

1. *A word from the Academic Manager - Sr Margaret Bentley*



Welcome to our first Student Bulletin for 2018. This semester we have a number of students who have returned to study at ELSPM and a number of new students. You all know that it takes time to settle into a new country and new ministry and so I encourage you to be patient with yourself as you learn. The Melbourne weather is always a great talking point and our 4 seasons in one day means that you get used to wearing layers of clothes and being ready for anything. It is a bit like the work of the Gospel. We need to be ready for anything and ready to serve wherever we can. Luckily a smile is a universal word, recognized in every language.

There are lots of special activities planned for this semester so enjoy! Don't forget the Staff are here to help you so please ask if there is anything you need.

2. *Orientation on 29th January 2018*

This year, ELSPM welcomes 26 students from 11 countries: Indonesia, PNG, Poland, East-Timor, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Vietnam. We belong to 8 different Congregations: Diocesan Priests, CP, SVD, OCarm, MGL, SSPS, FMM and Rndm. We are full of energy and enthusiasm to start the first semester of 2018. Don't forget to read your Student Handbook every now and again. It has lots of useful information in it.

3. *Class activities:*

- **EAP class:**

The EAP course is tailored to ensure students can handle formal academic studies in Theology and other allied religious disciplines before they begin to enrol in such courses. The course covers all the tertiary academic skills required for a student's entry into the University of Divinity.

Bank is a past student of the EAP class from last semester who said:



"I am so happy to be in this institute even though sometimes I am discouraged by difficulties in study but I am very lucky to have good friends and teachers. We have been helped, understood and supported as one family. I miss the Language Centre a lot because I feel like this is my second home".

- **Pre-Intermediate:**

Agostinho is one of ten students of Pre-Intermediate class. Mary Dearing and Ian Harris accompany this group in their learning from Monday to Friday. Agostinho has learnt a lot from his teachers to improve his English, particularly the four important skills of writing, listening, reading and speaking. He enjoys all activities in the class and both individual and group work. He is also grateful for the ELSPM volunteers. He feels he is blessed when there are numbers of volunteers who are ready to spend their own time and help overseas students. It is really helpful for him to learn with them about grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and making conversation. The most significant experience Agostinho has during his time so far is the friendship at ELSPM. He feels happy and comfortable to share with his friends, his joy as well as his sadness, his feelings of homesickness, confusion, differences and challenges.



- **IELTS group:**



Maciej is a member of the Divine Word Missionaries. He chose Australia as his destination for pastoral experiences before making perpetual profession. At the moment, he is preparing to apply for a trainee visa so he is part of the IELTS group with 5 other students from the Passionist Congregation. He needs 4.5 for IELTS general examination but he said he will do his best. For him, Margaret Hughes is a great teacher who helps him improve his English including reading, writing, listening and speaking. He feels really comfortable, satisfied and excited to be in this group.

- **SRC (Students' Representative Council)**

YTU and ELSPM connect quite closely. We share the same building and the common room as well as the Eucharist every Tuesday. Sr Sen represents ELSPM students on the SRC. This year Clement, SVD is the President and the team had their first meeting on 14th February 2018 to plan the YTU Orientation week and the Inaugural Eucharist. Sr Sen is also the editor of the ELSPM Student Bulletin.



4. *Student profiles:*

NOEL SELBO



My full name is Noel Selbo. I am from Papua New Guinea which is situated in the northern part of Australia and it is one of the largest island counties in the Pacific. The country itself is located in Pacific Ocean. I have been with Passionist congregation about four years now. I have been chosen to study my English here in Australia and continue my Noviciate here in Australia. My English was very poor when I first arrived here in Australia; I found it very hard to communicate with others, especially the teachers and students from ELSPM and also my community members at Holy Cross. I would like to say that it is my privilege to study English here in an English speaking nation and be part of the ELSPM student group. I really enjoy my study and step by step am improving my English and hopefully, I will achieve my goal and continue my Noviciate in May in Adelaide. I love that meeting many students from different parts of the world and learning about different cultures and traditions.

Paulina Hermana Gea

My full name is Paulina Hermana Gea but you may just call me Paulina. I come from Lembata, one of the seventeen thousand islands in Indonesia. I have four siblings: one brother and three sisters and I am the second child in my family. My father and mother are farmers and they still live in Lembata, Indonesia. After I graduated from Senior High School in 2004, I was interested in religious life and so I came across the Holy Spirit Sisters and joined them in 2004. In 2006 I professed my first vows and was appointed to help in the youth pastoral ministry at the Holy Spirit Sisters Secondary School and boarding house in Mataloko-Flores, Indonesia. Then, in 2010 I went to Maumere, Flores to study philosophy in the Institute of Catholic Philosophy at Ledalero. I studied philosophy there for four years until I finished in 2014. After my studies I prepared myself for perpetual vows, and in 2016 I professed my perpetual vows in Hokeng, Indonesia. My first assignment was to work for the Holy Spirit Sisters East Flores Province. At that time I helped in the Novitiate formation house to teach the novices for one year. In January 2017 I was asked by my congregation to study Anthropology and as a result I need to learn English. I have been in Australia since July 2017 studying English. After six months of studies at ELSPM, I have realised that this Language centre is a good place to be. It is my hope that I can surpass all the difficulties in my English learning to be able to have a better understanding especially for my future Anthropological study and mission. I am very happy and feel at home here. Thank you.



5. Coming Events:

- **LENT 2018**

Lent started on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Lent is meant to be a reflection on, and sharing in Jesus suffering during the 40 days he spent in the desert being tempted by Satan and the events around his passion and death. The number 40 is significant throughout the Old and New Testaments. Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the Judean desert before beginning his ministry.

In the Old Testament, in Genesis, the flood lasted for 40 days, while the Jewish people wandered through the desert for 40 years before they reached the Promised Land. There is a Daily Prayer sheet attached which you might like to use during Lent.

- **Birthdays:** We wish the students and staff who celebrate birthday in January and February a very happy time and many blessings for the year to come.

Xuyen, Robyn, Marco, Yaya, Jackie, Agostinho, Titus, Yendi and Van



6. Alert and aware:

- It is good to be aware when travelling on public transport not to put your purse or wallet in your backpack on your back, it can easily be stolen from there.
- If you walk out the exit near Heart of Life you need to be careful of cars coming in and out. There is a stop sign there for cars leaving the premises to watch out for pedestrians (those who are walking).
- Soon we will have our first emergency evacuation practice in case of fire and a lock down practice in case of intruders or severe storms.

7. *Lenten Reflection:*

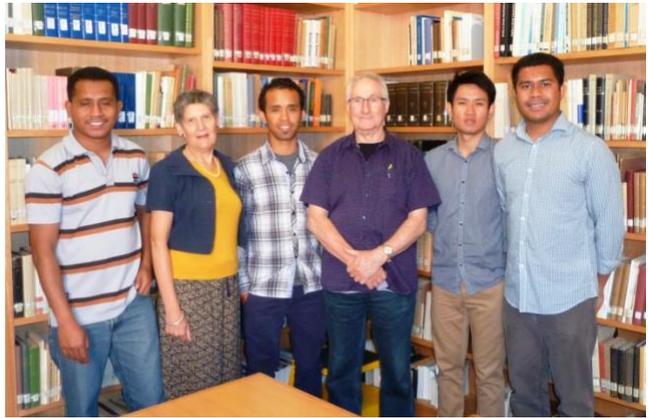
Ian Harris

What is the purpose of giving up something for Lent? My granddaughter is thinking about giving up chocolate for Lent. Is there a spiritual benefit in giving up something like chocolate or is it possible we just feel better or more 'holy' because we are punishing ourselves? I am reading a spiritual book at the moment about Jesus' passion which reminds us of the purpose in practising saying 'no' to something we might like for ourselves. The book quoted the words of Jesus in John's gospel: 'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' So to give up something we might desire (even if it is a very small thing) is a reminder of how denying ourselves in bigger things will bring wonderful benefits which Jesus refers to as 'much fruit'. Our simple giving up of something also helps to remind us of the huge sacrifice of his whole life which we remember as we journey with Jesus during the time leading up to the passion.



Summer School Writing Intensive

Over the summer a group of students took part in an intensive academic writing workshop that ran for 4 weeks. Thanks to the Staff, Margaret, Robyn, Michael and Ian who worked with them. We wish you all well as you begin your studies at YTU



2018 Semester 1 EAP group

