

NEWSLETTER

ARCHBISHOP HART'S PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE BUSHFIRES

God of love, our hearts bleed with empathy as we witness the suffering of individuals and communities brought about by the devastating impact of bushfires. The loss of life, injury and destruction leaves us shocked and numb with sorrow.

We pray that our compassion may give birth to action as we struggle to respond to this crisis. Through financial donations, practical assistance and prayer may we offer support to those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected.

Gentle God, be with the medical teams as they endeavour to heal the scorched bodies and minds of those injured by the flames. Give strength and perseverance to the firefighters, military personnel and volunteers who continue to battle the blaze. Guide the police, forensic experts and other agencies who must deal with the aftermath of this catastrophe.

We know that new life will one day sprout from the blackened remnants of the bush. We believe also that out of the smouldering ashes of suffering and death there will be resurrection and eternal life. Yet, our hope may be of little help to those preoccupied with pain and overwhelmed with grief.

Merciful God, we ask you to bring comfort and relief to the people affected by the fires: may they feel the embrace of your compassion through our love and concern for their well-being. We make our prayer in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection offer eternal life to those who have died and hope to those who have survived.

Amen.



BUSHFIRE CHAPLAINCY IN THE THICK OF IT

Fr. Greg Bourke

Any disaster that warrants the declaration of a "state of emergency" has at least three distinct phases.

The first is the state of emergency itself. This is the period of weeks immediately after the disaster.

The second stage is the recovery stage. We are in this stage at present.

My role as Bushfire

Recovery Chaplain for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne derives its meaning and title from this stage. In the midst of the disaster and immediately afterwards we witnessed great acts of heroism and generosity, and outpourings of compassion and solidarity. The long, and often awful, haul towards recovery now begins. Recovery generally means that things will get worse before they get better.

The third stage is reconstruction. This is about returning people to normal life in the community, not exactly as it was but in a way that is well constituted, creative and progressive. In some respects the infrastructure will be better but it will never be the same.

With this in mind, I consider that my role as Bushfire Recovery Chaplain has three facets. The first is to offer support to the Catholic communities. The bushfires raged through five parishes: Kilmore (Wandong), Diamond Creek (Kinglake), Epping (Whittlesea), Yea-Alexandra (Flowerdale and Marysville), and Healesville. In addition, parishes such as Mt Evelyn (Warburton), Belgrave and Ferntree Gully were menaced by fire. We must not underestimate the anxiety felt by those who faced the flames; three weeks of constant worry and vigilance push some people too far. They too need help to recover.

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Next Newsletter Deadline

12th June, 2009



From the Executive Manager's Desk Rebecca Miller

Welcome to the JPC Newsletter. As a community we have been saddened by our own losses and those of the broader community – we have delayed this first edition by a few weeks so that we can share something of this with you. JPC's value is truly shown when we are called to support and care for those who are unwell or dying. People often ask us what is "Pastoral Care"? Perhaps next time I will respond that it is the privilege of being able to support people and families at sad and difficult times so they do not feel alone. The wider community is gaining some understanding of this for the first time, as people respond with love, generosity and selflessness to the Black Saturday tragedy. I hope you enjoy our newsletter.



From the Chaplain's Desk Janette Murphy

Lent is a 40 day journey, beginning with Ash Wednesday and concluding at Easter. With the recent bushfires we are certainly aware of "rising out of the ashes" and moving toward the Resurrection and new life. For those who have lost homes and loved ones the journey of rebuilding their lives is, of course, much longer than 40 days. Our hearts go out to those faced with such an unimaginable journey. As Easter approaches may we all know the presence of the risen Christ in our lives, and the new life that springs from the ashes and charred remains of our history. Just as the bush will soon be showing the buds of new growth, may we too embrace the promise of new life that lies within each one of us.

Let us also pray for those children preparing this year to receive Sacraments: Aaron & Liam Devlin (sons of Wendy & Paul) and Bailey Steen (grandson of Margaret). May they know the love and support of our JPC community as they continue their journey in faith.

Bushfire Chaplaincy in the thick of it continued from front page.

I am attempting to support the priests and leadership teams of the affected parishes, including the schools, so that these people may be better placed to do what they want to do, care for their people.

Second, the Chaplaincy has been feeding information and 'state of play' from the fringes of the parishes in the affected areas back to our Catholic agencies such as Centacare and the St Vincent de Paul Society, and also to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund. This helps us to identify any gaps in service delivery to better serve the people affected.

Third, the Chaplaincy is beginning to serve a similar role to that of the Department of Human Services, Centrelink and the other 34 official agencies that come into play when a state of emergency is declared. This is an opportunity also for the Church to learn how we can be of service to the total community when there is a state of emergency and to take up an appropriate role both through parish structures and through Catholic agencies.

Archbishop Hart has made a tremendous effort to respond to this terrible tragedy and, if there is ever another disaster in the future, the Church will be better placed to respond. [Edited version of article in "Recovery", Issue 1, 12 March 2009]

JPC PRAYER ROOM



Did you know?

JPC has a special room that is available for people to use.

It is not a meeting room, but a space for private prayer and quiet reflection.

There is also a library of books on topics such as spirituality, prayer, theology, scripture, and personal development that people are welcome to borrow.

We ask that you not take coffee, tea or food into the prayer room. It is a sacred space with the Blessed Sacrament (Holy Communion) in the Tabernacle. This Tabernacle is from the original St. Mary's School at Portsea, and has special significance for the Catholic Deaf Community.

Communion Services are held at 12.00noon on the 4th Tuesday of each month. All welcome to attend.

"EMMAUS" GROUP 2009

Tuesday meetings: 10am-2pm (BYO lunch)

- 14th April - Faith Development workshop (St. Peter's, Guinane Ave, Hoppers Crossing). "EASTER REFLECTION DAY"
- 28th April - plan 3rd Sunday (17th May) at JPC
- 12th May - Faith Development workshop at JPC - "PENTECOST/HOLY SPIRIT"
- 26th May - plan 3rd Sunday (21st June) at JPC.
- 9th June - Faith Development workshop (St. Clare's, Box Hill) - 'PHILOSOPHY'
- 23rd June - plan 3rd Sunday (19th July) at JPC.
- 14th July - Faith Development workshop (St. Peter's, Hoppers Crossing) "CHURCH HISTORY"
- 28th July - plan 3rd Sunday ("Ephpheta", 16th August)
- 11th Aug - Faith Development workshop at JPC - "FIRST (OLD) TESTAMENT"
- 25th Aug - plan 3rd Sunday (20th September) at JPC.
- 8th Sept - Faith Development workshop (St. Clare's, Box Hill) - "GOSPELS"
- 22nd Sept - plan 3rd Sunday (18th October) at JPC.
- 13th Oct - Faith Development workshop (St. Peter's Hoppers Crossing) - "ST. PAUL"
- 27th Oct - plan 3rd Sunday (15th November) at JPC.
- 10th Nov - Faith Development workshop (JPC) - "LOSS & GRIEF"
- 24th Nov - plan "Christmas Rally" (13th December) at JPC.
- 8th Dec - break-up lunch

Calendar for Signed Masses 2009



- 5th April Melbourne City, St. Francis, 10.00am ("Palm Sunday")
- 9th April Hoppers Crossing, St. Peter's Ashburton, St. Michael's both at 7.30pm ("Holy Thursday")
- 10th April Prahran, 3.00pm ("Good Friday" Service)
- 12th April Prahran, 11.00am ("Easter Sunday") + Lunch at Orrong Hotel, cnr. High Street & Orrong Road.
- 19th April Prahran, 11.00am
- 3rd May Melbourne City, St. Francis, 10.00am
- 17th May Prahran, 11.00am

- 7th June Melbourne City, St. Francis, 10.00am
- 21st June Prahran 11.00am
- 5th July Melbourne City, St. Francis, 10.00am
- 19th July Prahran, 11.00am
- 2nd August Melbourne City, St. Francis, 10.00am

Saturday, 8th August: Mass to celebrate the "100th Anniversary of Mary MacKillop's Death"
East Melbourne, St. Patrick's Cathedral, 10.00am

- 16th August Prahran, 11.00am ("Ephpheta Sunday")

Christmas Rally - 14th December, 2008



Hardworking Christmas Rally Sub-committee:
L to R: Katrina Mynard, Maree Hynes, Robert Fogarty
and Steve Miller



Maryanne Riccobene (Micheale Fogarty's
sister) from Derek's Spit Roast Catering serves
lunch to Helen Ziccone



Excited Daniel Goldab receives a present
from Old Santa Claus

David Camilleri celebrates
his Confirmation at JPC
with sister Michelle (front)
and parents Lewis and
Lee-Ann, and sponsor
Anna Ritchie



Christmas Eve Mass - 24th December



Mary (Tara Papotto) & Joseph (Bernhard Andersson) are joined by shepherds
(Magnus Andersson, Max Papotto & Charlie Miller) and angels (Carla
Papotto & Alessandra Le) at the birth of baby Jesus.

"4 Generations" : proud great-grandmother Eileen Bunting (seated)
holding baby Abbey. Standing: Caroline Patterson (grandmother)
and Belinda Crowe (mother).

JPC CHRISTMAS RALLY - 14TH DECEMBER, 2008

JPC's Annual Christmas Rally on 14th December was a successful day with over 160 people. At John Pierce Centre, Mass was celebrated by Fr. John Hill where the congregation was so pleased to see his old face once again. This Mass was special for David Camilleri (photo on left) who was Confirmed. After Mass, the crowd had an appetizing Spit Roast luncheon at Deaf Children Australia grounds at St. Kilda Road. Although it was crowded indoors due to a heavy rainfall the day before, everyone seemed to enjoy their day as they said it was a great chance for them to catch up with old friends, especially for those who live in the country. After lunch everyone, even adults, were excited to see Old Santa Claus who gave gifts to children.

Raffle prize winners were: 1st - Silvana Franze, 2nd - Eileen Battaglia, 3rd - Kathy Baldwin, 4th - Jules Hayes, 5th - Nancy Carey, 6th - Lorraine A'Hearn, 7th - Eileen Bunting, 8th - Betty Hamilton. Special thanks to RACV, Bunnings, Cadbury and those who generously donated raffle prizes.

Also very special thanks to the Christmas Rally Subcommittee and volunteers - Robert & Michael Fogarty, Maree & Gerard Hynes, Steve Miller, Doug & Marisa Wright, and Carmello & Susan Papotto.

- Katrina Mynard and Gail Finn

International Volunteer

Quang Ngai School for Disabled Children in Vietnam – Teacher of Deaf needed

Quang Ngai School is seeking a qualified Teacher of the Deaf to volunteer and help them establish their programs for Deaf children aged 5 – 18yrs. This is a new school in a semi-rural area. A commitment of 3 months will be needed, airfares and accommodation will be provided. Two years teaching experience required. To register your interest please contact Rebecca Miller by email manager@jpc.org.au.



Garden Volunteer

JPC seeks an active volunteer gardener to help us keep our playground and memorial garden looking lovely. Please talk to JPC staff if interested.



Scrapbooking at JPC

1st Sunday of month commencing 3rd May. Families are welcome. Contact simonetyrell@iprimus.com.au

Congratulations!

Births: Jarrod Scott McKenzie (grandson of John & Bev Kelly) - 24th November, 2008 in New Zealand.



Abbey Norma Silcock (great-granddaughter of Eileen Bunting) - 4th March, 2009.

Confirmation: David Camilleri (son of Lewis & Lee-Ann - 14th December, 2008

Rest In Peace

Mary O'Donnell - 28th November, 2008 (mother of Faye and Danny)

John Thornton - 1st December, 2008 (husband of Lesley)

Matthew Walker - 5th December, 2008 (father of Lorraine)

John Sweet - 11th December, 2008 (husband of Margaret)

Ron Wild - 14th December, 2008 (ex-St. Gabriel's student), Sydney

Valda Pierce (mother of Therese) - 6th January, 2009

Dawn Castles - 7th February, 2009 (Helen Ziccone's aunt)

Margaret Dwyer - 20th February, 2009 (Alan Pendergast's aunt)

Lesley Thornton - 5th March, 2009 (wife of John)



Pankina Deaf Senior Group Program for 2009



<u>April 6th</u>	777 Game/Easter Raffle
<u>April 20th</u>	Crazy Whist
<u>May 4th</u>	Outing
<u>May 18th</u>	Annual General Meeting

SEVEN DAYS DARWIN TOUR

15 - 22 July, 2009

- * Accommodation - twin share including breakfast.
- * Total price including airfare - \$2,600.00
If interested, see Bruno Broglio, Pankina Deaf Senior Group Tours at John Pierce Centre.
- * Payment in full by 15th May.



OBITUARIES - JOHN & LESLEY THORNTON

Stan Batson: John Thornton passed away on 1st December, 2008 aged 76. His well known deaf sister, Margaret died on 12th December, 1998 in NSW.

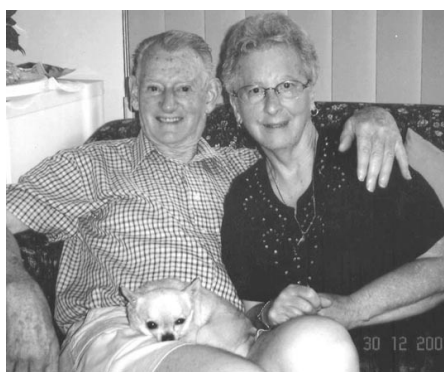
When John and I were 14 years old, we did not know each other well although John came from Cobden near Camperdown and I came from Colac. John came to the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institute (now known as the Victorian College for Deaf) in 1938 at the age of 6 as a daily student. I then was transferred from St. Gabriel's School for Deaf Boys in Castle Hill, NSW at the age of 8 as a boarder. We were really strangers to each other. I hardly knew John because he usually went home after school.

During the WWII, Darwin was bombed in 1942 and army moved into St. Kilda Road school property. A large number of army trucks evacuated all school children, teachers, boarding school staff to a safe place in the bush – that was at Marysville. John and I got to know each other, our friendship set firmly. During the school holidays, John came with me to Apollo Bay, we had a great time together – biking, swimming and fishing there.

John was so determined to set up a fishing club for Deaf people. In his wonderful patience, he took time to establish the fishing club called Victorian Deaf Angling Club (Inc.) where he was the patron for over 30 years.

John was very good at many sports and he made a good name for himself as a full-forward footballer with hearing players for Brunswick (Victorian Football Association) for 11 years. He had made a record of kicking goals – 254 during the 1950's and 1960's. His playing appearance at any football ground anywhere in Melbourne brought a lot of Deaf people to watch him playing with great pride and enthusiasm.

John also played cricket as a fast bowler for Melbourne Deaf Cricket Team plus many interstate games.



John worked as a carpenter in many places and worked on many famous buildings (one of them was Melbourne Arts Centre) and Tullamarine Airport.

David Peters: I first knew him when I was 10 years old, I watched him playing for Brunswick Football Club one Sunday afternoon. I noticed Deaf people there and they informed me there was a Deaf man playing there. He was so thin with "emu" like legs with half gum boots. At the third quarter break, I saw him in a bigger shorts and bigger football boots which made his legs looking so thin. But he played as a very athletic footballer. Afterwards, in the social room, he shouted me a raspberry cordial with lemonade.



I had not seen him for a while until in the early 1970's, I was 17 years old. John invited me to all fishing weekends with his friends like Robbie Scott, Larry Walker, and Bruce Stevenson. We spent a lot of time with Deaf Angling Club, organizing working bees at Altona where many friends were involved. During the meetings which were always late from 7pm to 1.00am, we shouted the jugs of beer.

He gave me some support to play football again for the Victorian Deaf Football against South Australia at Nhill in 1980.

I thought he would never get married until he met a lovely lady, Lesley. They were a great couple for 30 years.

* * * * *

Lesley Thornton (John's wife) passed away on 5th March, 2009, just 3 months after her husband.

She was born Lesley Joan Scott on 2nd April, 1941 at Heywood. Lesley met and married Noel Buck in 1964, and two years later their son Shane was born in Adelaide. They then moved back to Portland to be near family. After 10 years marriage Lesley and Noel divorced, and in 1978 she married John Thornton and moved to Melbourne to live. They were happily married for 30 years.

Shane Buck: My Mum was a very special person. No matter what I did or how I looked or acted she never changed her opinion of me. I was just her son. During my teenage years I was always off travelling and she wouldn't hear from me for a few

months at a time. I would then hop on a train to Melbourne and arrive unannounced to surprise her. She would give me a hug, scold me for not keeping in regular contact, then try to stuff as much food into me as possible because she always thought I was too skinny!

She also gave me some surprises too, like a brother Duncan and family who I never knew about. But I am so glad he is in my life now. I also managed to surprise her myself by giving her 2 grandchildren, Odin and Jasmine who she just loved to bits, and my beautiful fiancé Julie who Mum thought the world of. Mum always called me "my son, good boy".

Duncan McKinstry: I was born to Lesley Scott at Portland Hospital on 3rd July, 1963, and given the name Robert, after my grand-father. I was adopted into the McKinstry family on 14th September, 1964.

Whilst living in Darwin I made contact with Lesley by letter in April 1996 after having been in contact with the Victorian Adoption Centre. I found out I had a brother, also living in Darwin. At the time we made contact I was very excited to meet someone after all these years and didn't realise how much of an extended family I had.

Lesley and John flew to Darwin in December of that year and met their grand-daughter Jenna-Lee, then aged 6, and my wife Ann-Maree. At that time Ann-Maree was very pregnant with our son, Jake. Lesley and John spent family time between our house and Shane's for about a month before returning to Melbourne.

We kept in contact by letters, photos, and faxes throughout the years to keep them up to date with the family events. I still have regular contact with Shane and Julie.

Mum was a very caring lady. She told me that she always thought of me, especially on my birthday. Our reunion was a very special one that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

A funny story from Shane to conclude:

This incident took place in Darwin when Mum and John were visiting Duncan.

One night we were all awoken by a loud band (which was thunder) and Mum screaming very loudly. We all got up, including John, and when we arrived in the kitchen there's Mum on her bum on the floor, as white as a sheet, pointing out the kitchen window. It seems that while Mum was getting a glass of water lightning had hit a palm tree right outside the window just as she was looking out of that window. We all laughed very hard and helped her off the floor.

After that she always got John to get her a glass of water before bed.

Signee Tots/Bubs Playgroup News

Happy New Year to Everyone! Hope 2009 will bring you all happy and a healthy year with families and friends.



Signee Tots/Bubs playgroup started early Feb with very few parents/children attending but started off well, playing with new toys and equipment, crafts, cooking and swimming at the MSAC. Lots of fun!!

This year it's our 10th Anniversary, which is something so special to celebrate. We are organising to have a gathering with all the past and current members attending this special reunion with children. We hope this will happen on 2nd May. An invitation will be sent out soon.

Any Deaf parents with hearing children or Deaf children aged 0-5yrs are more than welcome to join our playgroup. For more information please email signeetots@jpc.org.au

- Fiona Goldab, Signee-Tots/Bubs Playgroup
Co-ordinator

HALL AND BOARD ROOM FOR HIRE

JPC's Hall and Board Room is available to community groups. Training providers and committees requiring facilities with kitchen and disabled access. Please contact Christine at JPC - admin@jpc.org.au; 9525 1158 or TTY 9525 1337 for details.

BALLARAT DEAF SOCIAL CLUB INC

Family Picnic Day

When: Sunday 26th April, 2009 - 11.00am onwards

Where: Ballarat Eureka Stockade Park,
cnr. Rodier & Eureka Streets,
Ballarat East.

Bring your own BBQ/PICNIC lunch, drinks and chairs. Kids can bring games to play. All welcome!



JPC NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

The new Committee for 2009 is: Catherine Perry, Kathy Hynes, Adriana Miller, Gail Finn and Janette Murphy. Any items of news or articles can be sent to any committee member by the deadline date on page 2. We are happy to receive feedback and comments on our newsletter, or ideas for future editions. Thank you.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, JULIA GILLARD, VISITS WERRIBEE DEAF CLUB

Werribee Deaf Club Inc. was presented with an award by Julia Gillard, the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia in September last year. The 'Above and Beyond Award' recognizes services to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in Werribee. All committee members of Werribee Deaf Club attended the Award presentation.



From left to right: James Cooper, Julia Gillard, Michaele Fogarty, Helen Ziccone, Adriana Miller, Patricia Shields, and Jenny Pilbeam

Werribee Deaf Club organizes social nights on the last Friday of every month. Dates: 27th March, 24th April, 22nd May, and 26th June. Where: Central Park

Community Centre, 80 Lonsdale Circuit, Hoppers Crossing.

Helen Ziccone, President for Werribee Deaf Club states: It is important for deaf people the feel they "belong" to a second place where they can socialize

and staying in touch. Being nominated for the 'Above and Beyond Award' is wonderful and exciting as we are being recognised for our contribution to the deaf community by keeping it alive and providing support and social activities.

I appreciate current and past WDC committee, volunteers and members for their time as we are now

acknowledged by members

of parliament and the community. Keep it up. Anyone who is deaf or hearing is welcome to WDC every 4th Friday of the month.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Please notify your new or correct address to: John Pierce Centre, PO Box 443, Prahran, 3181
(Notice: our new postal address is PO Box 443, Prahran, not 2 Donald Street, Prahran)

Name:

Address:

Suburb Postcode

TTY No: Fax No: SMS:

If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please notify Gail Finn - g.finn@jpc.org.au to delete your name off our postage list.



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