



### INTRODUCTION

In this issue we meet the Online learning class hailing from Vietnam and Myanmar and also their teachers.



### LEARNING ENGLISH ONLINE

Every experience teaches us valuable lessons. Learning English online has also been a completely new experience for us. First of all, we feel that our teachers have helped us a lot to improve all our skills. They always take care of us and are willing to help us whenever we need their help. Their dedication and enthusiasm have inspired us in trying to perfect our English. Secondly, when we started learning English, we were very enthusiastic and motivated, but we found the pronunciation difficult, and people couldn't always understand us. After a while, our pronunciation improved, and we were able to express basic ideas quite effectively. It was obvious that we were getting better, and that was very encouraging. But at the Intermediate level, we made slower progress. There were so many new words and phrases, but there were also words that we could understand but couldn't use accurately. Besides, we often had problems connecting to the internet, and we also did not have the opportunity to speak English directly with friends and teachers, which we think is a huge disadvantage for our English learning. Overall, we would like to say thank you to all teachers. We've met a great manager, counsellor, and teachers, as well as the best conditions for studying English online. We are very grateful to all of them. Thank you very much, and may God bless you all.

**Kinh, Mai, Thu, Zin May**

### MEET THE TEACHERS

#### Marelda

I started my life as an ESL teacher in 2007, teaching at an English Language school in Sydney. In 2009, I headed off to Japan on a 3 month contract to teach English to university students. I absolutely loved Japan...the food, the culture, the people and ended up staying there for several years.

I joined ELSPM at the beginning of this year. I was drawn to ELSPM because it's different. It's a place where we can study the fundamentals of English and also talk openly about our faith in class. I've been teaching the online class on Fridays and I have learnt a lot about the RNDM sisters. I hope I can make a difference and help each student in their pastoral ministry.





## Jeff

2021-23 have been wonderful years for me because I have had the privilege of teaching online for ELSPM. I have co-taught very happily with Jackie, Michelle and this past semester, Marelda. Teaching is a joy at ELSPM because the students are without exception conscientious and hardworking. Teaching 4 days per week for a mature age person is a challenge but the load is lightened by the joy each day brings. I wish to unreservedly thank our ever-understanding manager, Sr Margaret, my co-teachers for their support and brilliant contributions and of course the delightful students. What the future holds for me is unclear as online teaching is being replaced with 100% face to face at last. One thing is certain I do not want to lose my connection with ELSPM. I have plans this year and next to get back into singing more. I was fortunate last year to be involved in some marvellous concerts with the Sydney Symphony under the baton of the illustrious Simone Young. I am doing another this year and hope to do more in '24. I wish the Board, all staff members, and students of ELSPM a very joyful Easter season. I hope you all have a wonderful end of semester break and return refreshed.



## ONLINE STUDENTS' EASTER REFLECTIONS

### Happy Easter to my teachers and all of you!!!

May this joyful season of Easter fill your heart with renewed hope, love and the peace of Jesus Christ.

Much love and prayers.

**Thao RNDM**



### Easter is coming

Easter eggs symbolize fertility and growth. So, at Easter, people will give each other eggs with different colors made from handmade chocolate and plaster instead of a wish. However, in my community, we make Easter eggs from natural ingredients like oranges and grapefruits to give to everyone with the same meaning of sending blessings.

**Tham, RNDM**



Easter is one of the most important Christian festivals which is observed in March or April. Easter is a Christian holiday. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter is known as Holy week. On this day we wear new clothes and go to Church. Eggs are decorated and hidden for children to find. Christians believe.

### Easter eggs symbolize new life and resurrection.

**Christina, RNDM**







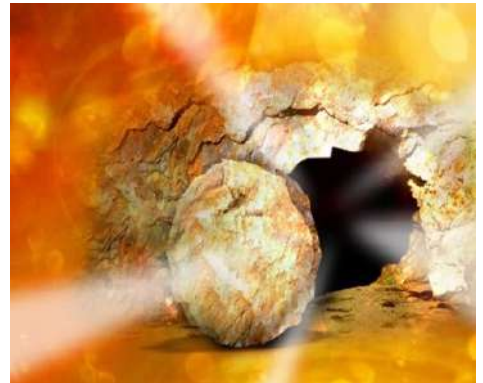
Like Jesus,  
I want to leave my own sadness,  
open my heart and  
share my joy with others  
because Jesus Christ is risen.

**Xuan RNDM**

Easter this year is very special for me. I celebrate this holiday with the people of the fishing village. They do not know God, nor do they know Easter.

However, they are the silent apostles of the Lord

They cast their nets every day to catch fish, they share the joy of their poverty, and they welcome us like family. Every day, they still call God, even though they don't know him as their father. We have different beliefs, but we are all children of God and celebrate the same Easter.



Jesus is truly risen! Alleluia! He was raised from the dead and will never die again. Emmanuel was, is, and will live forever with you and me. I feel that peace, joy, and hope will never be lost if I am always aware and convinced that He is always with me. May I always recognize the Risen One in my studies, my three vows, and have Him accompany me on every journey.

**Maisa RNDM**





## Echoes of Resurrection on Cửa Lò Sea

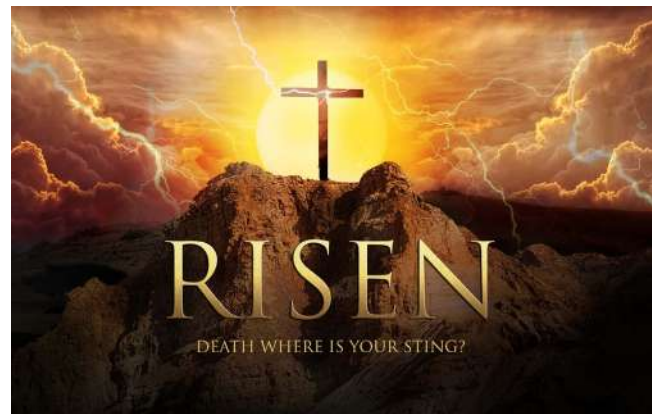
Easter Sunday, I will return to my hometown. I think I will enjoy time with my family and sisters. I recall sunrises at sea every morning in my hometown. My view of the sun has changed after a long journey in my RNDM vocation.

As the sun rises, it is not only a signal of the new day for my people, it is an image that helps me connect with the risen Jesus in my life. It is also the time of day when people in my hometown wake up after a long night and begin to create hope for the coming day. In light of that, I would like to pause and reflect. Through the creation of my hometown's fishermen, I hear the voices singing praises to God. Resilience, hope and reaching for the light are heard in this song. Those are the days after Easter when the real celebration begins. I want to remember what God has done and pay close attention to what He's doing.



Thanks to Jeff, Marelda and the Intermediate Plus group for their contribution to the April E-News. In June, eight of this group will begin their preparation for final vows. We wish them well. The others will continue online, while they wait for their visas, to come to Australia.

Our next E-News will feature the onsite Intermediate group and highlight the recent excursion to Melbourne Zoo, as well as the results of the Photo competition linked to the excursion.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS - CONGRATULATIONS

- |               |           |                    |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------|
| <b>April:</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>Thuy Ngan</b>   |
|               | <b>10</b> | <b>Joseph Thai</b> |
|               | <b>19</b> | <b>Ngoc Thai</b>   |
|               | <b>19</b> | <b>Angela</b>      |
|               | <b>26</b> | <b>Toan</b>        |

