

JPC NEWSLETTER DEC 2018

A.B.N. 55 005 611 601

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Office Hours

MON - WED

9.30am to 3.30pm

THURS - FRI

By Appointment Only

Staff

Christine Elder

Gail Finn

John Hill cssr

Katrina Mynard

Melissa Smith

Melissa Thompson

Mariana Voggenreiter

Executive Manager

Deb Wadsworth

Chairperson JPC Board

Theresa Mills

Board Members

Thomas Beddoe

Kathleen Carroll

Evelyne Albrecht

Damien Backholer

Sonya Tissera-Isaacs

Brian Tooth

Br Shane Wood (minutes)

Next Newsletter Deadline

MAR 2019

WELCOME:

As the year comes to an end, and we see 2019 popping up over the horizon, we thank God for all the wonderful experiences we have had in 2018.

We have welcomed a new team manager, Deb, and we look forward to teaching her more Auslan signs as she immerses herself into our centre. We congratulate her on her efforts so far and appreciate her support and expertise.

We have celebrated wonderful milestones of birthdays and wedding anniversaries amongst the community, and we have celebrated the lives of those who have left us.

We have seen a growth in attendance to the Signee Tots playgroup and we love connecting with new Deaf families, and of course Pankina Seniors Group is still a popular group, along with our ladies and men's groups, and Deaf Art. Perhaps you may be lucky enough to be getting a handmade Christmas gift from someone in the Deaf Art group this year?

Over the last few months, we focused on promoting our centre so that we can continue to support all the pastoral services and activities we provide. We launched our new 'Who We Are' video and we hope that you can share that amongst friends and teach people about the relevance of the Deaf Catholic Community.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the community members, volunteers, interpreters, staff and board of JPC for a wonderful 2018. You provide the colour and life in the JPC world!

On behalf of JPC Board and Staff, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to growing in spirit with you in 2019 and beyond.

CHRISTMAS RALLY INFO:

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER

MASS: 11—12pm

Followed by lunch

\$25 per person

See information on back page

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK:

A tourist was driving in the south west of Western Australia during the wild flower season. It was late in the afternoon, and it looked like there would be a beautiful sunset. He saw a hill in the distance and decided he would stop there, and climb to the top of the hill to see the sunset. He parked the car, got out and started climbing. There was no track there, so he had to find his way through the bush. As he climbed the bush got thicker, and he was becoming frustrated because he would miss out on seeing the sunset. Finally the bush was too thick for him to go any further. He stopped, and sat down. He was frustrated and angry because he was going to miss out on the sunset.

After a few minutes he took a few deep breaths, and tried to relax. He started looking around, and taking more notice of the bush that he was in. It was only then that he saw the beautiful wildflowers growing in the bush.

They were all around him. No matter what direction he looked, he could see beautiful flowers in all kinds of colours. He didn't notice them because he was so fixed on seeing something in the distance. He missed the beauty at hand.

Life can be like that for us. We get so fixed on something that we have to do later or tomorrow or next week that we forget about what is around us now, especially our families, friends — and God.

From the Chaplain's Desk
Fr John Hill CSSR

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE:

Patricia Andersson

27th June 1935—28th September 2018

“Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe” (Saint Augustine)

We thank Simon for sharing these beautiful words about our beloved Pat. May She Rest In Peace.

Thank you all for coming here. I am sure if Mum was here she would be telling me, I got married here, it was a rainy day that day, wonder who is here at this funeral, great to see this or that person here, wonder what the food is like after the funeral.

I am sure you all are surprised to be here. She was fine only a few weeks ago. When a friend from Sydney visited, we all went on a long walk around the Blackburn lanes. All good! The end was very quick. Wednesday last week, she fell, was taken to hospital, and was found to

have problems with her abdomen. Thursday, the hospital told me it was severe constipation. Friday, the hospital rang me to say she perforated her bowel and had only a little more to live. Fortunately, myself and my family were all there when she took her last breaths. And now we are here.

Of course it is sad that she is gone. However, she really had a wonderful life, filled with joy and laughter. The laughter bit, yes. Even in moments of great sadness, she could laugh. My aunt Jean tells me that when we sent her a DVD of my fathers Michael funeral, she was watching the sermon from the priest. The priest was talking about the time that my father was in a passion play wearing only a loincloth and it was starting to fall down. At that time, my aunt could clearly hear my mothers laughter at that point.

My mother was a party girl. When my wife Karli and I went through her photo albums to pick out photos for the PowerPoint slide, there were photos and photos of social gatherings, one after the other. Balls, parties, outings, travels. She's been to more countries than I have. My mother really loved to be with people. Her favourite thing to do was to get together with people.

So. Start at the beginning. My mother was born in Sea Lake, a country town about 350km north west of Melbourne, 27th June 1935, the seventh of what would become a family of 11 children. My mother told me that she was a wild child and uncontrollable. No wonder, she was Deaf and didn't understand what was going on. Her parents did not know what to do until they heard about a Catholic school for Deaf girls in Newcastle called Waratah.

She went there and was transformed into a lovely little girl. That's what she tells me! The thing that changed her most was the fact that she finally found language - sign language. Finally she found a way to communicate with the world. She taught her sisters and brothers Irish fingerspelling (as the nuns at her school were from Ireland).

It was also the start of her religiosity. She kept telling me over and over again, she was moved so deeply by the religious stories by the Deaf nuns there, that she believed fervently and deeply in the Catholic faith. It was a life long faith. Mass every week was very important for

her, even attending where she could not understand one thing at a hearing church (as Deaf church was not on every week). Just to be in the presence was enough.

That was a thread that ran through her life. She may have been a party girl, but she was also very religious. When my father had his birthday in 1968 (when they were going out together), what did he get from her? A Novena card from her. She in fact had over 100 Novena cards in her possessions when I looked through them. Her faith was strong and sure. In her very last moments, as she was too weak to sign, she moved her mouth, no doubt in prayer, and stared not at us who were there, but heavenward.

A very important part of her life was Deaf church, being at Deaf mass and together with other Deaf Catholics. The John Pierce Centre was a very important part of her life. She had dementia which affected her memory and functioning, but even so the John Pierce Centre was something she remembered well and would always ask me, when is the next JPC mass? She forgot most things, but not JPC. On that point, I would like to ask you all to please make a donation to JPC in her memory.

Her family was also a very important part of her life. She loved all her 10 brothers and sisters. She got together with her family frequently and had very close connections. Joyce, Peter, Roma, Grace, Frances, Robert, Dick, Gloria, Josie, and Salvatore. In fact, in her dementia, sometimes she called me Salvatore. I am sure now that she is having a happy reunion with Gloria, Joyce and Dick.

Her friends were also very important to her. She was either organising to meet friends, or meeting them. One of the cruellest things about her dementia was that she simply forgot who her friends were. What I mean by that is that she did not forget the essence of you as a friend, but just forgot the labels for you. For those of you who wondered why she was not in touch in her last years, you were in her heart always, it was just that dementia rendered her incapable.

A significant time in her life was May 1965 when she caught a cruise together with some of her friends. It marked a change in her life - before that, her photos are few and far between, but after that, there are so

many more photos! That year, she travelled all around the world, met so many people, including my father and stayed abroad for two years, including a stay in London. And then, she married my father in May 1970 here in this church.

They had a wonderful 40 years together in marriage. My father was at the centre of my mothers life. Photo after photo of them together in many different locations and gatherings. After my father died in 2010, something in my mother went too. She was never the same. That is when her bowel problems started, and that is what killed her in the end. The centre of emotions is in the gut. Finally they are both reunited now.

And yes, she was my mother. I was her only child. A back problem meant that she could not have more children after me. She loved me and wanted the best for me. She and my father fought the Education Department about my education and worked hard to send me to good schools. When I was young, she was always there to listen to what I had to say.

I know I owe to both her and my father my confidence in life. My three children have turned out to be wonderful, and that is due in part to my mother who influenced me as a father.

As for her legacy? That's very simple. It is all of you gathered here today. You all have come here today because you have had wonderful moments with my mother. Please do come to the wake, enjoy the food there (Mum will be upset if you don't!) and share your memories of her.

BY Simon Andersson

PHOTOS IN NEWSLETTER:

Pat and her husband Michael.

Pat with her dear friend at JPC in the Emmaus Group

Pat had a wonderful time at the Deaf Catholic Conference in AUG 2017

Beautiful Pat!

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - NEWS:

SIGNEE TOTS -

From Melissa Thompson

This has been a big year for JPC and for the Signee Tots playgroup. The group has consistently grown, with more and more people coming. As I look forward to planning for 2019 and the 20th anniversary of this amazing group, there has also been the opportunity to reflect, both on this year, and on my nearly 10-year connection with this group!

Recently, a journalist from Playgroup Victoria came to look at Signee Tots playgroup. I was touched by the beauty and value that she saw in the JPC community and its programs. This year Signee Tots has run to the theme 'Escape to Everywhere Through Books', and each session has focused on a particular children's book. Most recently we have been on a bear hunt ('We're Going on a Bear Hunt'), used our imaginations with the book 'Imagine' and danced ballet with 'The Peasant Prince'. In the Playgroup article, and probably because of my love of dressing up, I was described as looking like I had "just stepped out of a book". I love the idea of books taking us to another place. They are like doorways into different worlds, different cultures, and different times. This makes them wonderful tools for firing children's imaginations and growing their knowledge.

Recently, I learnt of a tradition from Iceland, called Jolabokaflokkur, or the 'Yule Book Flood'. The people of Iceland love books, and on Christmas Eve they give books as presents. The evening is then spent in bed reading and eating chocolate! This Christmas season I hope that you have time to lose yourself in a book or a good story (and perhaps to nibble a little bit of chocolate!).

As well as reading over the Christmas holidays, I will also be dreaming up some new themes for 2019, and planning the 20th anniversary celebration. Stay tuned for more information early next year.

Thank you for a wonderful year, Merry Christmas and Happy Jolabokaflokkur!

**NOTE: Our Signee Tots Christmas Party is on TUESDAY 11th
DECEMBER!**

For more information please contact:

Melissa Thompson
E: [m.thompson @jpc.org.au](mailto:m.thompson@jpc.org.au)

DEAF ART:

Thanks for all the support and fun through the year. We hope you enjoyed the 2018 program too. We look forward to learning new things in 2019 and If you have any ideas for new art classes, please share your feedback with us.

Thank you!

NOTE: The admission is now \$5.00 per person, to over costs of tea, coffee and morning tea. BYO lunch and craft tools.

Additional materials/teachers cost may be required. Get in touch to find out more!

2019 Fridays:

10am- 2pm

1st Feb

8th Feb

15th Feb

22nd Feb

1st march

8th March

15th March

22nd March

29th march

5th April

26th April

LADIES DAY :

We had a great time recently at Victoria Market and ArtVo and we had an interesting session about cleaning products! Our homes will be spotless! We are looking forward to the end of year lunch at Rococo's and *we wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and see you in the new year!*

Ladies Outings:

TUES 27th February

TUES 20th March

TUES 17th April

We will share more news about what the activities will be as soon as possible.

DEAF MENS 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.

Men's Time Out:

MONDAYS-

4th Feb.

18th Feb.

4th March

18th March

15th April

29th April

PANKINA:

From Ron Chapman (President of Pankina)

Pankina Group meets every second Monday from 9.30am till 3.30pm. Usually we have a variety of activities like Bingo, 777 cards, Crazy Whist and also special events like Mother & Father's Day Raffles and football days and Melbourne Cup celebrations!.

I am pleased that we continue to welcome old or new people to join in. And now , the average number of people attending is 60!

Recently we had a function "Melbourne Cup Day" . We dressed up and had lovely lunch then we had delicious afternoon tea... yummy! The women's dress up won by Monica Stevenson and men's won by Vicente Anell. Congratulations to them.

And I would like to mention, a big thank you to Annette Forgarty who volunteers helping us with in the kitchen and preparation. She makes delicious lunch and cakes and also helps us with plenty of ideas for our next functions... thank you again Annette!

We are looking forward to go to Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenong Ranges for our Christmas lunch on Monday 10th December.

Pankina—Mondays:

TUES 29th JAN

MON 11th FEB

MON 25th FEB

TUES 12th MARCH

MON 25th MARCH

MON 8th APRIL

MON 6th MAY

(We will share information about the activities on these dates soon).

Remember!!
For information on any community activities, please contact Katrina: SMS: 0400 660 601 / E: k.mynard@jpc.org.au

PEOPLE:

Congratulations Malcolm and Monica!

Malcolm (78) and Monica (77) Stevenson have been involved at JPC and in the Deaf Community for many years. Malcolm received the ER. Nobel Award (VCOD) in 2003 and Monica received JPC Directors Award for Outstanding Service and Dedication to JPC on 19th of April 2017.

“I met Malcolm at the Deaf Club at Jolimont. He was a beautiful, handsome man. He was not interested in me but I keep trying to talk to him. I won him! He asked me out for a date, I said yes. About seven months later we got engaged then one year later, we married.

We married at Sacred Heart Church at Maruya (where I was born) on 5th October 1968. We have been married for 50 years.

My daughter Debbie organised and invited our family and friends to a party. Malcolm's family and my family can't come because of their health. We have granddaughter Makayla 10 years old and Lachlan 7 years old. Lachlan had taken lots of photos of us. We went to the Gold Coast to stay at Broadbeach for seven days but had bad weather. It was windy and rainy, but we still enjoyed it. We went to SeaWorld and also had a lovely at the Thai restaurant where we stayed.

We would like to thank our daughter, family and friends for celebrating with us!”

Thank you for sharing your story Monica!

Welcome Matilda!

We are very excited about the new addition to the JPC extended family! Mariana (our pastoral care team member), and her husband Dustin, celebrated the birth of their beautiful daughter Matilda on 31.07.2018.

Congratulations Mariana and Dustin. We look forward to supporting you and welcoming Matilda into our community of faith, love and friendship!

(Here is Matilda with Fr John at her baptism in September).

Get to know Deb Wadsworth:

Favorite colour? Purple

AFL team? St. Kilda

Favourite holiday place? Port Douglas

Favourite meal? Rack of Lamb

Coffee or Tea? Both

Favourite TV show? Lifestyle

Favourite part about the JPC Community...so far.....Welcoming, inclusive, friendly, helpful, caring.

It's wonderful to be part of the JPC and work alongside fabulous and dedicated staff and volunteers.

My own connection with family and friends is one of the most important things in my life, so working at the JPC gives my work life an enormous sense of purpose, plus helping to enrich other people's lives at the same time.

Hats off to our Deaf Community who brighten our days and greet us with a smile, as they ever so patiently teach me the Auslan signs I have forgotten from the week before.

Feel free to contact Deb :Deb Wadsworth - manager@jpc.org.au

Calendar for Masses:

Christmas Rally Mass 9th December	Prahran, JPC 11.00am
Christmas Eve Mass 24th December,	Prahran, JPC 3pm
3rd Sunday Mass 20th January, 2019	Prahran, JPC 11.00am
3rd Sunday Mass 17th February, 2019	Prahran, JPC 11.00am
3rd Sunday Mass 17th March, 2019	Prahran, JPC 11.00am
Holy Thursday Mass 18th April, 2019	Prahran, JPC 3pm
Good Friday Service 19th April, 2019	Prahran, JPC 3pm
Easter Sunday Mass 21st April, 2019	Prahran, JPC 11:00am

Third Sunday Mass: (with Auslan Interpreter)

- Every month at John Pierce Centre at 11AM
- Note: We will not be having 1st Sunday of the month mass in 2019

Second Sunday Mass: (Integrated hearing mass with Auslan Interpreter)

- St. Francis Church, 326 Lonsdale St, Melbourne at 1:30pm
-

LEAVE A BEQUEST:

By leaving a gift to John Pierce Centre in your Will, you will have a lasting impact, supporting our centre for years to come. 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 in need. For more information, please contact our office on 03 9525 1158 or email admin@jpc.org.au *Thank you.*

JPC HALL FOR HIRE:

Did you know that you can hire JPC hall for a small fee, for your workshop, seminar, events or meetings? We are proud of our centre and we have many features to offer like parking (easy access to tram line), large indoor space, natural lighting, AV equipment, full kitchen, accessible toilets, cooling and heating. More info:

Ph.: 03 9525 1158 / E: admin@jpc.org.au

REST IN PEACE:

Beryl Wilson—28th July

George Gideon—13th August

Carol O'Connor—23rd September

Patricia Andersson—28th September

Christine Holt—3rd October

Fr Paul Pitzen—20th October

Coral Hatelly—28th October

OTHER NEWS:

We are pleased to share our new video “JPC—Who We Are”.

This is available on our website and Facebook page. We hope that this video will show people the spirit of our community and will encourage more support and donations to our centre.

You can click here : <https://www.jpc.org.au/about-jpc/jpc-mission/>

A big thank you to all our community and staff involved in producing this video!

Silent Gift Giving:

As Christmas approaches, we would like to thank people who have donated to JPC in an act of silent “gift giving”. You too, can make a difference to a deaf family somewhere, who needs support at Christmas. Please consider giving a Coles or Woolworths voucher, or something similar, (from \$20 - \$50) .These vouchers are truly worthwhile. Katrina Mynard, our Pastoral Care coordinator, will forward them to the families in metro and rural areas.

If you would like to make an online donation to JPC, please go to:
<https://www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations>

Thanks to Pankina:

On behalf of Melbourne Polytechnic students they would like to say a big “Thankyou” for giving the opportunity for students to meet the Pankina members. They have really enjoyed themselves!

DID YOU KNOW?

Our connection to St Cecilia’s Church in Glen Iris:

Gail Finn and Melissa Smith visited St Cecilia’s Catholic Church in Glen Iris recently, as part of the Ephpheta Appeal. This is a hearing parish and the priest—Revd Kevin McGovern—was very welcoming and supportive of the Deaf community. After mass, Fr Kevin told Gail and Melissa that the priest

who worked in their parish (passed away recently), was the priest who designed the building where JPC is! His name was Fr Tom Brophy. What a wonderful connection!

Here is a snippet from an article that was written about Fr Tom Brophy (from Kairos Catholic Journal April 2014)

“Fr Tom is well known for his role in establishing the first octagonal church in Melbourne, perhaps even Australia—that of St Francis Xavier in Prahran, now the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf featured in Kairos Volume 25, Issue 3. It was thanks to this Catholic Heritage article that we discovered it was Fr Tom who designed the Madonna and Child wooden sculpture that had been wrongly attributed in a photograph featured with the story. As it turns out, Fr Tom is quite an accomplished sculptor and painter—he has been hand-carving since his days in the seminary. There were several pieces of his sculpting and painting work throughout his home. The Madonna and Child sculpture, which is now housed in St Cecilia’s, started out as a log of kauri pine purchased from the South Melbourne market for £11; it was six foot long and six foot in circumference. ‘I stood in my backyard with my little carving tools and started,’ he said. Seven years later, it was finished.”

You can read more about Fr Tom Brophy (in the 2014 online magazine):

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Archive/Features/fr-tom-brophy-pe>

And

<http://www.cam.org.au/kairos>

CHRISTMAS HOW-TO:

Recipe for Gingerbread biscuits

INGREDIENTS

- 125g unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup golden syrup
- 1 egg
- 2 cups plain flour
- 1/4 cup self raising flour
- 1 tbs ground ginger
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 330g icing mixture, food colouring, small decorations of choice (we used cachous and pearls), to decorate

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 180°C. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper.

- Beat butter, sugar and syrup together in a bowl until creamy. Add egg and beat well. Sift flours, ginger and soda together. Stir into butter mixture. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead lightly until smooth. Roll out to 5mm thick. Use cutters to cut out shape. Transfer to tray.
- Bake for 10-12 minutes until light brown. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

- To decorate; prepare the icing mix following packet instructions. Colour as desired. Spread on biscuits and decorate.

Source: <https://www.delicious.com.au/recipes/gingerbread-biscuits>

Want to keep in touch with JPC?

You can always find more information about JPC on our Facebook page and on our Website.

If there is something you would like to see more of...please tell us.

- *our Facebook page*
- *our website*
- *Or pop in*

*Office Hours-
MON - WED: 9.30am to 3.30pm
THURS - FRI:Appointment Only*

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!

JPC would like to thank the community members for allowing us to use their photos in this publication and we also acknowledge the use of free images from freedigitalphotos.net

**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and A Happy
Safe New Year!**

Need Support Over Christmas & New Year?

**JPC will be closed on public holidays and will close
for 2018 on MON 17th DEC and
reopen TUES 15th JAN 2019.**

**If you have any urgent queries, please contact
Fr John Hill - 0404 145 061 (voice or sms)**