

### A Word from the Manager



Over the next few weeks there are a number of holidays so please keep your calendar handy so you know when to come to class. Also assessments will take place across week 9 and 10 because of the Easter break. It is really good to see the progress you are all making in both your spoken and written English. I know you have been thinking of the IELTS preparation group as they prepare for their test. We wish them well. Don't forget to keep up your personal study whenever there is a break from formal classes. You will be surprised at how much it helps.

I wish you and your communities a very happy and holy Easter and look forward to catching up with you all after the mid semester break. Classes resume on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018.

### Reflection for Holy Week

<https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/8-prayers-to-pray-each-day-of-holy-week.html>



Lord God,  
I give you thanks, for you are good,  
and your mercy is endless.  
Here I stand, at the start of this holy week,  
This week in which your church remembers Jesus' passion  
and death,  
And I am distracted by many things.  
Turn my eyes now to the One who comes in your name  
The one who opens the gates of righteousness  
The one who answers when we call.  
I bless you, Lord, for shining your light upon me,  
And for sending your Son to us, in human frailty.  
To walk the road we walk.  
Open my eyes that I may see him coming,  
And may praise him with a pure heart.  
And may walk in the way of his suffering,  
And share also in his resurrection.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## Student profiles

### AI RONG:

I am Ai Rong and Frances is my English name. I was a doctor in China. I belong to the Holy Spirit Sisters.

I joined our Congregation in 1998 and I spent one year in pre-Novitiate. I made my first vows in May 2002 and I started my on-going formation program after my final vows in 2009.

I have been Australia for 7 months. I realized that it was not easy for me to come here because my Visa was rejected the first time around. Someone at the Embassy made a 40 minutes phone call and asked me a lot of questions and some of them I didn't know how to answer. I felt very nervous and anxious. As a result, the visa was not accepted. At that time, I almost gave up hope of coming to Australia. Some days later on 29<sup>th</sup> June – the Feast of St Peter and Paul, I went to Church and sincerely prayed to these saints because I thought they are the main protectors of missionaries. After Mass, I went home and I received the information from my sister leader through the network that my Visa was passed and she congratulated me about that. I was so surprised and very grateful to God as well as St Peter and St Paul. Therefore, in God, everything is possible as long as I rely on Him with sincerity.



### EDWARD



I joined the Congregation of Passionist in 2016 and I have been in the community for 2 years. I come from Papua New Guinea. My country is situated just north of Australia and right on the Pacific Ring of Fire. Therefore, people experience enormous disasters each year.

I was chosen to undergo my English studies in Australia where English is widely spoken and there are also well qualified teachers. When I arrived in Australia, my English was very poor, especially in the four main areas of English: reading, writing, listening and speaking. However, studying at ELSPM really helps me a lot and I realize that all the staff, volunteers and students of ELSPM have a great influence on my studies. I am really enthusiastic about learning with teacher Margaret Hughes in preparation for my IELTS exam. She is a great teacher who gives her time to help us. I also have a tutor at home who helps me with extra work and lots of conversation. I am really grateful for all the help given to us.

ELSPM has really broadened my way of understanding different ideas. I enjoy most of my time with the staff and students to share different cultural backgrounds and feelings together.



## Class activities

### Sand:



Sand is the only student at ELSPM from Iraq. He is interested in different activities and topics in his class. His English is improving somewhat. He particularly likes what he studied last week about two different aspects both positive and negative of a feature. For example, he and his friends spent time discussing the advantages and disadvantages of living in the city as opposed to the country while another group shared their idea about the argument for or against euthanasia. His class is active and interesting. Moreover, Sand enjoyed writing an imaginative story entitled “Magic story”. He felt content with the story he made up about a man who lost his wedding ring and found it in the stomach of a big fish in the Ocean, because it had a happy ending. He seems to have a lot of fun and is enthusiastic in his class although he faces lots of challenges, especially having enough time to study. At the moment, he is serving 3 different Church communities so he can only come to the Language Centre 3 days a week. Therefore, he is aware of the limited time he has to try to improve his English as much as he can.

### Lucia:

Lucia comes from South Korea but her family is living in Sydney. She has been in Australia many times as a tourist. She has been at ELSPM since July 2017. She feels excited about her new life and the new environment of learning from her teachers, volunteers and friends as well as many beautiful sights around and the experience of clean air. At the beginning she hoped that her English skills would improve quickly. However, she realizes that English is not easy at all. She finds now she is more patient with herself and is grateful to God for the opportunity of studying English at ELSPM. For her, it seems to be a beautiful opportunity to learn and grow as well as be supported and encouraged by all the teachers and students. She feels at home here without experiencing too much culture shock or weather adjustment. She continues to improve her English in her daily life at the school and her community. She enjoys her time of learning.



### Avelino:



Being a Carmelite brother, Ave seems sensitive to the topic of “Ethics” which the Intermediate/EAP class has begun. During this week, his teacher and friends have discussed and understood the definition, overview and a variety of vocabulary relating to ethics. They mentioned many aspects of human behavior, of justice, politic, economic ethics and married life.

Ave is also keen on the topic “Climate change”. He will use this topic, for his 800 word essay due in week 8. Through his research he has discovered that

climate change has many causes such as industrial emissions, natural disasters (volcano, flood), chemical effects (nuclear, bomb), human influences (increasing in atmospheric Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases). In his essay, he thinks he will include his experience in East Timor in regard to the effects of climate change in their daily life.

## Volunteers

**Bernard**

### ***Being an ELSPM Volunteer***

I think it was Fr Kevin Hennessy who asked me to become a volunteer at ELSPM. I have known Fr Kevin for many years so he knew that I had worked as an editor and writer. And I had met Sr Margaret on the day she arrived in Melbourne from Adelaide, with her car filled with teaching materials from the start of ELSPM in Adelaide. ‘Would I like to assist her in her work?’ Fr Kevin said. But I didn’t know what I was letting myself in for, or what I could do to help a student who was learning English!

Despite that, we made a start. Late in 2016 I began to work with (now) Fr Tuan cp, helping him with the Student Bulletin and his English sermons. And I helped Fr Priscus cp who returned home last week to Tanzania after completing his time in Australia. During 2017, I worked with EAP students who have started their university studies now, and I am doing that again this semester. My good friend, Heather, has come along to join the team too.

For me, it is a rich experience to be involved at ELSPM supporting the students. They are always keen to learn, to improve their language skills and to understand more about the often-confusing Australian way of life. It is a privilege to be involved in the formation and development of students in this way, even when ‘the going’ is tough!

### ***My advice to students?***

Don’t be afraid to ASK. There is no such thing as the wrong question, so practice asking questions right from the start of your studies.

And READ as much as you can in English, and read it out loud. Find a friend to listen or just a nice tree to sit under, but do as much reading as you can manage.

As the French say, Bon Chance!

## Coming events

### **YTU - Inaugural Eucharist Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

You are all warmly invited to our Inaugural Eucharist and supper – a wonderful day to welcome in a new year and meet new people.

***7:00pm here at St Paschal Chapel. Followed by supper in the Common Room.***

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Melbourne Passion Play

Holy Cross Centre 207 Serpells Rd, Templestowe

Palm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 1.30pm

Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 10.00am

A number of ELSPM students take part as cast or support members

### Reflection on Contemplation and Transformation (Sr Pat Farrell)



On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Sr Pat Farrell presented a reflection day for religious in Victoria entitled Contemplation and Transformation. Sister Margaret Bentley and 4 students joined in to and here are reflections from the students.

**Marco** (O’Carm) was touched by the presentation about “TRANSFORMATION”.

“God is always with me. Whoever and wherever I am God is always present within me. Whether I am aware or not, God is in me every day and doing something new in my life. This is transformation. However, God’s transformation needs my own cooperation because transformation comes from my ability to experience emptiness and my ability of letting God transform my life into a new life in every day. With this new life I hope to experience truth, happiness, justice and peace in my daily life and with others. All these hopes are the fruits of transformation”.

Another student, **Van** (fmm), said: “I used to think that something or someone needed to be changed to make the world a better place. However I realized that Max Planck was right when he said, "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." In fact, others and the world have changed when I change myself. Moreover, I felt that the energy to help us change our lives is not in our heads but our hearts. It is the power of love that will transform our lives.”

**Sen** (rndm) reflected that what stays with her is the need to be **conscious**.

She was impressed by three main points.

- “Consciousness starts with the idea of being inside the frame. It is really hard to see the whole picture when I am inside the frame. Besides, each person has different kinds of frames. We should help each other to see and accept the whole picture from different point of views.





- Another idea was the image of “fog”. In a simple way, everything is always there with all its characteristics but our eyes cannot always see it clearly.
- What happens to non-human also affects humans as well; what relates to the outside also impacts on the inside. It reminds me to be a part of the world and other people. Somehow we have the connection to support and cooperate together.

Life contains both joys and challenges. For me, the most important response is not to avoid them or to ignore those challenges or difficulties but I need to be aware of the reality to deal with any struggle that might occur. To be conscious, I am invited to contemplate, to observe, to seek, to discover, to understand and to take action. It is really a process of growth and maturity to become our own reality”.

## Catholic Mission Appeal

## Volunteer Speakers

## Norah



Norah McCluskey works for Catholic Mission and she was a Guest speaker at ELSPM recently. Norah told us about the various activities of Catholic Mission, many of them in our home lands. She was really enthusiastic.

Norah welcomes any student who is free and willing to speak at St Francis

Church in the city on Sunday the 17th June. There are 8 masses and Norah will work with any speaker to help prepare for the talk. We hope to make it an ELSPM day at St Francis.

([norah.mccluskey@cam.org.au](mailto:norah.mccluskey@cam.org.au))

### MYANMAR APPEAL

*‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news’  
Isaiah 52:7*

Catholic Mission’s Annual Appeal will focus on our partnership with the Church of Myanmar. The focus is building a strong education system that will positively impact children, parents and whole communities.

A major part of the Catholic Mission program is professional development of young teachers. Myanmar’s current school curriculum is based on a Rote learning system (memorization technique based on repetition). The training will keep the strengths of the rote learning system and add a holistic approach (teaching and learning strategies: logical, analytical and creative processes) within the local context. This enables teachers to work within a national curriculum in ways which draw out analytical and creative skills.

Thousands of poor and vulnerable children are being supported through their education by the Myanmar Church - providing the framework for young people to become future leaders for their community and country.

Teachers in Australia are involved in this project (each January) conducting training and mentoring workshops with teachers across regional areas and in remote schools across the country.

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**2018 Palm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**



**Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office:** Prayer service at St Patrick's Cathedral at 1:30 pm and walk for Justice for Refugees

**Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March:** at 10.00 am.

The Way of the Cross begins at St Francis' Church, 326 Lonsdale Street (corner Lonsdale and Elizabeth Streets), Melbourne (Melbourne's oldest church).

**Easter Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April:**

Station 14: Meet at the 13th station, St Paul's (Anglican) Cathedral, Flinders Street car park; cross Princes Bridge, and conclude at St John's Southgate (Lutheran), Southbank.

We invite you to join the journey. To get more information, please visit this website:

<http://www.mccia.org.au/way-of-the-cross/>



**Catholic Mission Appeals Volunteer Speakers**

**Norah**