

A Word from the Manager

Congratulations on the efforts you have all made to settle into life in Melbourne and take up your English studies. The reviews we have every five weeks give you an indication of your progress and are designed to help you with your learning. While the staff see you formally at this time to go through your results you can make a time to talk to your teachers any time you feel the need. Most of you have work you can do at home as well, the staff will mark work any time you bring it in. Don't hesitate to ask. In Australia, often a direct approach is used and I know many of you find this a bit difficult at first but try it a few times and you will see that everyone is willing to help.



Sr Margaret

Reflection on Lent by Robyn Brice



We are always preparing for something in our daily lives; lessons for next day's class, food to share with others, housework to welcome people to our home, getting children ready for adult life. The list goes on. We spend lots of our time looking forward. Lent is the time prior to Easter given over to preparation for remembering Easter and a preparation time for our inner selves.

Lent gives us a way of setting apart time to focus on the Cross, as the cross goes to the heart of what our faith is all about. Reflecting on what Christ did on the cross, his work of atonement, on what our salvation means - it's so important to take the time to do this, especially when life seems so busy and we don't take enough time to stop and think about these things. When Good Friday and Easter Day come, it seems even more significant since we've prepared for it. We've spent lots of time thinking about what our faith really means and understand our Lord a little deeper. It is an opportunity to receive the overflowing of grace God has to offer. Lent is a time for giving up something in many traditions. This can be in order to find more time to spend with God. Rather than focusing on giving up something, focus on embracing something to prepare us- prayer or Scripture reading. Develop habits during this time to help grow more like Jesus.



Lent is not a time of boasting about what we have given up and thinking we can earn God's favour this way. God's love for us and grace towards us could not be any greater than it already is.

Think about how you can prepare for Easter during these days of reflection.

Student Profiles

Terrence (MGL)

He takes nothing away

"Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not perhaps afraid to give up something that makes life so beautiful? Do we not then risk ending up diminished and deprived of our freedom? ... No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose



nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great..... He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything". Pope Benedict XVI

Before I took my vows last year I spent some time thinking about my vocation and future. In my family I have one older sister and I am the only son in my family. Last year my mother got sick and she was in the hospital. Until now I can't explain the feeling I had on that day, I cried in my room. I did not pray because I got angry with God. I started to ask God "Why do you allow my mother to suffer with illness? Do you want to take my mother away from us?" God was silent that night but the next morning I realized God was there with my family. The operation was successful. My friends and relatives were there with my family and continue to support them. Although I only have one sister, now I feel I have many "sisters and brothers". In the same way I know the more I come close to God, the more God comes close to me and my family. God has not taken anything from me but God has given many things to me.

Joanna - SSPS



I am Joanna. I come from East Timor. I have eleven siblings: six brothers and five sisters and I am the first child in my family. My father and mother are farmers. They are still living in Ermera, East Timor. After I graduated from senior High School in 2003, I was interested in religious life so I came across the Holy Spirit Sisters and joined them in 2005. In 2009 I made my first vows as a religious and I was appointed to help in the Youth Pastoral Ministry and to guide the new candidates for the Sisters in Becora – Dili. I went to Atabae in 2010. Then I moved to Kupang – Indonesia to study Philosophy in the Widya Mandira Catholic University, Kupang. I studied Philosophy there for four years up to 2015. After studying, I prepared myself for my Perpetual Vows in Hera, East Timor. My first mission was to work for the Holy Spirit Sisters East Timor Region. At that time, I was invited to help in the Novitiate as part of the Formation Team to teach the Novices. This year I have been given the opportunity to learn English in preparation for further study in the future. I have been studying at ELSPM for one month. Although there are still many things that I don't know I feel very happy and grateful. Thanks to all my teachers and friends at ELSPM.

Class activities

Pre Intermediate

I am **Lan**, a sister of Our Lady of the Mission. I enjoy my class - *Pre-Intermediate* so much because I feel all the teachers are devoted and creative both in classroom and other activities. Although I just know a little bit English, I have been supported and accompanied by teachers, volunteers and friends. For me, every day I experience new things and the happiness in my life. Learning English in Australia is different from Vietnam. My teachers support, encourage and let me express and speak out my thoughts and ideas. I also feel a little bit more confident in speaking through games with the list of different questions or the topic of happiness. I really liked drawing on Friday 16th February in the afternoon. I drew a picture following the model. I love the opposite of black and white, light and dark. I realize that in my daily life sometimes I am up and down, happy and sad, strong and weak. I am invited to integrate and enjoy my time here to be improved both knowledge and spiritual experiences. Moreover, those circles remind me to think about the wonderful and amazing galaxies that God has created. I feel content with the picture I did. All of us come from different cultures, languages and nationalities but I know that we are here to study not only English but to also celebrate the diversity between us. We believe that we have one language, the language of love which brings us closer to God and to others.



Intermediate:

Recently the students of the Intermediate class prepared for their Oral Presentations which were part of the Week 5 Assessments. They presented their topics on Thursday 1st March. They each chose a topic which was related to their daily life or which came from their own reflection on religious life.



Marco, a Carmelite brother from East Timor, was very excited to think, search and design his presentation using PowerPoint. He discovered people around the world these days have been dealing with the problems of obesity. He really wanted to understand more about obesity with its causes, symptoms, consequences so that he can give suggestions to those who need his help.

Yaya comes from Taiwan and belongs to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. She spoke about how to keep healthy in a natural way. Her topic referred to: "Hildegard's herbal garden". Hildegard was born in 1098 and was canonized as a Doctor of the Church in 2012. She was European by birth but her thoughts and medical methods showed her familiarity with Chinese ways. That means to get "healed" and keep "healthy" using the "universal prescriptions" in God's pharmacy.



Thomas Thanh, a Vietnamese Passionist, presented the topic of lung cancer in Vietnam. This topic was researched very carefully. In his presentation, Thanh focused on the main causes of lung cancer: smoking, second-hand smoking, pollution and overwork. He shared that as a Vietnamese, a religious priest and a pastoral minister, he needs to take action. He thinks, reflects, informs and cares about people who are waiting for help and support. The message is left for everyone in the world nowadays: Clean – Green – Healthy – Community wherever and whenever we have been.

Ielts group:

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) has been the world's most popular English language proficiency test for higher education and global migration.

Sen joined the IELTS group at ELSPM to improve her English skills — reading, writing, listening and speaking. Although she loves learning new information in the fields of arts, science, psychology and nature, she still feels she is struggling to be familiar with the style of the IELTS test. The seven students in this group hope that they can achieve the score they need so that they can continue their plans for the future.



I am **Fredy**. I came from Papua New Guinea, a country located to the north of Australia.

I have joined the IELTS group to upgrade my English in preparation for the novitiate and consequently for my career. So far as IELTS is concerned, I find it very interesting but challenging too. Since English is my third language, it involves a struggle and is hard work to actually grasp the style in which the language is used for the Test. I realize that IELTS needs careful attention and good understanding so I am working at it. The IELTS group shares lots of laughter and the

joy of togetherness. To be in the IELTS group is a privilege and an opportunity which we are all

lucky to have. We only have three weeks to go so let's be grateful to God for letting us experience His love within the IELTS group and let's not forget the promise of Jesus, "I am with you always until the end of time."

Volunteers

Sr Patricia (Rndm)

Being a volunteer at ELSPM is a very worthwhile experience. I joined the language school at the beginning of 2017 and immediately I felt I had come into a welcoming family. Together we come from many cultures and so we learn much from each other. The staff and students are friendly and the students are each motivated to learn and they work hard and help each other. I am so happy to be able to share my gifts with other people and being a volunteer at ELSPM I am able to do this as well as learn from the students. I love to see the students progressing and growing in their confidence in mastering the difficult language of English. Congratulations to each one of you and to your teachers.

Birthdays in March

5th March Sen and Noel

20th Avelino

27th Bernadeta



Van's birthday in February

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