

John Pierce Centre

August Newsletter 2020

TEXT ONLY

FRONT PAGE (BACKGROUND OF GREEN LEAVES WITH THE SUN SHINING THROUGH)

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”. (Helen Keller)

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9.30am to 3.30pm

THURS - FRI

By Appointment Only

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Next Newsletter Deadline - OCTOBER 2020

JPC would like to thank the community members for allowing us to use their photos in this publication and we acknowledge the use of the front cover quote from Helen Keller.

From the JPC Executive Manager

Hi everyone

Eight months of the year has already gone and it is now August! It has been a very different year for us all.

For us Melburnians going through this 2nd lockdown, it is a very challenging time. The pandemic worsened in July to the highest level so far and we were forced to wear masks when leaving our homes for the four essential needs. Our thoughts are with those who are suffering with coronavirus, especially those in Aged Care facilities around Melbourne.

For the Deaf and HoH community, the mask has become another barrier to our communication needs as we depend on facial expression and lipreading for communication. It is important to stay home as much as possible. When you go out masks are a must, but the Department of Health and Human Services have confirmed that it is ok for Deaf people to ask others to take off their mask to communicate with you, as long as you can maintain 1.5m distance between you.

JPC staff have been extremely busy keeping in touch with the community. Many of our online activities are hugely popular, especially: Signee Tots, Deaf Art & Craft and Ladies' Get Together whose activities you may have already seen in the fantastic photos posted on our website and Facebook. A huge thank you to our great team that have found creative solutions to staying connected.

There have been numerous virtual chats through Zoom and FaceTime with Community

members to connect and ensure that people are doing well. We definitely miss your happy smiling faces around the centre but we are fortunate to have the technology to connect. Our community bonds and friendship are an amazing gift, so we encourage you to continue to stay in touch with each other. I had the lovely opportunity to catch up with some of the Pankina group and they all looked so well which was fantastic to see.

JPC have been providing the interpreters at St Patrick's Cathedral every Sunday since April for the televised Mass on Channel 31. We are extremely grateful to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne for this partnership and a huge thanks to the team who commit their Sunday mornings to work on this.

JPC have also been posting regular faith videos of prayers and reflections and it was exciting to see our work displayed in the Catholic Social Services' Newsletter. We may be staying home but JPC are really getting out there and strengthening stakeholder connections.

We did our first recording of the regular third Sunday Mass here at JPC which was shown on our website and it was a huge success. Please watch next month on the third Sunday – 16th August.

Usually the August Mass is the JPC Ephpheta celebration and this year was planned to be our 40th anniversary celebration of the establishment of JPC. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold the celebrations this month and we have postponed the event to December.

We are now forming a working party to plan for our special day – 40th Anniversary of the John Pierce Centre - which will coincide with our Annual Christmas Rally and the presentation of the Director's Awards. The 40 year celebration event will be held at the Catholic Leadership Centre (CLC), East Melbourne on Sunday 13th December 2020. There will be a Mass service at St John's church (next door to the CLC) and then lunch. You will be given more information once confirmed and details are subject to change depending on Government guidelines. But please SAVE THE DATE!

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Well & Stay Connected!

Carmel Phillips

JPC Executive Manager

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

A Time of Challenge

In this period of history (the last six months) when we find ourselves in the midst of a viral pandemic it is easy to ask how does it impact on me. That is entirely reasonable. However, we are called to rise above thinking and worrying about solely on the self. In the faith context we

are God's children and we have a co-responsibility for the mission, the well-being of His children and our brothers and sisters. Let us pray and think of and do what we can to alleviate not only our suffering but the suffering of others. Within our restricted activity and lockdown we are called to form people, to let them know they are loved and valued because they deserve respect and dignity just as you and I deserve. The good Lord calls us to transform from consumers to disciples. It is wonderful to receive but just as wonderful to give. We may feel that we cannot do a lot at this time but that is far from the reality. Let us keep in contact with family and friends and acquaintances, the next door neighbour. To engage with another is to be engaged ourselves. One of the most important tenets of our faith was uttered by Jesus Christ: 'Faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love.' The staff and volunteers at the John Pierce Centre (JPC) are working very hard and diligently to keep in regular contact with the wider Deaf Community. May we learn from their example of the love and care they have for each one of you. God bless you all.

With my Prayers and Love

Yours in Christ

Fr Wayne Edwards

Chaplain to the Deaf

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Centre Update

It has been a challenging year for all, and we especially recognise the specific effects of isolation on our JPC Community. JPC staff have been working tirelessly to reach out to community members during this time and provide opportunity for engagement in different ways. Whether that be online activities, televised mass, faith reflection videos, and much more. We know that many of you have prayed and hoped for Covid-19 to be over so that we can return to what is important to us; a return to JPC and centre activities. Unfortunately, the health concerns are still a high priority and hence means that JPC remains closed to the public with all activities suspended in the centre. We will continue to support you in other ways and we ask that if you have urgent need of support please contact us via email or phone. We are still available to support your needs and refer you to appropriate services. We are all in this together and JPC is here to help. Stay safe and we will continue to provide updates as information changes.

Staying connected through zoom

One of the biggest adjustments we have all had to make at JPC is utilising technology programs like Zoom in order to continue to stay connected with staff and community. The team have

been amazing at setting up opportunities to communicate with individuals and groups in a fun digital way. What a great time we live in! We may be suburbs apart but can reach out to support each other through difficult times or to have a laugh and catch up on each others' lives. We even held our JPC annual general meeting online with Zoom video this year.

Mask Up.

We know masks are a new challenge, especially for Deaf and HoH people when they need to communicate. But it is important to wear your mask when you're out. It has been announced by DHHS that it is okay for Deaf and HoH people to ask someone to remove their mask so that you can communicate, as long as you maintain 1.5m distancing.

Keeping the Deaf Community Informed about Covid-19

Expression Australia and Deaf Victoria have been working tirelessly for the deaf community to ensure Auslan access throughout Covid-19. Have you been watching the Sunday ABC news at 6pm with an interpreter and a Deaf presenter segment? There have been daily updates in Auslan provided to the community to keep you up to date, regular videos about current issues, advocating for Deaf access to news and mask issues! If you need any support to advocate for your needs at this time, please contact Expression Australia or Deaf Victoria.

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Ephpheta Appeal

JPC would like to say a huge thank you to all those that donated to our centre during the annual Ephpheta Appeal this year. We realise that it has been an especially challenging time for many in the community and it is humbling to see that so many people are ready and willing to dig deep to support our mission. Your donation assists us in our work to support individuals and groups through pastoral care programs, group programs and tailored support, which we have continued, albeit in different creative ways, throughout this pandemic. Thank you!

Work around JPC

Though the centre has been closed to the public over the past few months, we have had many busy days getting the centre in ship shape for whenever we are able to reopen. We can't wait for you to come and see what's been done. The large trees and bushes have been trimmed (luckily the tree hairdressers were still open for business)! There has also been a new concrete path set next to the boom gate as well as sensor lights near the entrance and carpark so that our community and visitors can move safely through to the main doors.

We have also been able to establish an official memorial Garden in honour of Fr Robinson. A

cornerstone in the history of JPC, we felt that it was pertinent that we memorialised his emory in a way that honoured his contribution to the Catholic Deaf Community. In the future we hope to hold a memorial for Fr Robbo at JPC, and the community will be able to enjoy reflective time in the garden for years to come.

Community are welcome to enquire to have a memorial plaque added to our garden. Please contact admin@jpc.org.au for more information.

...those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.

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Community Activities Update

The John Pierce Centre is still closed to the public.

This means that we can not have group meetings and activities in the centre. The JPC team have been working tirelessly to deliver activities as best we can during this time. If you have any ideas on activities that JPC could provide to you through mail or online, please email us at admin@jpc.org.au

Signee Tots

NEW CHALLENGES BRING NEW SOLUTIONS—Melissa Thompson

Well 2020 has been quite a year! How are you coping? I have been swinging between feeling frustrated and then feeling inspired. At times I really miss all the things that I took for granted not so long ago. The Signee Tots routine, filling up the big JPC hall with toys and activities every fortnight. Watching the children play and the parents socialise. I also miss walking through the hall on a Monday, seeing Pankina or Men's group involved in an activity or chatting to each other. I miss your lovely faces!

We have had to think of new ways to keep in touch. Staying connected is so important. Signee Tots has been meeting online through Zoom. Each meeting has had a theme, with a matching story and songs. Often puppets have been sneaking into the meeting as well – we have had visits from cheeky fireflies, chickens and the three little pigs.

As we move into Term 3, there will be an extra focus on our physical and mental health. Activities to keep us moving, and to identify and manage our emotions during these different times.

Zoom meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of August and September -**Tuesday 4th August and Tuesday 1st September at 1pm.**

Email m.thompson@jpc.org.au if you would like to join us.

Deaf Art and Craft

We have definitely found different ways to keep creative during these months at home.

During isolation the **Deaf Arts and Crafts Group** been so crafty and busy making things on a weekly basis during Term 2 whilst staying in their homes. It was highly successful. These are the projects we have made - Tree Project; Bird Wool; Bee Week; Nature Art; Beads Week; Mandala Art; Marbling Art and Owl Art. They look absolutely stunning and I love how different every piece of artwork is. I am so proud of this group and am looking forward to seeing their future artwork in the weeks to come. We are still doing artwork from home during Term 3 so if you are interested in joining us please contact the group Co-Ordinator Diane via email:

d.backholer@jpc.org.au

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Ladies Get Together

To keep the Ladies in contact, we have been having PHOTO SHARE FUN! - Co-ordinated by Diane Backholer

We have had different themes on a fortnightly basis and have received beautiful photos from many of our lovely ladies. Themes were - Garden photo; Favourite pet photo; Baking/Cooking photo; School photo; Favourite pic when walking and Wedding photos.

Pankina & Deaf Men's Group

Due to the health concerns of coronavirus, the centre has not been able to hold our usual Pankina and Deaf Men's groups. We understand that this is disappointing for all of our members who always enjoy the face to face catch ups, card games, bingo and more when attending JPC.

In Term 3, we are starting activities for our Pankina and Men's Groups. Envelopes are being sent out to those wanting to **play bingo and trivia from home**.

They contain bingo cards and instructions. The bingo numbers will be sent out by SMS to your phone every Wednesday morning. We hope this helps you to still feel connected to JPC and to have some fun from home. If you could like to play, please email or text Melissa (details below).

The envelopes also contain **postcards**. One that has been coloured for you, and one for you to **colour and post to someone** that you miss and are thinking of.

Please know that although we can't come together at the moment, the bonds of this community are strong. Please reach out if you need support or even just someone to chat to. We miss you and cannot wait until we can come together at JPC again.

Stay safe, stay well, stay connected, stay home!

Warm Regards, Melissa

Email: m.thompson@jpc.org.au SMS: 0413 547 739

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

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Video Series to Support Connection to Faith

Faith & Reflection Series

During this time of isolation when we could not attend Mass or spend time sharing faith, JPC developed a weekly video series to provide opportunity for mindfulness and reflection. Each week we posted three videos: Reflections in Faith, the weekly Gospel and Reflections of the Gospel.

Our amazing team had to learn many new skills in technology to be able to produce these videos. Many thanks to Fr Wayne, Gail, Fr John, Katrina and Teresa for their energy and effort. Thank you to the community for your engagement and feedback. We hope that the videos brought you comfort and reflection during such a challenging time. You can still watch the videos on our website at www.jpc.org.au/home/faith-reflection-videos

Prayer Series

The JPC team are continuing with videos in faith and are now releasing a weekly prayer to support the community with faith and connection. We hope you enjoy these prayer videos. Please watch on our Facebook or our website.

Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral and at JPC

Mass has definitely looked different in 2020! We miss seeing our community at JPC but we hope you have enjoyed watching Mass online and tv.

JPC partnered with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to televise Sunday Mass at 11am with an Auslan Interpreter each week. Thank you for all your heartwarming feedback.

In July we trialed filming Mass at JPC for our usual 3rd Sunday. We hope you were able to watch this on our website. We will continue to provide access to Mass with an Auslan Interpreter as per the calendar in the newsletter unless restrictions change.

Every Sunday in August St Patrick's Cathedral (possibly ongoing)	11am Televised on Channel 31 (sometimes listed as channel 44 on digital TV)
Sunday 16 August JPC 3rd Sunday Mass Ephpheta Mass	From 9am on the JPC website. <i>You can watch any time throughout the week.</i> www.jpc.org.au
Sunday 20th September JPC 3rd Sunday Mass	From 9am at www.jpc.org.au
Sunday 18th October JPC 3rd Sunday Mass	From 9am at www.jpc.org.au
Sunday 15th November JPC Memorial Mass	From 9am at www.jpc.org.au

You can also watch 'Mass For You At Home' which is televised on Channel 10 each Sunday morning at 6am.

What is a prayer of Spiritual Communion—A prayer of Spiritual Communion is a prayer that can be made if you can not attend Mass to receive the sacrament of communion bread. It is the expression of our deep desire to be united to Him even though we can not attend Mass. Below is a prayer of spiritual communion for you.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen

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We remember always, those that have been a part of our lives, as their spirits are weaved through the story that is our Deaf community.

Rest in Peace

Cecily Noonan (Gabrielle Noonan's Mother) - 11 May 2020

Anna Huculak (Luba Huculak's Mother) - 14 June 2020

John Renehan - 26 June 2020

Maureen Fisher - 3 July 2020

Edith de Boe - 9 July 2020

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.

Feeling bored at home?

Why not colour in this lovely picture to remind you that Spring will soon be here and beautiful gardens will be in bloom.

Or try the word search at the bottom to keep you busy.

Stay home. Stay safe. Stay well. Stay connected!

*Email us a photo of your lovely coloured picture and completed word search and you will go in the draw to **win a gift voucher!** admin@jpc.org.au*

T	N	E	M	A	R	C	A	S	H	O
A	C	R	E	S	P	U	T	G	E	M
E	F	L	Y	R	A	H	N	J	F	D
V	S	S	A	M	E	I	G	E	A	H
O	A	Y	J	D	R	T	M	R	I	F
L	E	T	E	P	H	P	H	E	T	A
R	R	G	S	U	S	E	J	F	H	E
R	E	F	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	D

Can you find these words?

Ephpheta

Deaf

Spring

Sacrament

Jesus

Prayer

Faith

Reflection

Mass

Love

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Keep calm, keep cooking and carry on.

We may not be able to travel but we can eat our way around the globe with delicious cuisine!
Why not try this fabulous international dish.

Red Lentil Dahl

INGREDIENTS

- * 140g ghee (or coconut oil)
- * 1 onion, finely chopped
- * 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- * 3cm piece (15g) ginger, finely chopped
- * 1/2 loosely packed cup fresh curry leaves, plus 4 sprigs curry leaves to serve
- * 1 tbs brown mustard seeds
- * 1 tsp ground turmeric
- * 250g red lentils, rinsed, drained
- * 200 ml coconut milk
- * Lime wedges, to serve

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Melt 1/4 cup (60g) ghee in a saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, ginger and curry leaves, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 minutes or until the onion starts to soften.
2. Add the mustard seeds, turmeric and 2 tsp salt flakes, and cook, stirring, for 2-3 minutes or until the turmeric begins to stick. Add lentils and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until

heated through. Add coconut milk and 400ml water, and stir to combine. Bring to the boil, cover and reduce heat to low. Cook for 10 minutes or until lentils have softened. Cook, uncovered, for a further 5 minutes, stirring constantly, until smooth.

3. To make the crispy curry leaves, heat remaining 1/3 cup (80g) ghee in a small frypan over high heat. In 2 batches, carefully add curry leaf sprigs (stand back as they can spit) and cook for 30 seconds or until slightly translucent. Remove with tongs and drain on paper towel.
4. Transfer dhal to a serving bowl and season with 1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper. Serve with crispy curry leaves and lime wedges.

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.

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

Office Hours-

MON - FRI: by appointment only as deemed necessary. Please make contact via email at admin@jpc.org.au

www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre

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Join us in celebrating 40 years of the John Pierce Centre!

It's so exciting that in 2020 the JPC is celebrating 40 years of service to the Catholic Deaf Community. A community centre and a community spirit that has been a home for so many Deaf and hard of hearing people.

When: Sunday 13th December 2020

Where: Mass at St John's Church & Lunch at the Catholic Leadership Centre.
594 Victoria Parade East Melbourne

We will send out more details soon.

A note about the 40 years celebration event:

Whilst the team at JPC are extremely hopeful that we can hold our 40 year celebration event in December, we will be guided by Government restrictions at the time. We will communicate

all changes of details as soon as possible.

We Need You!

For our 40 year anniversary, the staff at JPC are putting together a collection of reflections from our community. If you have a memory that you would like to share with us please get in touch. It can be a written piece or a video story in Auslan. It can be a fond memory, a funny story, a gratitude. Anything that connects you to JPC. We will be compiling it into a special gift for everyone that attends the 40 year celebration in December.

Ephpheta Mass in August

Every year in August, the John Pierce Centre community comes together to celebrate our history as a Catholic Hub for the Melbourne and Victorian Deaf community. At our usual 3rd Sunday Mass we have the reading of Jesus healing the Deaf man (Mark 7:31-37).

We are saddened that in 2020 when it is also our 40 year anniversary, that we can not be together for this Mass; but we can still reflect on this reading and consider what it means for us today. Jesus said to the man **“Ephpheta” —Be Open**. How can we be open today? By being kind to one another? By reaching out to those in need? By being open to the messages that God sends to guide our lives in his image?

Ephpheta! Be Open

PRAYER

Lord, when I face difficult times,

help me to know that these challenges are not sent to destroy me.

Help me to see them as an opportunity to grow and strengthen my faith in you.

Help me to understand your messages and to be open.

Ephpheta!

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)

NEWSLETTER—SEND TO MY EMAIL

Name:

Email:

Please print clearly

NEWSLETTER—POST TO ME AT A COST OF \$10.00 (COVERS 3 NEWSLETTERS)

Name:

Address:

Suburb Postcode

SMS: Fax No:

\$10.00 fee paid, how? Cash.....Cheque.....Credit Card.....

Receipt Required? Yes.....No..... Can we email your receipt?

.....

Please tick below:

We will not be able to send you a hard copy if we have not received \$10.00. Thank you for your understanding