

## A special visitor - Fr Michael Depcik!

The Ephpheta Centre is very excited to announce that we will have a visiting deaf priest with us for 4 weeks in August - September this year. Many of you will know Fr Michael Depcik (or as we know him, "Fr MD") who has visited us in Sydney many times in the past.

Fr. Michael Depcik, OSFS, is among only a very few culturally Deaf priests in the world.

Fr MD was ordained as a priest in 2000 as a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (St Francis de Sales is the patron saint of deaf people) Fr. MD was born and raised in Chicago. When he was 17, he spent a year as an exchange student in Brisbane and so he knows Auslan (although he always says he has forgotten a lot – we don't agree 😊).

Fr MD has spent a lifetime serving the deaf community – we are so excited at being able to spend a month with him in Sydney. During this time we will be offering many opportunities for him to spend time with our Ephpheta deaf community.



*Image: Catholic Review Media*



We are so excited to make this opportunity available to our deaf community!



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## A message from Donovan

Ephpheta has lots of exciting news! Pope Leo XIV appointed Australian Bishop Anthony Randazzo of Broken Bay as the new Prefect of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts, promoting him to the rank of Archbishop. This high-ranking Vatican role makes him the head of the church's legal system and canon law. We pray for his new exciting journey in Rome.

Our Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Meagher of the Archdiocese of Sydney has been appointed by the Pope to become Bishop of the Diocese of Rockhampton. It's a very big Diocese. It's about 400km long and so many kilometers down. Lots of driving for the new Bishop of Rockhampton.

Maybe he should get a helicopter to go around! We keep them both in our prayers.



We have three seminarians who in the past spent time with Ephpheta becoming Deacons this year and one deacon becoming a priest. When they were with us they learned basic Auslan and about our Deaf culture. We have been part of their journey and were excited to be a part of their ordinations. We pray for Paul Tran, Luke Huynh, Ha Tran and Shayne D'Cunha.

Of course, we all know and are excited for Fr Michael Depcik coming down under for one month. We are planning some exciting events while he is here. We are looking forward to our Ephpheta Sunday and Retreat. Of course, he will be attending the Deaf Festival. You are all welcome to come to see him at our stall and have a chat.

On 22 May, we are planning a special day out. The Sistine Chapel Exhibition in Sydney gives you a special chance to see Michelangelo's amazing work. A copy of the Sistine Chapel made for you! An introductory gallery takes you on an interesting journey through the history, design, and purpose of the Sistine Chapel, starting from when it was built in the 15th century to its role in papal conclaves. It is the very same room where they vote for new Pope.

They are setting up the same room as the Sistine Chapel from the Vatican here in Sydney but on a smaller scale. If you really want to see the Sistine chapel at the Vatican, then you will have to fly over there to see it. But they are bringing it to Sydney. So, it will save you money for the trip to Rome! The stories shown on the chapel's ceiling, walls, and the famous Last Judgement. This gallery shows the vision behind the amazing Michelangelo exhibition - it will be a wonderful experience.

We recently celebrated Easter which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. Some of our community has asked why Easter is different from the Catholics and Orthodox Greeks. The Greek Orthodox follows the Julian calendar and the Catholics or Western Christians use the Gregorian calendar. The Orthodox Easter date is often one week to 5 weeks after Catholic Easter.

One of the most beloved Easter traditions for orthodox Greeks is the cracking of red eggs - this is called Tsougrisma. But there is a powerful meaning behind this game of cracking eggs. The colour of the dyed egg is red which is the symbol for blood of Christ. The hard shell of the egg represents the sealed Tomb of Christ. When the eggs crack, the tomb is opened, where the families greet each other with "Christos Anesti" (Christ has Risen).

Donovan

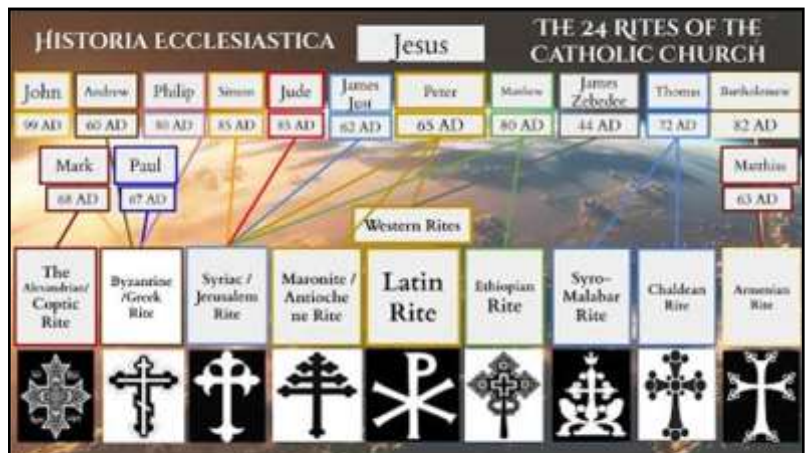
# Fr Michael's Reflection...



“The Church” is one, because God is one. God, in the Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) is one. The Church is inspired by the one Spirit. The Spirit can be called the “soul” of the Church. The one Father of all creation sent His Son into the world to save all the world. Jesus is the one mediator or bridge, between heaven and earth. Jesus gathers people into one communion of the faithful. He gathers them together with Himself in one body. He is the head and we the members of His body. He wants us to be united.

In obedience to Jesus, we are born into this “body” of the Church through Baptism in water and the Holy Spirit. The sacraments heal, nourish, strengthen, and equip us. We are united in our knowledge and love of God, through what God has revealed to us in His Son. Jesus made sure that we would be able to continue to know and love God in truth, by giving Peter, and the Apostles, authority and promising to make Peter a firm rock to keep the Church strong.

Peter, the apostles, and the first Christians went out to the world. They taught one faith, one Church and one Baptism. They taught how to love God and one another rightly. Sinners were called to repent. Falsehoods, lies, and superstitions were corrected. We were being brought together in Jesus.



Yet, there are many difference between people that are good, and not false or bad at all. God, who creates everything “good”, knows how to make these things better, more beautiful, even “perfect”. So, the good things, like language, the riches of culture, art, festivals, philosophy, etc., could be taken up and enriched. So, as Christians went out to the world the Church welcomed people who prayed and lived according to their own languages and cultures. These new Christians created their own hymns, poems, and art, adapted their customs to obey and honour the Truth, and contributed the lessons they had already learnt from God’s gift of creation. What lessons? God already began to reveal Himself in His Creation. These lessons find their fulfilment or completion in Jesus. E.g. Many people had customs honouring the union of marriage, respect for parents, responsibility for creation, etc. Jesus only frees these things from what is bad and makes them better.

This variety is why the Church today has many “rites” and can look different in various places. There are “Latin rite” communities in those who received the faith through Rome, and other rites for some people in Lebanon, Greece, Armenia, Syria, India, Egypt, Ukraine, etc.

We become members of the Church through Baptism in water and the Holy Spirit. However, sometimes people can go wrong in their faith and whole groups break away from the faith. They may still be members of the Church, but they are not in “full communion”. This includes those Churches that call themselves “Orthodox” and all the Protestant denominations. Again, one thing to remember, is that everyone who has been Baptised (properly) is a member of the Church.

# Upcoming Community Events

## Sistine Chapel: Revelations - 22nd May

Join us as we check out a special project created by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (CAS) - Sistine Chapel: Revelations.

This exciting exhibition brings one of the world's greatest artworks to life using powerful projection technology with high quality images from the Vatican's archives.

We will learn about the history of the Sistine Chapel, why it was created and how it is used today - including its important role in choosing a new Pope. Through the exhibition we will also see a beautiful recreation of the Sistine Chapel.

The organisers will provide an audio guide to the Auslan interpreters and the interpreters will provide the information to us as a group. It will be a great day together.

After the tour we will have lunch nearby together at your own cost. BYO lunch welcome.

**When and Where:** Friday 22 May. Meet at 10am for a 10.20am start.

Saint Mary's Cathedral, Forecourt - St Mary's Road, Sydney.

**Cost:** \$35. Please pay before the event. Lunch at your own cost.

*If you need financial support for your ticket please contact Ephpheta.*

**RSVP:** There are **limited** tickets available for this event. You **must** RSVP to Chrisso to secure your place 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) before Friday 15 May.



SISTINE CHAPEL  
REVELATIONS



CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE  
OF SYDNEY

SISTINE CHAPEL IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION

16 MAY TO 19 JULY 2026

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL FORECOURT

IMAGE COPYRIGHT © GOVERNATORATO DELLO STATO DELLA  
CITTÀ DEL VATICANO - DIREZIONE DEI MUSEI

## Community Day Out - 17th June

Join us for a day out at the State Theatre in Sydney! Join us for a guided tour of this magnificent and unique building and discover why it's known as the Palace of Dreams.



We will have an Auslan interpreted guided tour, learn about the interesting history of the theatre, experience the greatness and beauty of the 2,000 seat auditorium and be mesmerised by the incredible design of it all. Famous for its history and stunning design, this is your chance to experience the State Theatre Sydney.

After the tour together we will have lunch nearby together at your own cost. BYO lunch welcome.

**When and Where:** Wednesday 17 June. Meet at 9.30am for a 10am start.

State Theatre - 49 Market Street, Sydney

**Cost:** \$15. *Please pay before the event.* Lunch at your own cost

**RSVP:** There are **limited** spaces available for this event.

You **must** RSVP to Chrisso to secure your place 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email

[christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) before Friday 5 June.

## Community Presentation - 8th July

Protecting ourselves online from being scammed is important.

We will have a presentation for our deaf community from a representative from



ID Support NSW to share tips on how to protect your personal information, staying safe online and how to protect your identity documents.

During this presentation we will learn:

- What to do if your identity or login details are stolen or used without your permission
- How to reduce the risk of scams and online attacks
- How to recognise a phishing scam (when someone tries to get you to click on a fake link)
- How to turn on security settings on your devices to protect your personal information

**When and Where:** Wednesday 8 July. Meet at 10am for a 10.30am start.

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church Hall - 74 Underwood Road, Homebush

**Cost:** Free. Ephpheta will provide morning tea (gold coin donation appreciated)

**RSVP:** Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au)

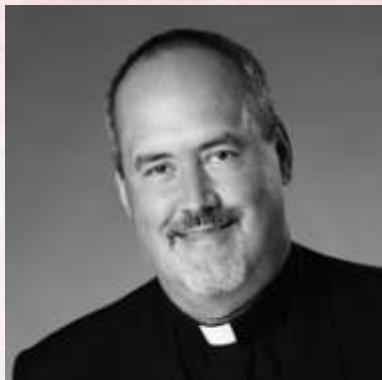


# Ephpheta Sunday - 23rd August

Every year on Ephpheta Sunday the Church celebrates the gifts deaf people bring to the life of the Church - the gifts of language, faith and community.



## Get ready for something truly special!



On 23 August, we will celebrate an unforgettable Ephpheta Sunday with a wonderful Mass and joyful lunch led by Fr Michael Depcik - marking his exciting welcome to Sydney!

Everyone is welcome to come and join us to celebrate Ephpheta Sunday!

We look forward to seeing you all on this special day!



**When:** Sunday 23rd August

**Mass:** Starts at 10.30am

Our Lady of the Assumption - 74 Underwood Rd, Homebush.

**Lunch:** Starts at 12.30pm

Canada Bay Club - 8 William Street, Five Dock.

Please join us for a beautiful buffet meal in the Auditorium Room at Canada Bay Club.

Canada Bay Club is a 10 minute drive from Our Lady of the Assumption in Homebush.

**Cost:** \$45 per person

\$10 per child (12 years old and under)

*Ephpheta is supporting the costs of this event. Please pay before the event*

**RSVP:** Numbers are limited. You must RSVP to Ephpheta Centre **before** Friday 14 August.

Email: [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) or 0405 749 488 (SMS).

- When you RSVP please let us know if you have any special food requirements/allergies.
- If you are deafblind and need extra interpreting support on the day - please let us know **ASAP**.

**How to pay:** 1. Post us a cheque or money order to the Ephpheta Centre

2. Give cash to any Ephpheta staff

3. Pay online into our bank account

**Account Name:** Ephpheta Centre Cheque Account

**BSB:** 062 784

**Account Number:** 1000 01233

**Reference:** ES + your name

# EPHPHETA CENTRE DEAF COMMUNITY RETREAT

Theme: Peace and Happiness

## Friday 11 - Sunday 13 September 2026

### 3 days, 2 nights

Arrive 9:30am Friday. Leave after lunch on Sunday.

**Where:** Benedict XVI Retreat Centre at Grose Vale (near Richmond).



We are so pleased to announce that we will be holding a retreat for the deaf community!!

Led by **Fr Michael Depcik** (deaf Catholic priest)  
Fr Depcik will be signing in Auslan throughout the retreat.

Join us for a wonderful weekend with:

- Lovely accommodation
- Great food
- Peaceful location
- Interesting talks and activities
- **All in Auslan!**



#### Retreat Cost (3 days, 2 nights)

Price includes all meals and accommodation

1. Own Room	(1 person per room)	\$420 each person
2. Shared Room	(2 people per room)	\$275 each person
3. Shared Room	(3 or more people per room)	\$240 each person

Join us for day only (no dinner, not staying the night) \$60 each person per day

## ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN COMING?

Please contact Chrisso Quartararo on 0405 749 488 (SMS)  
or [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au) for RSVP and  
more information **ASAP**

**PLACES ARE LIMITED.**

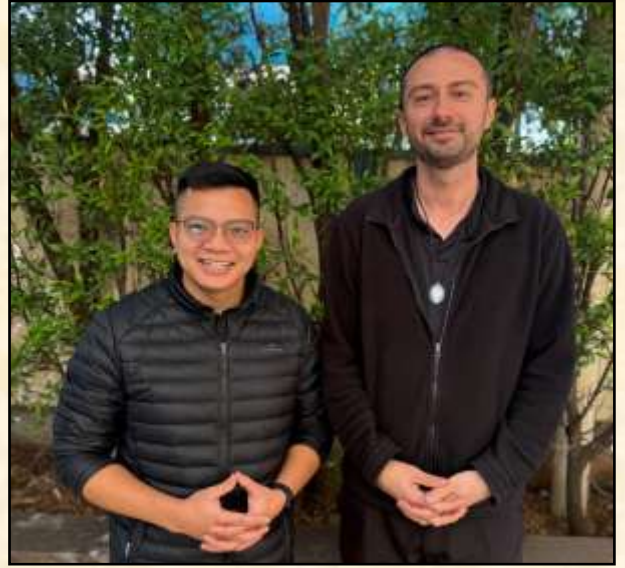


# Meet Our Seminarists! Bran and Dai

It is our pleasure this newsletter to officially introduce you to 2 young men who are currently studying to become priests.

These young men are undertaking their pastoral placement with us – so that when they have become priests and are working in the community, they will have an understanding of our deaf community.

Please make sure that you say hello when you see them at Ephpheta – they are both learning Auslan so need to practice!!



## Bran Grgic - Diocese of Canberra

### 1. Where were you born and how long have you lived in Sydney?

I was born in Croatia and have been living in Sydney for the past five years.

### 2. Do you have brothers and sisters? What do you love most about your family? Tell us a little bit about your family.

I have two sisters and a brother.

What I love most about my family is the closeness we share. We are very supportive of one another, even though some of us live thousands of kilometers apart. Also, our time together is always marked by laughter, warmth, and a genuine sense of joy.

### 3. Do you have a favourite Saint and if so why?

I am especially drawn to St Joseph, whose quiet strength, fidelity, and humility speak deeply to me.

I also have a great love for St Therese of Lisieux, whose simple yet profound love for Jesus and her “little way” continue to inspire my own spiritual life.



**4. Do you have a hobby? What do you do in your spare time?**

In my spare time, I enjoy reading and hiking. Both allow me to slow down, reflect, and appreciate both the richness of life and the beauty of creation.



**5. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?**

I would say that the most adventurous thing I have done is probably joining the seminary. It has been a big step in my life so far. It is an ongoing journey that calls me to a more profound relationship with Jesus, deeper trust in Him, and a continual surrender to the will of God each day.

**6. How do you feel about coming to work with the Deaf Community?**

I feel very excited and privileged to be coming to work with the Deaf Community. It is a new and largely unfamiliar world for me, which makes the opportunity all the more enriching. I am looking forward to learning, building relationships, and growing in understanding.

While I have not had much direct experience with deaf people, I did attend university with someone who was hard of hearing and later worked for Cochlear. I have also begun reading about the Deaf community and Auslan, including its relationship to other sign languages such as NZSL and BSL. I am excited to get to know the Deaf Community more and hopefully to develop some basic skills in Auslan.

**7. Anything else you would like to add...**

In the short time I have spent with the Ephpheta community, I have already been struck by the strong sense of closeness and belonging that Ephpheta fosters. There is a truly familial spirit present, and I very much look forward to getting to know everyone and hopefully becoming part of that community. I am very grateful to be here. Thank you for sharing your world with us.



## Dai Pham - Diocese of Bathurst

### 1. Where were you born and how long have you lived in Sydney?

I was born in Vietnam, and I have been in Australia for about six years.

### 2. Do you have brothers and sisters? What do you love most about your family? Tell us a little bit about your family

I have four brothers and two sisters. I love them all equally. I am a twin, and my twin brother and I keep in close contact with each other. My siblings are not all in Vietnam with my parents; they are spread across the world - in the USA, Australia, Korea, and Russia.



### 3. Do you have a favourite Saint and if so why?

My favourite saint is St Teresa of the Little Flower. I have read her book, *The Story of a Soul*. She has a beautiful heart, and her union with God inspires me to follow her example. I am especially moved by her gentle way of treating others.

One day, while she was praying in the chapel, a sister sat next to her and prayed out loud, making it difficult for her to focus.

Instead of being annoyed, she accepted it as something beautiful that God had sent to her. She became a saint through her "little way."



**4. Do you have a hobby? What do you do in your spare time?**

I have a passion for sports. I usually play soccer and tennis almost every day. However, I recently got injured and cannot play at the moment, so I have changed my hobbies to reading and learning the organ.



**5. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?**

I think my most adventurous experience was a recent holiday trip to Lord Howe Island. It is a quiet place that not many people know about. I spent two weeks there snorkelling, swimming, climbing, and walking. It was a beautiful trip that I will never forget.



**6. How do you feel about coming to work with the Deaf Community?**

To be honest, I was a bit afraid at first, wondering how I could be helpful in this pastoral area, especially since I do not know sign language. However, my first day was very impressive. I felt welcomed and encouraged, and I believe I can learn a lot from this community for my future ministry. I see this as meaningful pastoral work for both me and my vocation.



**7. Anything else you would like to add...**

I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to learning, serving, and growing in my pastoral journey.



## DEAF CAFÉ

The Ephpheta Centre runs deaf café for our deaf community - social catch ups at different locations around Sydney.

Here is the list of our next round of Deaf Cafes at different locations throughout Sydney.

- **Friday 15 May. 10am**
  - Seven Hills RSL
    - 108 Best Road, Seven Hills
  
- **Friday 19 June. 10am**
  - Penrith RSL Club
    - 8 Tindale Street, Penrith
  
- **Friday 17 July. 10am**
  - Bankstown Sports Club
    - 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown
  
- **Friday 21 August. 10am**
  - DOOLEYS Catholic Club
    - 11-17 Church Street, Lidcombe

We meet on the  
3rd Friday of  
every month

Please bring money  
to buy your own  
food and drinks from  
the club

We look forward to  
seeing you!

For more information please contact  
Donovan Mulligan - 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email [donovan@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:donovan@ephpheta.org.au)



# AUSLAN PLAY GROUP

Auslan Play Group is for young families in our deaf community - a social group for mums, dads, grandparents, carers and their children aged 0 - 5 years.

Ephpheta loves supporting new parents and watching them support others as their children grow.

It has been wonderful getting to know the littlest members of our deaf community and watch them grow!

New families are always welcome!

*We have events for our deaf and hard of hearing families and their children aged 0 - 5 years old happening in **May, June, July and August.***

*For more information contact Chrisso Quartararo.*

For more information please contact  
Chrisso Quartararo - 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au)



# EPHPHETA CRAFT GROUP

All are welcome to get involved in our program of events or bring your own projects to work on.

We start at 10am and finish around 2pm. **Please bring your own lunch.** Ephpheta provides morning tea for a gold coin donation.

Dates for May - July:

- **Wednesday 13 May**
- **Wednesday 27 May**
- **Wednesday 10 June**
- **Wednesday 24 June**
- **Wednesday 8 July**
  - Community Presentation
    - *See page 5 for more information*
- **Wednesday 22 July**
  - Day Out visiting *Sewing Basket*
    - 2 Holker Street, Newington
  - Morning tea at your own cost
  - Tour of their store and shopping!
  - Lunch at your own cost

We meet on the  
2nd and 4th Wednesday  
of each month



Homebush Hall  
Behind Our Lady of the  
Assumption Catholic Church  
74 Underwood Road,  
Homebush

For more information please contact  
Chrisso Quartararo - 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email [christiane@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:christiane@ephpheta.org.au)

# Out and About in the Deaf Community

## School Holiday FUN!

During the April school holidays, we had **two** amazing events with young members of our Ephpheta community.

On Friday 10 April we had our first **Ephpheta Youth Group** event of 2026 – a fun morning of Putt Putt (mini golf).

It was awesome to see our youth group coming together again, with a mix of new faces and familiar ones all ready for some friendly competition.

The golf course kept things interesting, with plenty of tricky holes, unexpected turns, and a few creative shot attempts along the way. There were some impressive moments with a couple of lucky hole-in-ones, and lots of laughs as everyone gave it a go.

It was a great chance to hang out, get to know each other better, and enjoy a relaxed morning together. Overall, it was such a fun day, and it was great to see everyone getting involved!

On Monday 13 April we hosted our first **Auslan Juniors Group** - this is for deaf and hard of hearing primary school aged children and their families. We were all excited for our first get together at an indoor playground - it was a great opportunity to meet new families.

Most of the morning was spent exploring the playground and enjoying each other's company. We climbed high platforms, balanced across bridges, and raced down the slides - there was always something exciting happening. Overall, our first juniors group event was a great success - it was fun, energetic, and something we're all eager to do again.



**Keep an eye out for what's coming up next. Our next Ephpheta Youth Group will meet again on 9 July. Our next Auslan Juniors Group will meet again on 13 July.**

**If you know any deaf or hard of hearing young people that would like to join us, please contact Ephpheta! We'd love to see you there.**

## Deaf Festival 2026 - Saturday, 29 August

The Deaf Festival is organised by Deaf Connect and the deaf community. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Please **SAVE THE DATE** - it will be a fantastic community day. There will be lots to see and do - performances, workshops, shop with stall holders, fun and activities, meet Deaf led businesses, delicious food and competitions.

Ephpheta will be having a stall again this year we'd love to see our community there!



## Ephpheta Regular Sunday Mass times and places

A reminder about our regular accessible deaf Sunday Mass times and places.

### Our Lady of the Assumption Church:

74 Underwood Road,  
Homebush (10.30am - Deaf Mass).

May: 10, 24, 31

June: 7, 14, 28

July: 5, 12, 26

August: 2, 9, 23, 30

### St Paul's Catholic Church:

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills  
(9.30am - Integrated Mass)

May: 17

June: 21

July: 19

August: 16



## Feast Day of Mary Mackillop - 8th August

On Saturday 8 August, there will be special celebrations at Mary Mackillop Place at North Sydney to celebrate the feast day of Mary Mackillop - Australia's first saint.

Auslan interpreters will be present at Masses at 10am and 1pm. All the deaf community are welcome at either of these Masses.

Please note that this is not an Ephpheta event.

Ephpheta staff may not be at these Masses.

**When and Where:** Saturday 8 August. 10am and 1pm.

Mary Mackillop Place - 80 William Street, North Sydney



## Assumption of Mary - 15th August

On Saturday 15 August, the Church celebrates the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the day when Mary goes up to Heaven. In Australia, it is a Holy Day of Obligation.

There will be an Auslan interpreted Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption, Homebush.

Mass will be live streamed on our Facebook page for those unable to join us.

**When and Where:** Saturday 15 August. Integrated Mass at 5.30pm.

Our Lady of the Assumption - 74 Underwood Road, Homebush

After Mass there will be a celebration in the Hall - all are welcome to join.



# Auslan Prayer Group

Auslan Prayer Group is about sharing our faith and our love for God and each other.



We come together in friendship with open hearts and open minds. It is a special place where each person is welcomed and valued.

**All deaf and hard of hearing people are welcome!**

Prayer Group will be on the 1st Friday of the month (Face to Face at OLA) after lunch and the 4th Friday of the Month (Online on Zoom) at 1pm

## Program for May - August

When?	Where
<b>Friday 29 May</b> Why do we pray the Rosary?	Online: Zoom - 1pm
<b>Friday 5 June</b> Why do we have Catholic Processions?	Face to Face: Our Lady of the Assumption
<b>Friday 26 June</b> Who are the Angels?	Online: Zoom - 1pm
<b>Friday 3 July</b> Saint Story: St Maria Goretti	Face to Face: Our Lady of the Assumption
<b>Friday 24 July</b> Saint Story: St Dominic Savio	Online: Zoom - 1pm
<b>Friday 7 August</b> Saint Story: Sts Jacinta, Francisco & Lucia (The Fatima Children)	Face to Face: Our Lady of the Assumption

If you would like to join please contact Brett Beath 0407 064 872 or email [brettb@ephpheta.org.au](mailto:brettb@ephpheta.org.au)

## 1st Friday at Our Lady of the Assumption

Every first Friday of the month, we will be having the Rosary, Mass and Auslan Prayer Group at Our Lady of the Assumption, Homebush.



Every month	Upcoming dates
10:30am: The Rosary 11am: Mass followed by lunch and Auslan Prayer Group	Friday 5 June Friday 3 July Friday 7 August

**GOLD COIN DONATION FOR LUNCH**

# St Joan of Arc

**Born:** around 1412

**Died:** 30 May 1431

**How old:** around 19 years old

**Became a saint on** 16 May 1920

**Feast Day:** 30 May

**Patron saint of:** France



Joan grew up working on a farm in a small village in North eastern France and helping her family. Joan's parents were poor. She was one of five children. She spent her childhood learning how to farm, garden and to spin wool. Her parents were very devout Catholics with strong faith. When she was about 14, she began to hear voices in her heart. She believed these voices were from the saints, especially St Michael the Archangel, St Catherine of Alexandria and St Margaret. They guided her and helped her understand what she should do.

## What was her mission?

At that time, France was at war with England. The English had taken over of much of France. Joan believed God was calling her to help save France. Even though she was only a teenage girl, she believed she had to act and follow God's will.

## Joan facing doubt

Joan met the leader of the French army and told him that she would like to join. He laughed at her and told her to go back home. But later, when Joan told him that the French were going to be defeated, he began to listen. She was allowed to meet King Charles VII, the king of France at the time. Even when he hid in the crowd, Joan recognised him right away. People began to see there was something special about her.

## Joan leading the Army

Joan joined the army. She dressed like a soldier and led the soldiers into battle. With her leadership, the French army began to win.



## Capture and Trial

Later, Joan was captured by the enemy and sold to the English. They put her on trial, even though they had no real evidence. They accused her of crimes like heresy (telling lies about the Catholic faith) and witchcraft. She was treated very badly. She was locked, chained in prison and was not allowed to go to Mass. She had to defend herself alone. Even under pressure, she stayed strong and faithful.



## Her Death

Joan was sentenced to death. She was burned at the stake in front of the people. Before she died, she asked for a cross. She prayed to Jesus. She kept saying that the voices she heard were real and from God.



## After Her Death

Years later, a new trial took place. People looked again at her case. This time, they found her not guilty.

## What do we learn about St Joan of Arc?

Never judge a person based on how they look. We never fully know what is inside a person. Joan followed her conscience, even when it was very hard and caused her great suffering.



## PRAYER FOR ST JOAN OF ARC ON HER FEAST DAY – 30 MAY

O God, you chose St Joan of Arc to protect her country from its enemies.

Through her prayers for us, help us to do what is right, work for justice, and live in peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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www: [www.ephpheta.org.au](http://www.ephpheta.org.au)

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<http://www.facebook.com/thecentrefordeaf>

The Ephpheta Centre is  
supported by the Charitable Works Fund.



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**EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS**

Have you seen our website recently?

Our website is now being updated regularly so it is always full of current information.  
Please keep checking it!

If you have any ideas or feedback for our website please contact Chrisso.

**[www.ephpheta.org.au](http://www.ephpheta.org.au)**

Please send your news, stories, information and requests to Liz or Chrisso to be considered for the next newsletter!



### What does “Ephpheta” mean?

The name Ephpheta of our Centre came from the bible - a story about Jesus meeting a deaf man, he says “Ephpheta” which means “Be open”.

We are always open to you all!