

John Pierce Centre

Spirit of the Deaf Community

Newsletter: August 2014

On JPC Newsletter Cover Page Fr Peter Robinson's 50 years Priesthood

Last Sunday, 27th July 2014, JPC Community were invited to attend Father Peter Robinson's 50th Year of Priesthood. One hundred people (100) from JPC Deaf Community attended along with other 400 people from his involvement with the community including many local parishes and Lions.

Fr Robinson celebrated his mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Croydon. Katrina Mynard mentioned the lovely service, especially Fr Robinson's (known to many as Fr. Robbo) homily of how proud he feels about his journey as a priest spanning over 50 years.

Fr Robinson is still a very popular person who loves to chat to everyone.

Katrina was asked "what is one thing you have learnt from Fr Robinson?", Katrina responded "too many things", but one thing I have learnt is "to accept gracefully of all different kinds of people through friendship".

Katrina sincerely thanks Fr Peter Robinson for bringing the community together with his love.

Gail also mentioned Fr. Robinson's homily and how it brought back good memories. Gail first met Fr Robinson in 1972. Ann Darwin (nee Mitchell) & Gail used to visit him at his "flat" behind Good Shepherd Convent, Chadstone two or three times a week as Fr. Robinson was keen to improve his signing skills with the Deaf community. As a bonus Fr Robinson gained an understanding of the Deaf Community. It was a lot of hard work combined with lots of laughter.

Gail also added that Fr Robinson recognised potential in people to become leaders and make their dreams possible to reach. When Gail was a full time typist for a government department which she found it tedious, but wanted to have a meaningful career to work within the Deaf community, without Fr Robinson's guidance she would have found this unreachable. Gail is now fulfilled working at John Pierce Centre and this is thanks to that wonderful man Fr. Peter Robinson.

On behalf of JPC Community, Fr Robinson was presented with a photo book as a gift to mark his golden jubilee anniversary.

From the Executive Manager's Desk, by Rachel Miers

Hello,

Winter is upon us and goodness we are already feeling the chilly weather. What a better way to keep warm; with hot beverages (hot chocolate, my favourite treat).

Congratulations to Father Peter Robinson on his golden jubilee - 50 years as a priest. He celebrated with a special Mass and an afternoon tea reception was held afterwards. You could see the crowd there, many familiar faces showed up to celebrate his milestone. Many of you would know Fr Peter Robinson, through his involvement with St Mary's Delgany, Porepunkah group or Catholic Deaf Community.

Several weeks ago, Katrina, Gail and I attended the ASLIA Vic / Deaf Victoria Awards. It was the first time both had a joint awards presentation – ASLIA Victoria Interpreting Distinction Awards and Deaf Victoria Deaf Community Awards.

JPC was nominated by a member of the Deaf Community for Deaf Victoria Organisation of the Year. This is a first time JPC has been nominated and to be the first organisation to win the new award. JPC is grateful to have been recognised with this nomination.

I dedicate this award to our community as the award is a culmination of all people working with JPC, to providing services bringing a positive impact on people's lives. Thank you to all staff (past and present) Board, Interpreters and Volunteers for sharing your gifts with JPC.

Gabe Noonan recently left JPC and she will be greatly missed by all of us here. She will be kept busy with her husband running their café – so if you are ever drop by in Warragul, drop by their café – Frankie's Cafe. Gabe first started at JPC as a special projects coordinator then became a community worker / interpreting for the deaf community. I thank Gabe for her wonderful contributions to the deaf community and JPC. We will definitely see her around in the community. JPC will advertise a position - Community Worker shortly. Please see page 5 for more information.

Please welcome Mariana Voggenreiter to JPC. She will be working with us for six months while Jules Hayes takes a break.

Enjoy reading this newsletter with a hot beverage to keep you warm.

Rachel

Photo of staff with Award

From the Chaplain's Desk, by Fr John Hill CSSR

The Mysteries of Life

As many of you know, we at JPC have a special celebration on the third Sunday of August called Ephpheta Sunday. It is a celebration about being deaf. During our Mass on Ephpheta Sunday, we have a procession of three candles. They represent three things that are central to the life of deaf people: history, community and language. We look back on the past, at the history of the Deaf community.

History: We remember the struggles, the pain and the triumphs of the Deaf community. We especially remember all those people, both deaf and hearing, who have worked in the deaf community over many years.

Community: On Ephpheta Sunday we recognise the role of community in deaf people's lives. Centres like JPC give the Deaf places to belong, providing friendship and support.

Language: Ephpheta Sunday gives the opportunity for Deaf to think about communication, and the different languages deaf people use. While Auslan is an important part of the JPC community, it is good to see now that people's attitudes are changing. Signing Deaf are more accepting of people who communicate orally, and oral Deaf are becoming more open to accepting sign language. Young Deaf are often bi-lingual, using Auslan and speech.

Ephpheta Sunday also celebrates the progress that the Deaf community has made over the years. In many ways there are more opportunities today than there were in the past. As I write this, I'm thinking of the Trade Block cafe at VCD. The old building, where trades were taught in the past, is now a cafe run by VCD and staffed by VCD students, who learn skills in hospitality and food service. At the same time we know that deaf people are still excluded in areas like education, job training and employment.

But, while we celebrate how Deaf are now more included in the hearing world, we are still aware of how many Deaf are still excluded from things that hearing people take for granted. While Ephpheta Sunday gives us a chance to celebrate, it also reminds us that we need to continue to break down barriers between the deaf and hearing worlds.

Gabe's Farewell By Katrina Mynard

JPC regrets to see that Gabe leaving JPC. As you may know Gabe has given a lot of her time, gifts, kindness and patience to all of us at JPC.

Her special gifts were spread across everyone. Being an Auslan interpreter enabled her to communicate easily within the community. Her patience and easy going nature is one of the best to work with and with that she has influenced us, she has taught us to be more calm in the workplace.

Gabe was fantastic with organising the fundraising BBQs at Bunnings and Woolworths. And the same for Mass For You At Home (MFYAH) she coordinated with the interpreting agency and external television producers, to ensure full accessibility on television for people who enjoy watching MFYAH.

We would like to thank her family for their involvement and giving up their time to help out JPC. We enjoyed getting to know your family

While Gabe will still very much be involved in the Deaf Community as an interpreter, she knows in her heart, she will always be welcome at JPC.

Gabe has now chosen a new journey, spending more time with her family, especially with her Mum and new family business. If you ever happen to be in Warragul, please do pop into her café "Frankie's Café"

Fr Robinsons Golden Jubilee Photos – 11 photos

Director's Award, by Margaret Urquhart, JPC Board

The Involvement of Maree Gilbert in the Deaf Community of John Pierce Centre.

Maree has been involved as a volunteer since 1987, when she was on a committee, under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Melbourne that discussed the needs of people with disabilities.

Fr Greg Bourke led this committee. For many years, Maree has conducted the Children's Liturgy of the Word, at the 3rd Sunday Masses. This allowed their deaf parents to participate more fully in the Mass and helped the children, both deaf and hearing to understand the Mass and the Sacraments. Her faithful helper, Liz Rayner, was always on hand to help.

Maree has been available for many years now to help at the filming of "Mass for You at Home" on Channel 10. This has involved many hours of her time each January.

C.A.D.M. (Catholic Association for Deaf People Melbourne) was always looking for new members. Maree joined in the mid 90's and remained on the committee until it closed in 2004.

By then, the committee that had been mainly hearing people had changed to be mainly deaf people with Maree and the secretary being the only hearing people there.

Maree is a willing volunteer at the Good Guys gift wrapping days. In turn, the Good Guys donate to JPC which helps the finances of the organization.

You can always depend on Maree to provide a big pot of soup for Ephpheta Sunday celebrations and sometimes on 3rd Sunday, a plate of cakes appears! The annual appeal for JPC is held in the parish churches each November and you can depend on Maree to be one of the speakers. Often she also fills in when someone is unable to attend.

You will always see Maree at special JPC functions, such as the Christmas Mass and Rally, where she entertains the children until Father Christmas arrives! Maree attends the Thankyou Party organized by the directors to thank volunteers, staff and board members.

Maree is a volunteer who needs to be thanked for her work with the community of John Pierce Centre. She was presented with a gift at the AGM held in April, 2014.

Photo: Margaret Urquhart, Maree Gilbert, Theresa Mills and Rachel Miers

Signee Tots/CODA Activities

By Josephine Hynes

We have been off to a busy start with many activities planned for Signee Tots! We recently had a footy day with many families attending and the children got to decorate and create their own football jersey.

Upcoming Dates for Signee Tots:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 19 th Aug: | Numbers & Shapes |
| 2 nd Sept: | Father's Day |
| 16 th Sept: | Sensory Play |
| 30 th Sept: | Build a kite |
| 14 th Oct: | Gardening |
| 28 th Oct: | Spring crafts |
| 11 th Nov: | Crafts Day |
| 25 th Nov: | Painting |
| 9 th Dec: | Christmas Party |

CODA Activities

We are currently gathering expressions of interest for those that would like to come along to Clip n Climb in Melbourne.

Costs will vary depending on number of people but for 1 hour of climbing time it will be approximately \$18.00 per child. If your children are interested please let me know so I can book a group in so we don't miss out!

Thankful Thought

In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony. By Eva Burrows

Job Advertisement – Community Worker

The primary focus of this role will be working collaboratively with the Pastoral Team Coordinator and Chaplain in providing pastoral care and family support to the Deaf Community. To coordinate with external film / television and liaise with interpreter agency for Mass for You at Home (MFYAH)

- Part Time Position
- 16 hours per week (2 - 3 days)
- Flexible and Supportive Work Environment, working with a great team
- 9.5 % Superannuation

To request a Position Description and further information please contact Christine Elder, email admin@jpc.org.au
Voice: 03 9525 1158 or TTY: 03 9525 1337

Applicants are to address the Key Selection Criteria detailed in the position description, listing contact details of two referees and either post or email to:

Rachel Miers
Executive Manager
John Pierce Centre
25 – 35 High St
PRAHRAN VIC 3181
Email: manager@jpc.org.au

Applications must be received by 5:00pm Tuesday 26th August 2014

Community Activities By Katrina Mynard

Ladies Day Out

On 21st May we had a day out at Belgrave with a ride on Puffing Billy, it was a wonderful day for everyone.

This was the day, we decided to mix with ladies and the men. So our usual "Ladies Day Out" and "Deaf Men's Group" joined together. I was surprised to see a big turn out. I would really love to see them get together more often in future. It was so cute to see the husbands or partners looking after their wives and partners. This was special love shared by all.

In all we had total of 24 people who attended and it was amazing to see them get together and enjoy the day. Even Fr John Hill joined with us. Luckily we had beautiful sunny day.

Deaf Men's Group

Everyone is welcome to come along!

We have a variety of things on such as: playing chess, cards, backgammon, reading the newspaper, have a tea/coffee.

Come along and chat and catch up with mates, also bring along your lunch too,

Upcoming dates:

Aug: 11th and 25th
Sept: 8th and 22nd
Oct: 6th and 20th
Nov: 3rd and 17th
Dec: 1st and 15th (last day)

Deaf Art/Wombat Craft

Once a month we have Floral Punch Art, a lot of people are enjoying this. The dates for Floral Punch Art are:

1st August, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December

Wombat has now changed to Friday in line with Deaf Art.

The group has enjoyed learning more different things from Deaf Art and the Deaf Art in turn has benefited in meeting new people and learning new skills, like knitting, sewing etc.

Upcoming dates:

July: 18th and 25th
Aug: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.
Sept: 5th, 12th and 19th.
Term Four in 2014 starts 10th October.
Oct: 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st
Nov: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.
Dec: 5th and 12th.

We Need You

Are you interested in helping JPC? We are looking for volunteers to help from time to time for activities and special events at JPC. If you wish to help out or know of someone who may be interested in volunteering for a few hours, please let Rachel Miers know or email her manager@jpc.org.au or call 03 9525 1158.

Activities include

- Gift wrapping at Good Guys – Mother's Day & Christmas
- BBQ at Woolworths
- Ephpheta Appeal Mail Out
- Ephpheta Appeal Volunteers for Church Services in November
- Newsletter Folding – three times a year
- Organise school photos (St Marys Portsea) & community photos

Special Events include planning for

- Outings
- Ephpheta Sunday in August
- Christmas Rally in December

Your involvement will enable us to continue our work that will benefit both JPC and the Deaf Community.

Women's Health Expo By Katrina Mynard

JPC hosted a Women's Health Expo in June and from the positive feedback received, it was a fantastic expo for all who attended. The expo started at 11am in the morning and finished around 3pm.

Approximately 50 – 60 ladies attended. It was an opportunity for them to learn more about women's health and to be proactive with their health.

This event was also proudly supported by Stonnington Council with the funding for interpreters. Four interpreters were kept busy throughout the day. The interpreters were able to provide a bridge of communication between the ladies and stall holders.

A number of presentations took place throughout the event and topics covered were massage, counselling, breast screening, health products and incontinence. Ladies went to stalls to find out more information and showed with keen interest that they care about their health.

There were a couple of information stalls, to name a few, Neways, Live Younger, Yoga and Counselling, Susan Bakrnchev Massage, Penergy Pilates, Breast Screen Victoria, Jean Hailes, Stonnington Council information brochures, Tena incontinence pads and Auslan Cooking Class. Jean Hailes Foundation provided free health information kits.

Lunch was served with Chicken & corn soup and Sweet Potato soup made by JPC Staff Gabe and Christine. The soups were so delicious. Fruit Platters and cakes were served afterwards.

Josephine made a gorgeous banner Women's Health Expo .

"I have enjoyed the expo and it has helped me to be more aware of my health" said Raylee. Moreen mentioned that the expo was fantastic and "it made me understand more of my health". Cheryl commented that "It was an interesting expo and I'm glad I went".

Towards the end of the expo, a voucher was drawn and won by Janet Meany. Congratulations to Janet. And JPC staff presented a farewell gift for Gabe Noonan on her last day with JPC.

Overall the Women's Health Expo was a success and it is with thanks to Katrina and Gabe for making this possible.

JPC also extend their thanks to Stonnington Council for providing the funding for interpreters and the stall holders for their time, energy and commitment to this event.

Thank you

Stonnington Council

Susan Bakrnchev - Massage

Penny Gillets – Penergy Physiotherapy

Karli Dettman and Sandra Spadea, Karli Deaf Health Centre

Cheryl Graham from Neways ,

Bruce & Nicole from Live Younger

Anne O'Callaghan from Breast Screen Victoria

Jean Hailes Auslan Cooking Class

11 photos

Recipe - Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients:

Half a large pumpkin– Jap or any other type

1 medium sweet potato– yellow

2 large potatoes

2 medium onions

Curry to taste (optional)

Coriander (optional)

Coconut milk or coconut cream– small tin (optional)-

1 Chicken stock cube or 1 tablespoon of powder.

You can use

-evaporated milk instead of coconut milk

-Can add 3 carrots instead of sweet potatoes

Method:

Cut all vegetable into pieces and put it into a pot and cover with water.

Boil the vegetables until they are very tender

Put the vegetables into a blender to make it smooth

Add in Coconut Milk to taste.

Serve with some fresh bread!

Staff Profile – Christine Elder & Photo

Favourite Colour ? Orange

AFL team? Tigers!

Favourite holiday place? Turkey

Ideal dinner guests ? My family

Favourite meal ? Asian anything!

Favourite TV show ? New Tricks (really love Compass!)

When I retire ?? I will always work at/or for something! Retire no!

Knitting Champion!

Janet McDonald is a knitting champion. She recently won in the speed knitting competition held by Spotlight at Carnegie on the 14th June. She has now over 22 sashes of different kinds including speed knitting by hand knit.

Janet won these sashes at these shows at North Mirboo (twice) Wonthaggi (twice), Corryong (twice) Yarram (three times) and the final one at VASA Royal Melbourne Show Speed Knitting in which Janet came second. She's also won many awards including Albury Show of Knitting and Crochet. One was a jumper which shows a farm landscape.

Congratulations Janet from all of us at JPC

Christmas Rally Date

Please keep the date free. Its on 14th December. Time starts at 11.00am for Mass Service. Then 12.30pm for Split Roast Lunch. Cost to be decided closer to the date.

Pankina

By Cheryl Clarke– Secretary

Pankina Deaf Seniors Group remains busy with a good number of members

Last Easter, Pankina hosted a Easter raffle, with lots of Easter eggs as prizes and there were plenty of winners.

Pankina AGM was held on 26th May with a good crowd attending. We welcome Geoff Treloggen and Ron Chapman to the Pankina Committee. We hope that they will enjoy being on Pankina committee. Congratulations to Monica on her 10th year as President of Pankina.

Pankina Board 2014 - 2015

President: Monica Stevenson

Secretary: Cheryl Clarke

Treasurer: Malcolm Stevenson

Committees Rayelene Thorne, Janet McDonald, Geoff Treloggen, Ron Chapman

In July, Pankina celebrated winter with a White Christmas Lunch at Prahran Hotel. More than 50 members came along to enjoy a 2 course delicious meal.

Dates: August - December 2014

(Mondays 9.00am—2pm)

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 th Aug | Bingo |
| 18 th Aug | 777s |
| 1 st Sept | Crazy Whist |
| 15 th Sept | Game Day (Footy Quiz) |
| 29 th Sept | Bingo |
| 13 th Oct | Outing (TBA) |
| 27 th Oct | 777s |
| 10 th Nov | Crazy Whist |
| 24 th Nov | Bingo & Christmas Raffles |
| 8 th Dec | Christmas Lunch (TBA) |

Everyone is always welcome. Admission \$5.00
Bingo \$3 a book, Crazy whist and 777s \$2 a play.
Bring your own lunch. Tea and Coffee is provided.

REST IN PEACE

Brendan Helem – 1st March, 2014 (nephew of Valerie De Saulle)
Eileen Bunting – 7th April, 2014
Ernest John Kelly – 20th April, 2014
Elaine Payne – 17th May, 2014 (mother of Jessica Payne)
Fr. Peter Woodward – 20th June, 2014 (former chaplain of Ephpheta Centre, Sydney)
Ron Little – 27th June, 2014
Anthony John Myers - 13th July 2014 (father of Timothy Myers)

Birth

Makayla Jayde born on 2nd July, 2014 (great granddaughter of Cheryl Clarke)

Emmaus Liturgy Group By Gail Finn

Tuesday meetings: 10:30-12.00pm (BYO Lunch) at JPC

Tuesday 9th Sept, 2014 - plan 3rd Sunday (21st Sept)
Tuesday 9th Oct, 2014 - plan 3rd Sunday (19th Oct)
Wednesday 5th Nov, 2014 - plan 3rd Sunday (16th Nov Memorial Mass)
Tuesday 2nd Dec, 2014 - plan Christmas Rally Mass (14th Dec)

CALENDER FOR SIGNED MASSES 2014

- **First Sunday Mass** at John Pierce Centre resumes on 2nd March until 5th October
- **Second Sunday Interpreted Mass** at St. Francis Church, Elizabeth St, Melbourne,
- **Third Sunday Mass** every month at John Pierce Centre except December (second Sunday).

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 10 th August, 2014 | City, St. Francis, 1.30pm |
| 17 th August, 2014 | Prahran, JPC, 11.00am - Ephpheta Sunday |
| 7 th September, 2014 | Prahran, JPC, 11.00am |
| 14 th September, 2014 | City, St. Francis, 1.30pm |
| 21 st September, 2014 | Prahran, JPC, 11.00am |
| 5 th October, 2014 | Prahran, JPC, 11.00am |
| 12 th October, 2014 | City, St. Francis, 1.30pm |
| 19 th October, 2014 | Prahran, JPC, 11.00am |
| 9 th November, 2014 | City, St. Francis, 1.30pm |
| 16 th November, 2014 | Prahran, JPC, 11.00am - Memorial Mass |
| 14 th December, 2014 | Prahran, JPC, 11.00am – Christmas Rally |
| 24 th December, 2014 | Prahran, JPC, 3.00pm – Christmas Eve |

MSS 70th Celebrations By Sr Bernadette Wallis.

On 8th July 2014, the Missionary Sisters of Service celebrated the 70th anniversary of the beginning of their Order, which was founded by Father John Wallis, who was born at Yea, Victoria. He had three deaf siblings, Marie Fulton, Don (Bernadette's father) and Charles Wallis.

Father John hoped to find a way to support and encourage people who were isolated or forgotten by the Church or support services. He wanted a group of women who had courage and faith to go to people, wherever they were, visit them with hope and joy and be with them on 'the highways and byways' of life.

In the winter of 1944 during World War II, four women from Tasmania, (Gwen Morse, Alice Carroll, Kath Moore and Joyce O'Brien), said 'yes' they were willing to start the idea. They set up their house in Launceston and called themselves 'The Home Missionary Sisters of Our Lady'. This later changed to 'Missionary Sisters of Service. With Fr. John as their guide, they discussed and planned their life together as a community and studied pastoral theology, scripture, liturgy and prayer for nearly four years before they were ready to begin their work.

During the initial years they took a caravan to the small towns and villages of Tasmania to live and teach in. Sometimes, they were called 'the caravan nuns'! In the parishes they encouraged parents, especially the mothers, to develop the faith in their families.

They had a correspondence school for religion, when the lessons were sent to the families and returned to the Sisters for comments and words of encouragement. The Sisters were like the disciples that Jesus sent out to the villages to spread the Good News of God's love.

As the community of Sisters grew, they moved to rural and outback areas of New South Wales and Queensland, then South Australia. In 1983, they moved the central administration of the congregation from Hobart to Melbourne.

The Sisters moved into various works such as, catechetical and adult faith education, work with refugees and asylum seekers, industrial and hospital chaplaincy and parish and church leadership, as well as with the Deaf community. (Sr. Bernadette Wallis, Fr. John's niece, worked through the John Pierce Centre for many years from 1991).

Now the Sisters are ageing, (Fr. John died in 2001), so they have established the John Wallis Foundation, which has its Board of directors (lay people with three Sisters) in Melbourne for the purpose of carrying on the work and vision of Fr. John and the Missionary Sisters of Service. There are regional groups of the Foundation in Hobart, Toowoomba, Melbourne and other places that work with the same vision to continue the original dream of Fr. John Wallis for today's world, seventy years later.

At their celebration held at St John's Church, Mitcham, the Mass was celebrated by Bishop Pat Power from Canberra and afternoon tea took place in the hall with an Auction of the Sisters' craft and art presentations which raised funds for projects supported by the John Wallis Foundation. Some members of the Deaf community were present to support the Sisters.

Congratulations to the Missionary Sisters of Sisters for the inspiration of their lives and their work over seventy years! We thank them for giving hope and joy to so many people in Australia.

**** FLASH NEWS ****

John Wallis Foundation have given grants to JPC for "Technology Connect Pilot Project" and Robert Adam for "Australian Irish Sign Language Project"

Obituary

Fr Peter Woodward, 16th November—20th June 2014

Fr Peter Woodward was born in Toronto near Newcastle on 16th November 1955.

He became a chaplain of the Sydney Archdiocese and Parramatta Diocese deaf community in 1999. Fr Peter conducted Masses for the deaf using sign language Auslan. He was able to communicate with the deaf whether they were elderly, youngsters or teenagers, reaching out to them in friendship and offering them pastoral care and counsel.

Fr Peter was Director of the Ephpheta Centre in Sydney from 1999 to 2005 when Steve Lawlor, himself deaf, was appointed Director of Ephpheta Centre. Fr Peter remained a chaplain to Sydney's deaf community for many years. Steve Lawlor, Ephpheta Centre's manager, his staff and many of the deaf community attended the funeral. Steve Lawlor gave his eulogy in Auslan *"I have known Pete, as I always called him, since his ordination in 1997 and through his work over many years at the Ephpheta Centre. It was Pete who invited me to work at the Ephpheta Centre back in 2000 and together we experienced many ups and downs during the ensuing years"*.

Family, friends, parishioners and colleagues remember Fr Peter's countless acts of kindness and his quiet humility. Fr Peter has been unwell for some time and retired from his role as chaplain at the Ephpheta Centre. His final Mass was the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass on 24 December 2013 in the Ephpheta Centre gardens.

Source: http://sydneycatholic.org/news/latest_news/2014/2014626_375.shtml

Signalling our understanding

Daniel Giles recently wrote an article on his experience attending one of our JPC Mass and enjoyed our hospitality. Do enjoy reading his article. Thank you Daniel for sharing this with us.

Daniel Giles recently had the pleasure of visiting the John Pierce Centre and celebrating the Eucharist presented in Australian Sign Language

The John Pierce Centre (JPC) is a Catholic organisation in Melbourne providing a range of ministries to people within the deaf community. These include a range of social and support groups. In addition, a monthly Sunday Mass presented in Auslan is celebrated at the centre.

My desire to attend Mass at the centre grew after attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) last year. During the disability workshops that were presented at the ACYF, one of the staff from JPC taught us how to sign the ACYF theme song *Your Spirit* in Auslan and mentioned that Mass is celebrated at the centre once a month.

I arrived at the centre to find the congregation all chatting with each other in Auslan. While I have no understanding of sign language, I enjoyed some wonderful conversations with the congregation with the help of interpreters. I also liked the sense of community and that there was a sense of belonging at the place.

People from throughout Melbourne attend the monthly Masses with one particular congregation member commuting from Geelong to attend Mass in his own language.

Mass was then celebrated with the priest himself signing most of the Mass. I feel that the visual gestures from sign language add a visual and symbolic dimension to the liturgy. An interpreter then translated what was being said into English, which helped me in following the Mass. However, the priest presented his homily in English, with the interpreter translating into Auslan.

The biggest highlight of mine, however, was the fellowship we shared after Mass. I truly enjoyed the company and especially enjoyed catching up with my contact from the ACYF. I also enjoyed being shown around the centre and appreciated the networking.

I truly enjoyed the experience of attending Mass at the centre and discovering a place where the deaf community seems to feel at home. My hope, however, is that parishes begin to offer supports such as interpreters and encourage more churches to better cater for the needs of the deaf community, a gap that the JPC is appearing to fill at the moment.

Advertisement – Good Guys Partnership with JPC

The John Pierce Centre is fortunate to have been selected as a Community Partner with the Good Guys Store. The Good Guys Stores are a chain of Independent Electrical and White-goods stores spread throughout Australia that support local Communities by donating a portion of all sales to their Community Partners.

Mr Travice De Silva the proprietor of the store chose to support the Family Support Services provided by the Centre and especially to Deaf families in the wider Chadstone area.

If you visit the store which is located at the Chadstone Lifestyle Precinct at 675 - 685 Warrigal Road in Chadstone, keep an eye out for the JPC display on the community board and you can be sure that the staff of the Good Guys will give you special and attentive service.

We plan to have a couple of events at the Good Guys stores this year to publicize the work of the John Pierce Centre in the area of Family Support; you are welcome to be a part of these events

Newsletter Contribution \$10 per year for Postage

Or wish to receive free newsletters via email, please let Gail know – g.finn@jpc.org.au

Newsletter Deadline

Next Newsletter Deadline – October 2014

Office Hours

Office Hours, Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.00pm Email admin@jpc.org.au Website www.jpc.org.au

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