



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Semester 1, 2023. In this issue, we revisit Fr Kevin's homily at the first Wednesday Mass of the academic year when he reminds us of what we are about during Lent. We meet the Elementary Class and their teachers. They were responding to questions about their home, family and their first impressions of Australia. We also hear from one of our recent graduates who when asked about his first day as a student at YTU gave a rather unexpected response!



## LENT IS THE TIME TO CELEBRATE

Pope Francis is asking us through this beautiful time of Lent to be people of prayer, to fast and to give to the poor. Recently, I visited the oldest Catholic Church in Australia, St. John's in Richmond, Tasmania. It was a beautiful little church and I thought of the many generations of people before me who had come to this little church to pray and of their generosity in giving their money to build this place of prayer.

*As I sat there praying, I felt a real sense of the sacredness.*

Pope Francis is calling us to be people of prayer. He is asking us to fast not just from food, to fast from anger, from jealousy, from hatred, from all within us that causes disturbance. We can only do that if we are people of prayer. But he also asks us to think of the poor. To think of those in various parts of the world where people have no food at all. Many children are dying. So, that little bit of money that you have for your allowance, one or two dollars, to put in the 'Project Compassion' box is not for us, but for those who have nothing. It's not a time to have a sad looking face. It's a time of joy, of hope, and of love. To reach that, sometimes, we have to sacrifice.



## AFTER ELSPM, WHAT NEXT?

How was your first day at YTU?

Um... it's little bit cold, it's my first time to catch up with my new professor who is an English native speaker. It's little bit bad for me, because of his accent. This was the first time to meet him, so it was quite hard and it took me a couple of minutes to get used to him.

Um...what else? Before I started class, I had time to catch up with my old friends.

I have a chance to open the YTU students' fridge which I didn't have before with 3 months of studying English at this centre! The first time ever, you know...that's it!





## MEET THE STUDENTS

### DUNG (DJ)

I'm from Vietnam. I was born Nghe An province in Vietnam. My hometown is very good because the place was my history and is very meaningful for me. If you come to visit me, I will pick up to show you visiting another place famous in my hometown. My family has seven people; my parents, older brother. three sisters and me. I have six nephews and three nieces.

The first time of Australia, I was impressed with the weather, fresh air and friendly people. I like the weather. Here, I feel very well about everything, I think I'm better off living in Australia.



### WANG CHAO

I'm from China. I was born in the north of China-Hebei Han Dan. My hometown is an ancient city whose name has not been changed for three thousand years. But the air is bad. I hope to show you the ancient city, history and culture and Tai Chi . During my first year at the seminary, I had a younger brother born in 2008 which was a big surprise for the family.

The environment here is beautiful. The air is fresh and comfortable. It feels pretty good here, except that communication is the biggest problem right now. But it is better than when I first came.



### THERESIA

I come from Indonesia. I was born in Mamo-Manggarai. I would like to show you Labuan Bajo-Manggarai, Komodo Island and Mirror stone(Batu cermin)

There are six of us in my family.. I have two brothers, one is younger, two sisters. My father and my older sister died a long time ago. My mother is still alive.

The first impression of Australia: I felt quiet. I like here because of the parks everywhere and being free from pollution.



### TOAN

I was s born and raised in Dong Nai province. Bien Hoa city. It's beautiful. It has very many people, cars, bicycles and motorbikes. The weather is very hot but in the rainy season, it's a bit cool. There's a lot of delicious food and drink there. In the evening, you can walk the streets or go to tea rooms and listen to music.

My impression of Australia is that it is so big and vast and has a lot of animals. I really like the Australian kangaroo Also the weather! It changes constantly, even the day is longer than the night. The people here are very friendly and they are very good with animals. I think in Australia is a good environment for living and working. I think in Australia is a country specializing in education and training for people in developing their thinking and respecting human freedom.





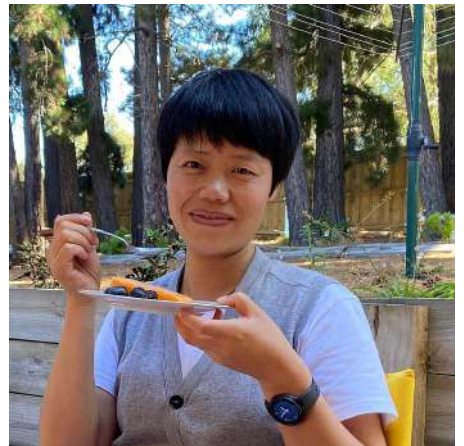


## YUAN YUAN

I come from China and I belong to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. I'm very happy to join our FMM's life. I have parents, two brothers and one sister. They are all married. And I also have three nephews and one niece. I was born in Xi'an. Xi'an is big and old city. There are many museums in Xi'an. The museum of Qin Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses is very famous. I visited two times there. Many tourists want to go to see that museum. If you like history, I'd like to recommend going there.

A special memory is the story of bible in our family. It is from my grandfather. He received it from a foreign missionary. From 1972 – 1980, my grandparents' house was a welcoming house for many foreign missionaries. So this bible was a gift from them. He really liked to read the bible and cherished it. When I visited grandfather, he liked to share bible stories. He read this bible many times until he died. That bible is so old. Some pages are yellow and you can't see some letters. It is written in Chinese character. My family members are all Christians from the 4th generation. So when I talked about joining the FMMs, my parents were very happy. My family and grandparents' faiths are very strong.

Australia is a very quiet and beautiful country, clean and very familiar because I could see many Chinese. And Australians are very friendly. ELSPM students are also very friendly and welcome new students. And the teachers have a strong responsibility for their students. I like to listen to music or talk with someone.



## MARCO

I come from a small town near the Capital in Madagascar. It's a beautiful village and I was very happy living there. I'm a priest in the congregation of Oblates Mary Immaculate. This year, I'm remembering 15 years since my ordination.

My first impression of Australia is a wonderful environment. It's a green country and I love the peace. But the common transportation is very expensive. I spend \$10 every day.

I love here because of its wonderful parks and environment. The country lives in peace.



## ANGELA

I come from Manado in Indonesia

If you come to visit I would show you the beautiful Likupang beach and I would show you horse racing.

I have two sisters one brother, my mother and father.

I like coming to Australia, now I'm happy and enjoy.





MEET THE TEACHERS

**KATHY**

I'm married with two children; Milly aged 10 and Harvey aged 6. I am a Vietnamese Australian and was born in Box Hill Hospital. Before teaching English, I was a pharmacist for 15 years. I have an interest in writing and reading.

When I read the job advertisement from ELSPM, I thought it sounded like a great place to work. I was right! I started in August 2022 and have loved working with the wonderful teachers and supporting the dedicated students.

Bearing witness to my students from 2022 receiving their end-of-year certificates and sharing their celebrations for a well-earned semester of work has been a highlight for me.



**MEL**

I've been teaching English as an additional language for nearly 20 years. I started in NZ whilst studying for my undergrad in Philosophy and Gender studies. I've taught in Australia, the UK, Malaysia and Singapore. I love reading and sheep (see photo taken by Mel).

An advert bought me to ELSPM – the role sounded intriguing, and I really enjoy working with adults. I learn far more from my students than I can ever teach them.

I once had a group of students from Kuwait. They hadn't travelled much. So, I decided to do a group project and for some reason they chose North Korea as the country to research. All class presentations were fantastic and now I like to think there's some very well informed Kuwaitis who are interested each time a story about North Korea is on the news!



BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS TO STAFF AND STUDENTS

**January:** Robyn - 15th, Nang - 16th, Jackie - 31st

**February:** Maisa - 5th, Elizabeth - 11th, Kinh - 19th

**March:** Noeline 1st, Mel 2nd, Tham 3rd, Marelda 14th, Luong 19th, Bernadeta 24th Siven 31st

We hope you all had happy celebrations and many blessings

