

**John Pierce Centre**

**April Newsletter 2020**

**TEXT ONLY**

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**Office Hours**

MON - WED

9.30am to 3.30pm

THURS - FRI

By Appointment Only

**Staff**

Christine Elder

Gail Finn

Fr Wayne Edwards cssr

Deb Wadsworth

Katrina Mynard

Teresa Paulet

Melissa Thompson

Diane Backholer

Greg Reynolds

**Executive Manager**

Carmel Phillips

**Chairperson JPC Board**

Theresa Mills

**Board Members**

Brian Tooth (Treasurer)  
Br Shane Wood (Minutes)  
Kathleen Carroll  
Damien Backholer  
Sonya Tissera-Isaacs  
Evelyne Albrecht  
Lucille Bennetto

**Next Newsletter Deadline**

JUNE 2019

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 images from [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

**From JPC Executive Manager:**

What a challenge this year is turning out to be, beginning with devastating fires across the country that has left many people struggling, and now with the Coronavirus affecting the entire world. It truly is a time to be more considerate and compassionate to our neighbours, to support each other and come together in means other than face to face. Technology will be a lifeline for many to stay in touch with each other, and is especially crucial for the Deaf community. Please continue to check in on each other and support where you can, and if you need assistance from JPC please contact us and we will do our best to support or refer, so that the community can be safe and healthy through this difficult time.

I was so pleased to come on board as the Executive Manager for JPC in January. I previously worked at Monash University in various positions, primarily as Graduations Coordinator for 33 years. It is a great pleasure to now have the opportunity to be working amongst a mixture of deaf and hearing staff in an organisation to support the deaf community.

My experience and memories of JPC go a long way back to when it was first at Jolimont, then Ripponlea and then the church hall behind the current building. I remember attending many fund-raising functions in various places.

Being an ex-Portsea pupil, I got myself involved with the Youth Group many moons ago, going on camps, get-togethers and so on which was a lot of fun meeting other young people from other schools. I was a member of JPC Board of Directors for few years and have attended the Mass services many times over the years. It seems that I have journeyed in a full circle and am now back here again!

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2020 and thanks to Teresa Paulet, our new Communications Coordinator for preparing this newsletter which has been adjusted many times with the continued changes from Government.

And seeing as many people are staying home, this is a good opportunity for you to sit and have a cuppa whilst reading this newsletter.

### **What is the meaning of Lent?**

*Lent is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial traditionally observed by Catholics and some Protestant denominations. The length of the Lenten fast was established in the 4th century as 46 days (40 days, not counting Sundays). Did any of you know this as I didn't!*

*During Lent, participants eat sparingly or give up a particular food or habit. It's six weeks of self-discipline, I do still follow this tradition by having fish on Fridays and of course no chocolates! It is a good opportunity to listen to your body and reflect on life and gratitude.*

Our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary is this year and we are excited to celebrate with the community. We will have a fabulous event with Mass and lunch and will notify you as soon as we can as to when it will be held, and you are all warmly invited to attend this day of celebration.

Recently I attended the Deaf Leadership Network Evening which was a wealth of information. The network is aimed at encouraging young deaf participants to get involved in training and support, established to support emerging leaders in the Deaf Community. This is a fabulous initiative and I have had a terrific personal experience as a parent supporting a family member in their development within the Business sector. If you know anyone who might be interested in the future to engage in Leadership Training like this please contact Expression Australia when the program is on again.

I would like to end by sharing a quote with you all that I find truly inspiring in this Lenten season:

*"Our true rest and peace will always be with you all. When we try to find things in this world which offer the promise of peace – a holiday, a cruise, the latest device – these do not live up to their promise. A holiday will always come to an end, a machine can only do so much and will break in time. But the love and peace being with your loved ones offer to all of us will never end. The rest and peace of God can be found in the largest things but also in the smallest – in a smile, in a flower, in a prayer."*

The JPC office is currently closed to the public and community but feel free to contact our office via email/phone/sms if you need to discuss any matters or just for a chat. You are always warmly welcome. 'Till next newsletter

**Carmel Phillips**

**JPC Executive Manager**

**From JPC Chaplain**

To My Dear Friends at JPC including their extended Families and Friends,

It is a difficult time for all of us and I am sure each of you will have unique difficulties as individuals.

For many of us it is normally a time of prayer and reflection particularly at this season of Lent / Easter. In many ways – because of the crisis around the world at this time – we are sharing in a particular way the pain and suffering that is Jesus’ pain and suffering. His mother Mary and His followers feel acutely the anguish that they as loved ones have for those nearest and dearest to them – especially for Jesus their son and master and friend.

We too join in their anguish not just for Jesus but also for all humankind. Jesus suffered and died for all people but he also rose from the dead.

May the prayers and greetings of this Easter be shared with each other. Together with Jesus, who died and rose for us, and the courage of his mother Mary and His followers be examples to us of His love for each of us.

Let us pray for strength, courage and perseverance as we experience this most difficult of times. Embrace (figuratively) and love one and other as God loves us.

With my Prayers and Love

Yours in Christ

***Fr Wayne Edwards***

***Chaplain to the Deaf***

**Welcome to the JPC Staff of 2020**

***Executive Manager - Carmel Phillips***

Carmel Philips started at JPC as the new Executive Manager in January 2020 and brings a wealth of experience from her previous work at Monash University as well as her involvement in the Deaf community.

### **Communications Co-ordinator - *Teresa Paulet***

Teresa Paulet has come on board as the new Communications Co-ordinator and also provides in-house interpreting when required. She is a Certified Interpreter who interprets at Mass regularly and is enjoying the opportunity to connect with the Deaf community at JPC.

### **Activities Co-ordinator - *Diane Backholer***

Diane will be working tirelessly through 2020 to deliver creative, informative and enjoyable activities. Focusing on the Deaf Arts and Crafts Program and the Ladies Get Together.

### **Pastoral Support—Greg Reynolds**

Greg Reynolds may be an old face and friend to many of the community at JPC and this year has joined JPC to support the Pastoral Services Team to provide visits to community members and support group activities around JPC.

### **Building Digital Connections**

JPC recognises the impacts of social isolation on the community as a whole, but especially the Deaf community. We are working on ways to keep in contact with you. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for posts and if you have a creative idea on staying in touch with the community, please share it with us.

### **Volunteers Welcome**

Do you have some time free? would you be interested in volunteering?

JPC are always seeking names of people interested in volunteering to assist at special events or day to day activities. If you have a passion to support the deaf community and would like to be on our register of volunteers please email us at [admin@jpc.org.au](mailto:admin@jpc.org.au)

### **In 2020 the John Pierce Centre is turning 40!**

When it is the right time, we will come together to celebrate the amazing years that JPC has been a part of the Deaf community.

### **Sister Janette Murphy**

#### **25 year Jubilee**

On Saturday 22nd February, friends and staff from the John Pierce Centre had the joy of joining Sister Janette Murphy to celebrate her 25 year Jubilee! A lovely mass service was held at St. Joseph's Chapel in Hawthorn East which celebrated the jubilee anniversaries of ten Sisters of St Joseph from Victoria and Tasmania, ranging from 25 years to 70 years. Fr Brendan Byrne reflected that the total years of service when added up from all these nuns was "well over 500 years". An inspiring dedication to God and the church. Sr Kerrie Cusack spoke about the

wonderful lives and journeys of each sister. All of the sisters were invited to renew their commitment that they made at their First Profession.

After Mass the group gathered with friends and family for a grand afternoon tea and a lovely opportunity to catch up with those near and dear. Sr Janette was happy to be able to share the afternoon with deaf community and JPC friends and is thankful for all your support.

JPC would like to wish Sr Janette all the best for her celebration and good luck with the next 25 years work!

“...in joyful loving service of God and the Church.”

### **Annual General Meeting of the John Pierce Centre**

The AGM was to be held in April, but to ensure Board, Staff and Community safety at this time the AGM is postponed.

A date will be booked in the future when it is safe to do so, and at that time all are welcome to attend and hear about the valuable work undertaken by JPC in 2019 and the financial position of the organisation

### **Please note that all community group activities are suspended at this time due to the concerns of Coronavirus Covid-19.**

*The health and safety of our community is our top priority so please understand that the date for recommencement can not be confirmed due to ongoing changes in restrictions to community gatherings. We will do our best to notify our JPC members what is happening with all activities. If you have any questions please contact us and we will keep in contact via Facebook, Email and Text where possible.*

### **Signee Tots**

Signee Tots in 2020 continues as a group for families with young children to come together to learn and build bonds. Each session this year will have a theme, with matching story time, toys and activities. The feedback from families last year was that they wanted more yoga sessions, more songs and more opportunity for caregivers to be able to share experiences and offer support to others.

The year began with sessions about ‘Earth’ and then ‘Space’. Sessions later in the year will look at ‘childhood’, ‘kindness’, ‘home’, ‘sharing’, ‘our island home’, and ‘the ocean’, ‘animals’, and ‘emotions’. We will also be celebrating ‘Mother’s Day’, National Simultaneous Storytime’, ‘Science Week’, ‘Book Week’, and ‘National Week of Deaf People’, among other events. We are planning a session for parents co-presented by the organisation ‘PANDA’ on Perinatal Anxiety and Depression.

Where families cannot attend in person, we are working on different ways to use technology to maintain our connection and learning from home. Stay tuned by watching Facebook and your email. If you would like more information or to join the Signee Tots mailing list, please contact Melissa Thompson. **Group meets fortnightly on Tuesdays through the School Term**

**For more information please contact: Melissa Thompson. Email: [m.thompson@jpc.org.au](mailto:m.thompson@jpc.org.au)**

**SIGNEE TOTS DATES TO BE CONFIRMED**

**Deaf Arts**

We hope you've been enjoying the 2020 program! Card making and origami rabbits! It will be a fun year learning new skills and getting creative, so keep an eye on Facebook and email to see what's coming up next.

**Got any suggestions for classes?**

**Tell us what you would like and we can try and add to the program.**

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

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

Classes are on Fridays from 10am-2pm

**DATES TO BE CONFIRMED**

**Ladies Get Together**

The Ladies felt pretty in pink at our February outing to the Pink Restaurant!

This year the Ladies Get Together (previously called Ladies Day Out) will meet each fortnight on Wednesday and alternate going out on one fortnight and staying in the next. There will be a range of exciting activities so please contact JPC if you would like to join.

We hope you can join us for our upcoming outings and lunches. Please keep these dates in your diary and keep in touch to find out what is planned. You can see on Facebook or contact Katrina Mynard.

**RECOMMENCEMENT TO BE CONFIRMED**

**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.

We also head out for special activities like our recent trip to Melbourne Zoo which everyone really enjoyed.

**Come and join the men's group whenever you like — It's an open house! Coffee/ Tea are**

provided, but please BYO lunch.

### **DATES TO BE CONFIRMED**

#### **Pankina Group**

Pankina Group meets every second Monday from 9.30am till 3.30pm.

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!.

It's a great place to meet new friends and old. Come and join our large group for activities and catch ups!

**We look forward to seeing you again in the future.**

### **RECOMMENCEMENT DATE TO BE CONFIRMED**

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

#### **Auslan accessible**

Third Sunday Mass with an Auslan Interpreter is held every month at John Pierce Centre at 11am

*Please note that there will no longer be an Auslan Interpreter at St Francis Melbourne due to lack of attendance.*

#### **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](mailto:admin@jpc.org.au)

*Thank you.*

#### **Rest in Peace**

Lorraine Walker — 30 Nov 2019

Edward Tubbs — 20 Dec 2019

Br Gerry McGrath—23 Dec 2020

Helen Bowen — 31 Dec 2019

Mohan Vasavan — Jan 2020

Henry Todd—21 Feb 2020

Fr Peter Robinson—14 Mar 2020

### **Update on Mass Services:**

Due to the current health and safety concerns around Coronavirus Covid-19, Easter Masses will NOT be going ahead at JPC this year.

Although Easter is usually a time to see family and friends, we understand that this year many people may be on their own and staying indoors.

We encourage those to who can, to reach out via technology to still stay in touch with family and friends. Why not have a video chat over Easter lunch? Or you could watch Mass for you at Home on Channel 10 and then video chat afterwards with a friend? Take time to pray with/for family and friends.

Now more than ever, we need to support each other and stay connected.

Sunday 17th May Third Sunday Mass	11am at JPC
Sunday 21st June Third Sunday Mass	11am at JPC
Sunday 19th July Third Sunday Mass	11am at JPC

*PLEASE NOTE: Dates may change or be cancelled following advice from the Arch Diocese. We will confirm when possible.*

### **JPC Closure**

Due to the current health concerns of Coronavirus, the John Pierce Centre is closed to the public and community until further notice. All activities are suspended. We apologise for

any inconvenience this may cause and we hope to be open again soon. If you have any urgent enquiries, please contact us via email, phone or on Facebook.

It is a difficult time for all in our community so please take care.

Ph.: 03 9525 1158 / E: [admin@jpc.org.au](mailto:admin@jpc.org.au)

### **Farewell to our dear Father Robbo**

It is with saddened hearts that we share the news that the beloved Father Peter Robinson OAM passed away on Saturday 14th March 2020. Fr Robbo as he was fondly known, was weaved into the very spirit of the Catholic Deaf Community and is remembered through the many stories of our community members.

Father Peter Robinson OAM was appointed Chaplain to the Deaf in 1972 and provided Mass services at the Victorian Deaf Society in Jolimont. In 1979, Fr Robinson along with two others were the driving force in finding a suitable place to set up the John Pierce Centre which was officially opened in Ripponlea in August. From there, Fr Robinson provided monthly Mass. He also organised annual family camps at Porpunkah which many people will remember well.

In July 2014, Fr Robinson celebrated his 50 years of Priesthood, which 100 Deaf community members attended. A number which demonstrated undoubtedly the impact that Fr Robbo had on the Deaf people that he met. A kind soul who saw the potential in each and every person. He shared his graciousness and love boundlessly.

JPC will continue on the same path of faithfulness and good spirit that Fr Robinson shared and we will always remember his contribution to the community.

Rest in Peace and be with God.

*The family held a private burial and when the time is right, the community will be invited to come together to celebrate the life of Fr Peter Robinson at a Memorial Service.*

### **Christmas Mass and Rally**

Another successful year at JPC in 2019 was topped off with the annual Christmas Mass and Rally. A lovely service was conducted by Fr Wayne Edwards, celebrating the life of Jesus Christ.

Afterwards, the community came together to share a meal and enjoy the festive season. Young and old enjoyed good conversation, laughter and the infectious joy of children running around.

Finished off with a raffle with many happy recipients. Thank you to all those that donated to the raffle prizes.

A special thanks to the staff and volunteers that make the event possible as it is a highlight for many of the community.

### **Make and Share Coconut Ice Easter Eggs**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 3 1/2 cups (550g) icing sugar
- 3 cups (275g) desiccated coconut
- 1 (400g) tin sweetened condensed milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 375g dark cooking chocolate (sweetened)
- 30g butter
- 50g white chocolate, optional

#### **METHOD**

1. Mix icing sugar, coconut, sweetened condensed milk and vanilla in a large bowl. Mix well then knead the mixture with your hands.
2. Scoop a piece of mixture and roll with hands to make an egg shape.
3. Place on a baking tray lined with baking paper then chill for 10-15 minutes.
4. While eggs are chilling melt dark chocolate and butter separately. Stir melted butter into melted chocolate and stir well to combine.
5. Dip eggs 1 at a time into chocolate using 2 forks to coat, lift and drain excess chocolate. Place dipped eggs back on paper lined tray. Dip all of the eggs.
6. Melt extra white chocolate and place in the tip of a plastic bag. Tie bag, snip off a tiny corner and drizzle white chocolate over the dipped eggs. Let stand until set.

Store in refrigerator. If you can wait, let rest for 24 hours then enjoy!

Recipe from: <http://allrecipes.com.au/recipe/8836/coconut-ice-easter-eggs.aspx>

#### ***Office Hours-***

***MON - FRI: by appointment only as deemed necessary. Please make contact via email at [admin@jpc.org.au](mailto:admin@jpc.org.au)***

**Thank you for your understanding at this time.**

**Staying Safe**

The JPC acknowledges that this is a difficult time for people around the world and those in our local Deaf community. In times of need it is especially important to support each other in whatever ways we can. Though we can not offer each other a hug, we can offer each other a chat via text or video, we can check in on each other to make sure everyone is doing okay. If you need support; whether that's someone to talk to or support in making contact with necessary services, please reach out to the staff at the JPC and we will do our best to help and keep the community connected.

Please email us at [manager@jpc.org.au](mailto:manager@jpc.org.au)

**Prayer:**

**Heavenly Father,  
Walk with me in this time of need,  
Let me see the goodness in humanity,  
Please bring quiet where is chaos,  
Bring light where there is darkness  
And fill us with your love and wisdom.  
Amen**

**Your contribution:**

**Help us to support Deaf people and their families throughout VIC by making a tax deductible donation today.**

**[www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations](http://www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations)**

**Prayer:**

**Lord, Teach me a new freedom.  
Freedom to reject comparison and to embrace uniqueness.  
Freedom to cut ties with greed and feast on love.  
Freedom to abstain from over-indulgence and feast on self-control.**

**Freedom to leave behind selfish thoughts and to focus on the needs of others.**

**Freedom to fend off insecurity and to embrace grace.**

**Lord, at this time of Lent, thank you for the freedom you bring.**

**Amen.**

**JPC is currently closed to the public and community. If you have any urgent queries, please contact Christine Elder: 0407 774 935 (voice or sms)**