

TRINITY SUNDAY

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity it reminds me of the deepest love of God for the human. God the Father's embrace, Jesus' self-offering and the Holy Spirit's encouragement.... these movements work at the same time for the human. From there, I can feel God's utmost love for me from the bottom of my heart. When I was a novice, I was struggling with a serious health problem. At that time, I really wanted to give up all things from my life. But, this crisis has overturned me as a huge conviction that God the Father has already loved me so much more than myself, even when I couldn't love myself. I could feel God's love through the small actions of one sister. After that, it became a base of my faith. God's love is unimaginable and an immeasurable blessing for me. Through this awareness, it often made me reflect on my relationships with others.

At ELSPM, I've met many friends from abroad. Sometimes, I've received a lot of support, or challenges from them and it has become a good opportunity to grow. Moreover, it has also urged me to learn how to love, how to give a life to one another like the Holy Trinity. So today, with a grateful heart, I hope that I can practice love a little more than yesterday.

Seraphina FMM



MEET THE EAP CLASS AND THEIR REFLECTIONS ON LIVING IN AUSTRALIA

MY LEARNING ABOUT RUBBISH!

When I first arrived in Australia almost seven years ago, I was faced with many new experiences and had a lot to learn. I had to start from scratch and learn even the smallest things. One day, the priest I was living with asked me to put the rubbish in the bin, and I had no idea how to do it correctly. I made mistakes, but he patiently observed and took the time to teach me the proper process of rubbish disposal. It took me some time to fully understand the rubbish disposal system and adapt to the local practices. However, by being mindful of the environment and following proper waste disposal guidelines, I have been able to contribute to sustainable living in Australia. This has helped me become more environmentally conscious and contribute positively to my community.

Michael Anh



MEMORABLE AUSTRALIA

I would like to share my three most significant experiences in Australia, specifically in Melbourne: Firstly, the friendships I formed in Australia are some of my fondest memories. My friends have always supported, encouraged, and challenged me to move forward, especially during difficult times. They never give up on me and are always patient and attentive when I need someone to talk to. Good friends are like stars - even when they're not visible, you know they're there for you. Secondly, I am struck by the incredible environmental consciousness of Australians, especially in Melbourne. I love seeing the many beautiful trees and flowers lining the streets, and the cleanliness of the city is impressive. Everywhere I go, people are recycling and taking care to maintain the ecosystem. It makes me feel like I am truly living in harmony with nature. Thirdly, I am immensely proud of my educational progress, particularly in English. Within a short amount of time, I was able to speak, listen, write, and even do academic work in Australian English. I owe a debt of gratitude to my teachers and friends, who are always willing to lend a helping hand and support me in my studies. These are memories that I will cherish for a lifetime.

Yan



MEET EAP WHO WERE ASKED TO REFLECT ON BEING IN AUSTRALIA

A KIND STRANGER

I grew up in a small village in Lam Dong, a province in Vietnam. One of the impressive things about Australia, especially Melbourne where I am living is the weather. Although Melbourne has some hot days in the summer, the temperatures are generally pleasant. This makes me feel at home. Another positive experience about Australia is the people's friendliness. People smile at each other, even if they don't know who the other is. I remember the first days of walking in the park near my house, a kind stranger gave me a bottle of water when she saw that I was thirsty after a hard run. Then we had a good conversation about Australia. She opened my mind with valuable knowledge about Australian culture. Now I have been here for almost one year and I am getting used to the new lifestyle, but I still keep her Australian culture advice in my mind.

Khoa



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

After completing my novitiate and taking temporary vows in 2014, I was sent to Australia to study at Vianney College Seminary in the Wagga diocese. Since then, this journey has brought me many challenges as well as opportunities. It is a unique experience that provides the perfect opportunity to meet new friends, learn a new language and, of course, obtain a world-class education. Like many international students in Australia, I struggle to learn new languages and adjust to unfamiliar cultures. However, studying abroad provides me with a chance to see things from a different perspective. This is not meant to challenge or change my beliefs entirely but provides a chance to see things from the other side and develop empathy.

Thuy



TRAVEL BROADENS THE MIND

Vietnamese has an idiom, “Đi một chặng đường, học một sàng khôn,” which is a synonym for an English idiom, “Travel broadens the mind.” There are indeed many journeys in our lives. Living in a new country, with new people, and new languages, I have had many experiences that include happiness, excitement, and anxiety for what will be ahead. As you know, Australia is a multicultural country. By chance, during my time living here, I have had plenty of opportunities to meet and talk with many people who are from different nations around the world. Hence, I have learned to broaden my mind a lot, especially about cultures. Living in a diverse environment, I have also learned how to respect and highly appreciate others' traditional values. In the end, I believe these experiences are helpful for my future as an international missionary.

Luong



CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

One of the most noticeable things about my time here has been how friendly and warm the people are. I was welcomed into a mixed society that celebrates differences and pushes cultural exchange from the very beginning. Living in Australia has given me a chance to see a different way of life, which has made me more open-minded and given me a better outlook on things. I've been lucky enough to see how people from different countries can live together peacefully and make a society that is full of life and welcomes everyone. Exploring the beautiful landscapes and natural wonders of Australia, from the famous beaches to the wide Outback, has been a journey that has left me in awe. Living in Australia has given me a lot of chances to grow as a person and in my career. The country's strong economy, focus on education, and wide range of jobs have made new opportunities possible. I have been able to go to higher education, get an excellent profession, and contribute to society in many ways.

Xavier



EAP REFLECTIONS

'STAY HUNGRY. STAY FOOLISH'

Hello Australia! It's funny how life takes unexpected turns. Four months living and studying in this strange land might not be enough, but here I am, embracing the Australian experience. Australia, a tolerant country that welcomes people from all corners of the globe, has a generosity that makes it incredibly beautiful and vibrant. This diversity makes me feel like I'm not alone amidst the crowd of Australians. Somewhere, there are fellow Vietnamese and Asians, bringing a sense of familiarity to this unfamiliar horizon. While Australia has its roots in Western culture, it differs from my traditional Asian upbringing. Like any place, there are good and bad things, but what matters now is opening my eyes, ears, heart, and mind to let Australia in. I'm here to learn, experience, and enjoy all that this amazing country has to offer. So, hello, Australia! Let's make the most of this journey together, with a friendly, open-hearted, and simple spirit.

Trung Hieu



TAKING CARE OF ANIMALS

It was a seabird that took the costly ice cream which had been bought for me on my first trip to the Sydney Opera House. How much I appreciated the taste of the ice cream, much more I was disappointed by an action of a seabird brought to me. Dispelling the upset of losing ice cream away, my superior explained to me that is a normal happening here in Australia. Because wild birds and animals can live friendly with human beings. So, citizens have duties to protect and take care of animals. That is why I can see many wild animals living around me. This is not really happening in Vietnam due to hunting and shooting a lot of wild animals illegally. Every time I am free. I normally go to the beach for swimming. Especially I can spend my time playing and feeding seabirds. Moreover, I encourage everyone, hand in hand with Australians, to be aware of the importance of the environment where we are settling.

John Hiep



MEMORABLE AUSTRALIA

I had definitely heard about Australia prior to my arrival. However, my initial impression is that Australia is a vast country whose size I could not fathom prior to my arrival. Australia is approximately 23 times larger than my country. Additionally, the traffic in this country is swift. Second, I learned that there are many breathtaking landscapes in Australia that are free to visit, in contrast to Vietnam, where most of the stunning locations require us to pay an entrance fee. In addition, when I travelled to the coastal region, I observed swimming pools adjacent to the ocean that I will never forget. In short, I have only been here for a few years at most. I hope I will have more opportunities to explore this country in the future, as I truly appreciate its stunning landscapes.

Anthony Phu



THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

I come from a peasant family in a small village in Vietnam. One of my dreams was that one day I could speak English, and be able to speak to people all around the world. It is a blessing for me to be here as I feel my dream has become true. Every day I enjoy the atmosphere around me and the opportunities offered to me. What's more, I should say, this is a land of hope for many people all over the world, a gift from God for refugees. There are many different races from different nationalities speaking one language and fighting for common goals. Here at ELSPM, I meet with many religious brothers and sisters from many countries. English is a wonderful tool for all of us to communicate with one another. We also communicate in another language-the language of love.

Joseph Thai



MEET THE TEACHERS

Mal

Hi, my name is Mal and I've been an English Language teacher for almost 25 years. Prior to teaching English, I taught Japanese at various High Schools for 5 years. Of course, I love to travel, and I have lived in Japan, Vietnam, and China. I have only worked at ELSPM for about 6 months but am certainly enjoying the experience and the students and staff are fantastic. I am married to Kim and have a 13 year old daughter who is in Year 8 this year. My wife works at Box Hill Hospital as a Director. My interests are going on weekend getaways, preferably to the coast and football and cricket. My favourite team is Richmond Tigers, but they are having a terrible season.



Elizabeth

I'm married with 4 adult children – 2 daughters and 2 sons. At school and university, I loved learning languages (Spanish, French and Italian). I started teaching English as a volunteer at a church centre in Box Hill. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to study to become a teacher of English as my job. I have worked at La Trobe and Deakin Universities in Melbourne, teaching English at all levels – from beginners to advanced. By my reckoning, I have met students from over 50 countries in the world. And by coming to teach at ELSPM, I have met even more students from even more countries! I love leaning about and from my students. The exchange of knowledge definitely works both ways.



WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

In the next issue of our E-News we would like to feature stories of our past students. Tell us where you are and what you are doing and please send a photo. Email your news to Margaret manager@elspm.org.au

Graduation for this semester will take place on THURSDAY June 22nd. If you would like to join us let me know and I will email you the link.

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Wang Chao 5th June

Mai 10th June

Thu 10th June

Yan 18th June

Dung (DJ) 27th June

ELSPM celebrates birthdays as listed on passports. We know these don't always correspond to your actual date of birth.

