

JOHN PIERCE CENTRE NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2017

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Mariana Voggenreiter

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Chairperson JPC Board

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Evelyne Albrecht

Thomas Beddoe

Kathleen Carroll

Damien Backholer

Sonya Tissera-Isaacs

Brian Tooth

Br Shane Wood (minutes)

Next Newsletter Deadline

March 2018

From the Executive Manager's Desk

Rachel Miers

Hello,

December is just around the corner, again! Yes, I have had a great break with my family in the US—but I am looking forward to the Aussie summer, the BBQS, the beach and the Christmas cheer!

We finish off the year on a high after a very successful Deaf Catholic Conference. You may have seen a recap about the event and you can see the lovely group photo here on the right. I would personally like to thank all delegates, staff and JPC board for supporting this unique event. We learnt a lot from the presentations and we are keen to put our learnings into practice as we consider activities in the future for our community.

We will have our annual Thank You Party in November to acknowledge the supporters and volunteers of JPC—we could not exist without them—however I would like to take this opportunity here, to thank each and every one of our community members for being a part of our family this year.

A special thanks goes to all who have donated to JPC in an act of silent “gift giving”. If you wish to make a Christmas donation to a family in their time of need, please consider giving a voucher up to \$20 or \$50 (from Coles or Woolworths). These vouchers are truly worthwhile to

them. Katrina Mynard, our Pastoral Care coordinator, will forward them to the families in metro and rural areas. It will be a blessing to them this season.

Our Christmas celebration is coming up soon! Please join us for **our Christmas Mass at 11am followed by Christmas Lunch on Sunday 10th December.** Lunch, salads, desserts and drinks will be served. Also there will be a lucky door prize and raffles on that day. Come along and join in the fun. (See more details at the back of the newsletter or contact any JPC staff).

The Christmas season is full of a renewed sense of joy, hope and peace, and on behalf of JPC Board and Staff, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2018. We will see you at our centre soon.

Rachel.

THANK YOU GOD FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH:

At our special Ephpheta Sunday celebrations in August (as part of our Deaf Catholic Conference) Mariana Voggenreiter gave a wonderful speech about her journey of faith and about what the Deaf community means to her....take a moment to read:

My name is Mariana and I am a JPC staff member. I work as a pastoral support worker. Last night, I sat down and thought about what to say today. While I was doing this, I keep thinking "Why did Father John ask me to do this today?" Well, despite the many things I have happening in my life...and all at the same time ...my husband and I moved into our first new home, I'm juggling a new job teaching Auslan, the conference is here and I have commitments to family and friends...I realise that I have a lot of valuable things in my life to be thankful for.

I have done all I can to make things perfect for the conference. I even got my nails done! And, after a very long day I arrived home last night excited to show my husband the new coffee table I got, and while doing so, I broke a nail! Aggh, I was so frustrated at first. I thought "why is everything going wrong with me now?" and then at that moment, I reminded myself that life is not perfect and things do not always go to plan.

In life it doesn't matter if we are rich or poor and we all experience disappointments at times...but how do you deal and move on from this? That is

what makes a difference. For me, it's my faith. It is what helps me in difficult times.

Faith to me, means having trust or confidence in someone or something. As I mentioned, my husband and I bought our first home and lots of things came up unexpectedly which required our attention and we were frustrated and disappointed but at the end of the day, Faith is what helped me in pushing through and dealing with all the stress!

Faith affects your every day life gives you patience, strength and direction. My Faith originates from my Catholic upbringing. Both my mum and dad are Catholic. Even though I grew up and went to a Catholic hearing church in Melbourne, I still had no idea what the priest was saying at the services. At the time, I did enjoy going to church as it was my 'family time'. It was a quiet time sitting together, tightly.

After I married my husband 4 years ago, I discovered JPC. I attended Auslan mass and I felt involved and included. I could finally understand what was being said! Now, when I go to Mass, I enjoy it. It is a special time for me to reflect on my faith and my love and my appreciation for my husband and my family—all important things to me.

I have always felt welcomed and part of the deaf community which I am very thankful for.

My life and journey being deaf has been an interesting one. My family are all hearing and growing up I felt like I wasn't hearing or deaf—I was just 'Mariana'—but after completing my university studies, I discovered who I was. My values, beliefs and faith led me to accept and I felt I had the confidence to find my identity.

My identity is my Deafness and our precious sign language, Auslan. Growing up, really something inside me was not complete, but when I started to sign, I was able to find myself and have a greater understanding of myself and everything around me. And, coming to JPC and participating in Auslan mass helps me connect with my faith and helps me lead a more fulfilling life.

BY MARIANA

NEWS FROM AN OLD FRIEND:

Dear JPC friends,

Since arriving in Ottawa, Canada, I have been careful to first look “left” before crossing the road! Everything is on the opposite side of the road, the footpath, in the shopping centres, with escalators, with double-opening doors, down the aisles of the supermarket – you keep to the right! I am constantly looking in cars driving by and wonder where the driver is or why there is only a passenger? I also keep needing to remind myself which side of the road I should be on to wait for the bus! I think by the time I get used to this I will be back in Australia and still be looking the wrong way... At least I have lots of funny stories about this! And – and I pray that continues.

A lovely surprise happened to me the first weekend I went to Mass. The “Canadian Martyrs” Church is a short walk up the road from my University residence, and they have a Deaf Community there! It is the “Saint René Goupil Ottawa Catholic Deaf Community” (www.ottawacatholicdeaf.ca). Gatineau and Ottawa are like Albury and Wodonga, two cities in two different Provinces (States), divided by the Ottawa River which is the border, like the Murray River. The Quebec Province is primarily French speaking, and Ottawa is a mix of both languages, the hearing people switch from one language to the other and back again. I just shake my head in amazement. It would be the same as changing from Auslan to Irish signing and back to Auslan again. I try to attend the Deaf Mass once or twice each month. My one-handed ASL finger-spelling is getting a good workout!

The Deaf Community has been very welcoming to me which is lovely. They are also very patient as I try to communicate and use a few Canadian signs. At the “sign of peace” in Mass I do the Auslan “peace”, and one lady got very excited about it and turned to the Deaf around her and signed “Australia peace” to each of them! I did smile at that, so I have continued to sign my “Australia peace” each Sunday when I’m there. I am learning the Latin language for my study life, and Canadian Sign Language for my spiritual life, plus practicing my French when I get the chance. My usual greeting to people is a mix of English/French/Australian – “Good morning/Bonjour/G’day”!!!

The student residence where I am living has 7 floors and I am on the top floor, with the best view! Two of the floors are hotel accommodation.

One day I was downstairs at Reception and noticed people signing!

So I went over to them and smiled, signing that I was from Australia. Their faces lit up and we had a good conversation. They were two young families from France. The children were hearing, but they signed the whole time, and I didn't voice, so I'm not sure if they understood English or only spoke French. They were lovely and friendly, and happy to have a conversation with someone who could sign, even though not very well...and I was pleased to get some more practice!

My study is good, but a very busy work load with 5 subjects. I am enjoying it, and there are students here from many different countries – United States, India, Denmark, Dominican Republic and other Caribbean Islands, Nigeria and various other African countries, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia. It is a mini-United Nations here! My course is Canon Law, but there are lots of other courses offered – Theology, Communication, Conflict Studies, Psychology, Counselling, and many more.

Some courses are offered in English, some in French, and others are available in both languages. There are so many spoken languages floating in the air – the hearing equivalent of World Congress of the Deaf!

I have done some sight-seeing around Ottawa, and have been to Montreal once on a pilgrimage to “St Joseph's Oratory”. It was built by Br Andre Bissette who is a Canadian Saint. I am pleased that at North Sydney we only have a lock of Mary MacKillop's hair as a relic, because Br Andre's heart is on display at the Oratory! I didn't take any photos of that.

This year Canada is celebrating 150 years of Confederation and lots of different things are happening and are ‘free entry’, which is great for a poor student like me!

I went to “MosaiCanada” which was a display of Canadian history, characters, stories, animals, and lots more – all created from trees, bushes and plants. It was absolutely mind-blowing, eye-opening, and jaw-dropping. I have included a photo of me with my Canadian Mountie friend, who I'm sure will save me from

any grizzly bears that come my way!

Autumn is a beautiful time of year in Canada, and I was lucky to go to Gatineau Park to experience the “Fall Rhapsody” time. It was a lovely day, but because the summer weather was still quite hot until the end of September the colours were not as bright as previous years.

However, the winter is now almost here, and I am not looking forward to the snow! This week will be very cold, a 1°C maximum for the day with a -3° wind-chill factor, which means I need my winter hat (with ear flaps), warm jumper, winter coat, thick scarf, and woolen gloves. I got some winter boots last weekend so I hope I am prepared for the snow when it comes. The boots will keep my toes warm when it gets down to -30°C!! I can’t wait!

I have now been in Canada for 10 weeks, and Christmas is just around the corner. It will be my first “White Christmas”! When you are sweating in the summer heat you may envy me in the cooler weather. I will certainly be envying you all in the lovely warmth of Australia.

So until next time, take care and stay well, and make sure Fr John behaves himself!

With best wishes,

Janette.

PHOTOS IN JANETTE’S ARTICLE:

Fr Peter Monty sj (Sacramental Minister), Janette Murphy rsj & Maureen Cerroni (Spiritual Care Team)

Stained glass window at Canadian Martyrs features Our Lady in the centre and the 8 Canadian Martyrs.

(St René Goupil was one of the Martyrs. He was a doctor who became deaf later in life, and joined the Jesuits as a lay missionary to the First Nation Peoples of Canada. He was ordained a Jesuit not long before he was killed.)

Saint René Goupil Ottawa Catholic Deaf Community gathered after Mass at Canadian Martyrs Church (with me sitting at front)

From the Chaplain's Desk
Fr John Hill CSSR

2017 has been a big year for JPC. A lot of our time and energy was taken up with the Deaf Catholic Conference in August. Together with Ephpheta Sunday it was a great celebration of the Deaf Catholic community. Now we are getting closer to Christmas. Before it all gets too busy, we now have time to think about the meaning of Christmas.

Respect and Value Your Life:

I recently came read a story about a pregnant woman in New South Wales. In 2009, when she was 32 weeks pregnant, she was hit by a car driven by someone under the influence of drugs. Her unborn daughter was killed. The driver went to court and was found guilty of dangerous driving and was sentenced to nine months gaol. Many people were shocked by the sentence he received, because a baby had died, but the court said the law does not consider an unborn baby to be an individual person. So, the driver was guilty of causing injury to the woman, not the baby. I also found stories about another three women who had the same thing happen to them. They were involved in car accidents when they were pregnant and their babies died. The driver of the other car in each accident also received the same kind of light sentence, and for the same reason: a baby in its mother's womb is not considered a person. So, the drivers were charged for causing injury to the woman, but not to the unborn baby. It made me wonder: what if a woman gives birth to a baby on a Thursday, for example, and the law says, 'yes, this is a real person'....but on Wednesday, the day before it was born, does it mean that it is not a real human in the mother's womb? That seems very strange to me. What difference would one be in making that life?

I see a connection between this story and Christmas. At Christmas we celebrate human life. God becomes human in the form of a baby. That makes human life sacred, and we don't have the right to do something that will

deliberately end a human life. Because God became a human being, it means that ALL human life is sacred.

At the moment, the Victorian Parliament is discussing a bill called the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill. It allows a person who is terminally ill to ask a doctor for medication that will help end their life. “Terminally ill” means a person has an illness that cannot be cured, and that will kill the person. The discussion in Parliament has sometimes been very emotional. There have been members of Parliament who have shared their experiences seeing a loved one die from a disease like cancer. For some of those members, the suffering of their loved one convinced them that a dying person should be able to choose when they want to die. They also believe that doctors should be allowed to give them the medication which will end the life of the sick person. Other members have said that the time with the dying loved one was a special experience....and it means that they do not want to have the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

Some people are worried that if this goes ahead, then it could be bad for the community.

Like the story of the pregnant women losing their babies in car accidents, the bill in Parliament will make people think about human life as something sacred, and how we value it. To end a person’s life on purpose—even if they are terminally ill —is wrong. The leaders of all the main Christian churches in Victoria have opposed the bill.

In the past the hearing world did not value the lives of Deaf people, and in some parts of the hearing world today, Deaf are not valued or respected. If that has happened to you, then you already know how important it is to respect and value human life.

We should all respect and value everyone, and people who are different to us. I am thinking of people with disabilities, or who are mentally ill, or living on the street.

Their lives are sacred and should be respected and valued, just like your life.

Go and celebrate human life and the wonder of new life at Christmas!

Fr John.

Find some information to help you plan for your future:

We know that there is so much information on the internet and this does sometimes make it hard to look for things! We have seen some information for all Australians - young or old, rich or poor, investing or paying off debt. It is on ASIC's MoneySmart website, and it was suggested to us to share this with our community.

Maybe you would like to read about planning for your retirement, other financial planning, your superannuation, your future, or your investments. This website has some very useful information. Here is a link and feel free to look up at anytime.

<https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/superannuation-and-retirement/keeping-track-and-lost-super>

Disclaimer: The information in this website and the links provided are for general information only and should not be taken as constituting professional advice from the website owner - the [Australian Securities and Investments Commission \(ASIC\)](#). ASIC is not a financial adviser. You should consider seeking independent legal, financial, taxation or other advice to check how the website information relates to your unique circumstances. ASIC is not liable for any loss caused, whether due to negligence or otherwise arising from the use of, or reliance on, the information provided directly or indirectly, by use of this website.

Make some healthy Christmas dishes for the family this season:

GINGER ROASTED VEGETABLES

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 bunch beetroot, stems trimmed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 3 carrots, peeled
- 3 parsnips, peeled

METHOD:

Step 1: Preheat oven to 200°C or 180°C fan-forced. Wrap beetroot in a sheet of foil. Place in oven while you prepare the other vegetables (the beetroot will take about 1 hour, depending on size).

Step 2: Cut carrots and parsnips into quarters lengthways. Oil an oven tray and arrange carrots and parsnips in a single layer. Drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with ground ginger and salt and pepper. Toss to coat.

Step 3: Add to oven and cook for about 45 min, turning once during cooking, until golden. Unwrap beetroot and test by piercing with a skewer –they will be tender when ready.

Step 4: Allow beetroot to cool slightly, then, wearing rubber gloves, slip off the skins. Cut into quarters. Transfer carrots and parsnips to a warmed serving dish. Toss beetroot in ginger and oil mixture on the tray, then add to other vegetables to serve.

<http://www.taste.com.au/recipes/ginger-roasted-vegetables/07885ce7-0885-4068-8cfc-1c8c542e4442>

LOW FAT CUPCAKES

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup castor sugar
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 teaspoon mixed spice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla essence
- Icing
- 1/2 cup icing sugar
- hot water to mix
- fresh or dried fruit, lollies, sprinkles, silver balls or other appropriate

decorations

Step 1: Preheat oven to 180°C. Line a muffin tin with patty cases.

Step 2: Use a cake mixer to beat sugar and eggs together, until pale and thick and trebled in volume.

Step 3: Combine flour, cranberries and mixed spice and vanilla. Fold this gently into the egg mixture.

Step 4: Spoon mixture into prepared patty cases and bake for 10-15 minutes, or until golden and springy when gently pressed. Allow to cool then ice as below.

Icing: Combine icing sugar and a little water to make a spreadable consistency. Ice the top of each cupcake and decorate with sprinkles or dried cranberries.

<http://www.healthyfoodguide.com.au/recipes/2008/december/low-fat-christmas-cupcakes>

Deaf Catholic Conference – AUGUST 2017 – review:

Over a hundred people participated in our unique Deaf Catholic Conference on Sunday 20th – Wednesday 23rd August. Delegates came from all over Australia and New Zealand to celebrate the “Our Community of Faith - Reflect, Embrace and Nurture” and to make new connections.

JPC wanted to host this event as it had been over a decade since a gathering of this kind in Victoria and pastoral workers for the Deaf were calling for support, recognition and for a chance to reconnect.

Looking back at the very first Deaf Catholic Conference (Canberra 1979), there was a recognition of the importance of open communication channels and moral support for those who work alone in our field. It was obvious then, that people who work in the Deaf Catholic communities – felt frustrated. Our 2017 conference was crucial in revisiting this message and sparking a new energy and commitment

to keeping channels open, sharing practices and experiences and offering support to all in the Australian and New Zealand Deaf Catholic communities.

Attendees had the opportunity to discuss our faith using our language – Auslan (Australian Sign Language). We took the opportunity to reflect on the history of our Deaf Catholic communities, we embraced today's practices, acknowledged the challenges we face and we explored ways to nurture the community into a future full of hope and of a service to all.

The conference began with a special celebration, 'Ephpheta Sunday' with Mass and lunch at JPC with over 100 people. It was a really fantastic time for everyone old and new to catch up. Mariana shared her beautiful story of her faith journey with everyone.

On Monday we saw the opening of the conference with Terry O'Meara presenting the history of International Catholic Foundation for the Service of Deaf Persons (ICF) and hopes to share its journey with the International Deaf Catholic Community.

There were lots of presenters at the conference including Dr Breda Carty, who presented an interesting insight of the Deaf Community and how the demographics may affect the Deaf Community. Catherine Carr from Cabrini presented about looking after ourselves as pastoral workers. Katrina and Mariana explained the importance of working together in a pastoral team and looking after the Deaf Community. Sr Bernadette Wallis shared of her Deaf family journey and the disappearing Australian – Irish Sign Language. Fr John Hill encouraged us to think of the spirituality for the aged people especially when alone in their nursing homes. Gail Finn explained of the liturgical changes from 1962 from a Deaf person's firsthand experience to now e.g. Latin was spoken in the early 60's and now English is used.

Mary O'Meara presented "Embracing the Journey", following the preaching's of Pope Francis on Tuesday which she got the audience signing and singing "Let's make a difference" very catching!

Rachel Miers & David Parker showed of the changes within JPC and Ephpheta Centre from a traditional service model to community service model, same time remaining authentic to the mission. Paula Sharp gave examples on grieving and loss including losing someone, moving house, dealing with changes, losing friends and adapting to new environment. Denise Lacey provided the audience to explore ideas, skills and knowledge to build friendships, partnerships and to build healthy relationships.

On Tuesday evening, there was a Gala Dinner which was enjoyed by all. We had a special guest presenter Ramas McRae for the evening. Ramas explained of 'Deafhood' to the captivated audience, and about how we can empower others in the Deaf Community. All the guests got to take home cupcakes specially made by Brianna Beath, which were delicious! The Photo Booth was a hit with everyone too!

Wednesday saw James Blyth presenting Deaf Youth – Passing on the Deafhood. He shared stories that resonated with the audience and encouraged us to share with the Deaf Youth, to make them feel included in the community. Nicole Clark is thankful of her journey as an interpreter, and her told us of her experience within the Church and Deaf Community. Nicole expressed her thanks to the members of the Deaf Community who was patient with her, while learning to become an interpreter.

Trish Mowbray, Anna Chandler and Sr Helen Mirren explained of the importance of 'inclusion' and how we can include others with a disability in the parish life.

Throughout the conference days, we had a community art project and we invited all attendees to participate by painting a small canvas. All enjoyed this experience as it was very relaxing. We hope to display the community art in JPC Community Centre very soon, to acknowledge the special Deaf Catholic Conference of 2017.

[You can see some more photos on our Facebook page and you can watch some videos of people sharing their experience about the conference online. Go to:](#)

<https://vimeo.com/johnpiercecentre>

PHOTOS IN REPORT:

Conference room in action with Deafblind interpreters

NZ representatives—Rachel Marr, Mary Fifield, Sion Owen, Felicity Crowe

Ephpheta Sunday Special Mass at JPC in Prahran

Christine Elder (JPC) and Mary O’Meara (USA) - Key Note Speaker

Terry O’Meara (USA) - Key Note Speaker

Dr Breda Carty (NSW) —Key Note Speaker

Launch of Religious Signs Project with Jennifer Coburn (Deafness Foundation) and Fr John Hill

Katrina and Mariana presenting—you can see the interpreters working hard!

Gail Finn presenting

Ephpheta Sunday Lunch with Margaret Brown, Sr Frances Caine, Rosemary Profilio and Sr Bernadette Wallis

Conference room in action with Deafblind interpreters

Delegates: Patricia Anderson (VIC) and Robert Beath (SYD)

Delegates participating in sign singing! “Let’s make a difference”

Rachel and David talking about the mission of the two centres

James Blyth and Diane Urlich Smith (SYD)

James Blyth and Anthony Hastings (SYD)

Nicole Clark— The Church, The Deaf and The Interpreter

Sr Helen Mirrin presenting about “Inclusion”

Here is the making of a beautiful community art project—we will display at JPC, in memory of the event.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Contact: Katrina Mynard for any questions about the Community activities:

SMS: 0400 660 601

k.mynard@jpc.org.au

We appreciate any donations to cover costs of morning & afternoon tea for all community groups. Thank you!

SIGNEE TOTS:

From Melissa Thompson—Signee Tots Coordinator:

Signee Tots has used our imaginations, stories and play to explore some amazing destinations this year. We have eaten breadsticks under the Eifel Tower, and seen stories about the Australian bush, farms and beach, during a special story time session in the Story Island Exhibition. We went on a treasure hunt, and we used science to turn things green, for St Patrick's Day. During the autumn school holidays, we made and raced boats down the mill stream in the Children's Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens, before making and flying kites on the lawns. For the Japanese Children's Day festival, we made carp fish kites, and had a tea ceremony. In June we had to pop back to Melbourne for supplies – from the Prahran Market, where we had a scavenger hunt, had our faces painted and played with the animals in the petting farm. Although the July school holidays were mid-winter in Melbourne, in Scandinavia it was the mid-summer festival. We enjoyed moving between summer and winter, exploring the arctic and its animals. We went on an excursion to the Melbourne Museum 'Bug Lab' and school holiday program. We also caught a game of football at the MCG, watching an incredible draw unfold between the Pies and Crows. In August we had 'Science Around the World' and we had activities and experiments which focused on a chemical element very important to life on Earth – Carbon. September was 'Book Week', with the theme 'Escaping to Everywhere'. We used stories to escape to many places, but made sure to write and mail postcards to those still at home. October was 'Oktoberfest' in Germany, and while we ate a lot of pretzels that day, we did not have any beer!

We are now almost to the end of our travels for 2017. A travel journal is available to view via the JPC Facebook page if you want to reminisce or have a peek at our

wonderful year of travel.

Signee Tots have a few more destinations to explore and festivals to celebrate, before they return home for Christmas, and have a break over the summer.

For more information, please contact:
Melissa Thompson / m.thompson @jpc.org.au

Upcoming dates: Tuesdays (11am-1pm):

November 14th—India and the Diwali festival of light – we will learn a Bollywood dance routine, make some bangles, and of course see some beautiful light displays.

November 28th—United States of America and Thanksgiving. Signee Tots has so much to be grateful for this year – our new families and children, and all the adventures and fun we have shared.

December 12th – Christmas Celebration. We will decorate our wooden cubby as a gingerbread house, make our own little gingerbread houses, and hopefully have a visit from someone special. Like us, Santa will have travelled a long way to get back to Signee Tots this Christmas!

Upcoming dates 2018—Tuesdays (11am-1pm):

- February—6th and 20th
- March—6th and 20th
- April—17th
- May—1st, 15th and 29th

Deaf art:

When you practice art you will learn things about yourself you didn't know!

During the time spent on your creative task, your thoughts and mindset will be shifted into a state of complete freedom from stress, anxiety and negativity. So

why not come and try it! You will also have fun chatting with the group!

Save the dates in your diary and we will share the details of what the art activity will be as the day comes closer. You can also see our Facebook or give us your email address and we can send you the info too.

Upcoming Fridays : (10:00am - 2:00pm)

February: 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

March: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

April: 20th, 27th

May: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Ladies day out:

We have enjoyed the recent excursions with our friends. We went to Tulip farm and Mornington Markets and loved to get out and about.

We will have our **last lunch gathering of the year at The Bank on Collins on Wednesday 19th November**. If you would like to join us, please contact Katrina. The more the merrier!

Wednesdays: here are the dates for the start of 2018 and we will advise what the activities will be soon...

28th February

21st March

18th April

23rd May

Deaf Men's Group:

Deaf Men's Group meet fortnightly on Mondays (from 10am to 2pm). Most meetings are held in the JPC Hall and we play cards, talk, share news.

Come and join the men's group when ever you like — It's an open house!

Coffee/ Tea are provided, but please BYO Lunch.

Upcoming Dates —Mondays (fortnightly):

5th February

19th February

5th March

19th March

16th April

30th April

Pankina:

Pankina group continues to attract the most people and we are proud to provide a community hall where our seniors can gather!

In 2018, there will be a lot of activities—cards, bingo and more! See the upcoming dates here:

Come and join in and meet old and new faces!

Pankina - Upcoming Dates—Mondays (fortnightly):

29th JAN—Open day

12th FEB—BINGO

26th FEB—777's cards

13th MARCH (Tuesday) - BINGO and Easter raffle

26th MARCH—Crazy Whist and Easter

9th APRIL—BINGO

23rd APRIL—777's cards

7th MAY—BINGO and Mothers Day

Calling for donations:

In second week of November we visited some parishes around Victoria to tell people about our unique centre. JPC staff and our wonderful volunteer Lizzie, spoke to the parishes about our centre and we did receive some donations. This is fantastic as we rely on donations to keep our centre running!

Thanks to all who donate to us. Even if it is a small amount...it goes a long way to helping us to provide the best service to the Deaf Catholic Community.

If you would like to make an online donation—click here

<https://www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations>

Rest in peace:

John McEvoy (3rd August) Long time friend of Fr. Peter Robinson

Margaret Smith (7th August) Mother of Anne Smith

Margaret Steen (9th August) Wife of Bernie (dec.)

Marjorie Marshall (9th August) Mother of Linda Marshall

Patricia Rayner (12th August) Mother of Mark Rayner

Jessie Tagell (21st August)

Don Hansen (28th August)

Margaret Symons (1st September) Wife of Terence (dec.)

Bruce Norris (3rd September)

Marjorie Wolstenholme (13th September) Mother of Tannie Wolstenholme

Noel Phillips (24th September) Husband of Carmel and father of Brent and Matthew.

Delcue Brandy (30th September) Aunt of Rayelene Thorne

Phyllis Sage (10th October)

Calendar for Signed Masses:

First Sunday Mass every month at John Pierce Centre

Second Sunday Interpreted Mass at St. Francis Church, Elizabeth Street,
Melbourne.

Third

Sunday Mass every month at John Pierce Centre

Christmas Celebrations 10th December Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 11.00am
Christmas Eve 24th December Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 3pm
(3rd Sunday Mass) 17th January, 2018 Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 11.00am
Ash Wednesday 14th February 2018 Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 11.00am
(3rd Sunday Mass) 18th February, 2018 Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 11:00am
(1st Sunday Mass) 4th March, 2018 Auslan only	Prahran, JPC 11:00am

(3rd Sunday Mass) 18th March, 2018 Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 11:00am
Holy Thursday 29th March, 2018 Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 3pm
Good Friday 30th March, 2018 Auslan Only	Prahran, JPC 3pm
Easter Sunday 1st April, 2018 Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 11:00am
(3rd Sunday Mass) 15th April, 2018 Interpreter provided	Prahran, JPC 11:00am

Bequests:

By leaving a gift to John Pierce Centre in your Will, you will have a lasting impact, supporting our centre for years to come. A bequest makes a lasting positive change. It is a powerful reflection of the values and principles you treasure. It enables you to create a legacy of love and care for those who most need assistance and it will continue your life's aims beyond your own lifetime. For more information, please contact our Office on 03 9525 1158 or email admin@jpc.org.au Thank you.

DO YOU LIKE READING TO CHILDREN?

Here is an opportunity for you to support our young deaf children.

VCD is looking for volunteers for a reading program. Their aim is to get young children to look up and watch and learn fluent Auslan, by watching storytelling in native Auslan.

If you would like more information, VCD would be interested to talk to you.

Please contact either Katrina at JPC or VCD: victorian.ds@edumail.vic.gov.au

Portsea 70yr anniversary is on in second half of 2018 and we need volunteers to be on the celebration committee! The team will organise venue, tickets and planning of the event. [If you are interested please contact Rachel for more information.](#)

[Rachel: manager@jpc.org.au](mailto:manager@jpc.org.au)

Religious Signs Library on our Website.

We were proud to launch the Religious Sign Online resource at our Deaf Catholic Conference recently and we thank The Deafness Foundation for their outstanding support in assisting us in the set up of this project.

[Visit www.jpc.org.au](http://www.jpc.org.au) and click on the link at the bottom of the page.

You will see a library of short video clips in Auslan, showing you the sign for the religious word.

This resource is there for everyone. Community, interpreters, teachers, families.....please share.

We are committed to Child Safety at JPC.

Recently all staff and board members attended training about Child Safety Environment and JPC now has a policy around building and maintaining a Child Safe Environment. There are Victorian standards and legislation that we are committed to following and we want to work with The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to make sure that all churches and communities are safe and happy places for children. Below is a poster that you will now see at JPC community centre and we ask that all people who attend JPC, join us in taking on the responsibility of caring for our children and for reducing any risks that you see as dangerous. If you see something that does not look right, and makes a child unsafe or unhappy or at risk of any form of harm—please tell a JPC staff member immediately. If you have any questions about this and our new policy, please see Rachel Miers, (JPC Executive Manager).

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENT AND RAFFLE:

Join us for Christmas Mass followed by lunch!

TICKETS:

\$25.00 - per person

\$10—per child (under 15yrs)

\$40—family (2 adult 2 children)

INCLUDES:

Lunch, dessert & drinks

RSVP and BUY TICKET:

BY Monday 4th December

Get Raffle Tickets too!

Only \$2.00 each.

Prizes include :

a HUGE Christmas Hamper, appliance and wine!

Keep In Touch:

www.jpc.org.au

admin@jpc.org.au

[JohnPierceCentre](#)

Want to keep in touch with JPC?

You can always find more information about JPC , Deaf community and events on:

[our Facebook page](#)

[our website](#)

And, if you would like to share some news with the community, please contact us.

We may be able to add it to the next issue of our Newsletter!