlo had a special gift for computer programming. used his knowledge of computer skills to create a website, featuring Eucharistic miracles around the world. Carlo wanted more people to know and adore Jesus Christ.

In his free time, he loved playing sports, learning music, and playing video games for one hour a week. He visited the poor and gave away his pocket money. He was an advocate for people with a disability, and he invited kids over to his house who came from divorced families.

At the end of his life, Carlo became sick with leukemia (cancer). He accepted his sickness with great courage. Carlo died on 12 October 2006 in Monza, Italy. He was only 15 years old. Today, he is buried in Assisi because he wanted to be near St Francis. He is the patron saint of computer programs and young people.

He became "Blessed" by Pope Francis on 10 October 2020. It was attended by his parents and his younger brother and sister. 4 years after Carlo died, his mother became pregnant with twins a boy and a girl. This miracle happened through the prayers of her son.

Pier Giorgio Frassasti .

Peter was born in Turin, Italy on 6 April 1901. He came from a rich family. His mother was a painter, and his father was the boss of an Italian newspaper. He had a younger sister named Luciana (Lucy). They were both educated at home.



Peter had a strong devotion to the Eucharist and the Rosary.

He loved sharing his faith with other people. Peter joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society and spent many hours helping the poor and sick.

He worked as a mining engineer and cared deeply about the miners' rights.

He wanted them to have good working conditions and fair pay.

Peter was a joyful man. He loved life. He was handsome and healthy.

In his free time Peter loved climbing mountains, riding horses, skiing and reading. Friendship was important to him; he saw them as lifelong companions. He loved to laugh, and he was famous for the jokes he would play on other people. He was given the nickname "terror".

He encouraged his friends to go to Mass with him, and he would spend all night in the Church, adoring Jesus.

Towards the end of his life, Peter became very sick with polio. Some people said he got the disease from caring for people in the poor area of Turin. But that didn't matter to Peter because he saw Jesus in all the people he served and cared for.

In his last days, he whispered the names of people who still needed assistance. He did this to show that he was thinking about other people while he was very sick.

Peter died on 4 July 1925 in Turin, Italy. He was 24 years old. Many people came to his funeral, especially the poor he looked after. Peter was buried in the family cemetery of Pollone, Italy but then moved to the Cathedral of Turin where his body was found to be incorrupt.

Peter became "Blessed" on 20 May 1990 by Pope St John Paul II. The Pope called Peter a "man of the Beatitudes" and a "joyful apostle of Christ."



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<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 Chrisso.

www.ephpheta.org.au

Please send your news, stories,
information and requests to Liz or Chrisso 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!