

STUDENT BULLETIN No 10

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SA Adelaide Language Centre Ltd
ELSPM
English Language Studies
for Pastoral Ministry
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Reflection

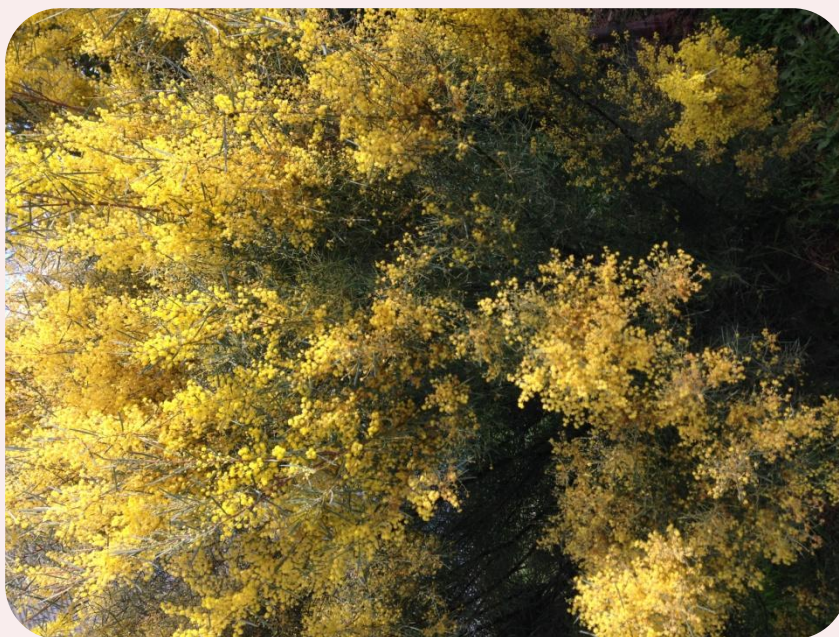
Wattle Day: September 1

The wattle tree is Australia's national flower. You will see its beautiful golden blooms on all sorts of images representing Australia and it is the reason that Australia's national colours are green and gold.

The wattle tree blooms in the coldest darkest time of winter. It comes as a sign of hope, a promise of spring and a light in the darkness. As we face another three week in Stage 4 lockdown the wattle that is blooming all around us can serve as a sign of hope.

Stay safe and warm.

Sr Margaret



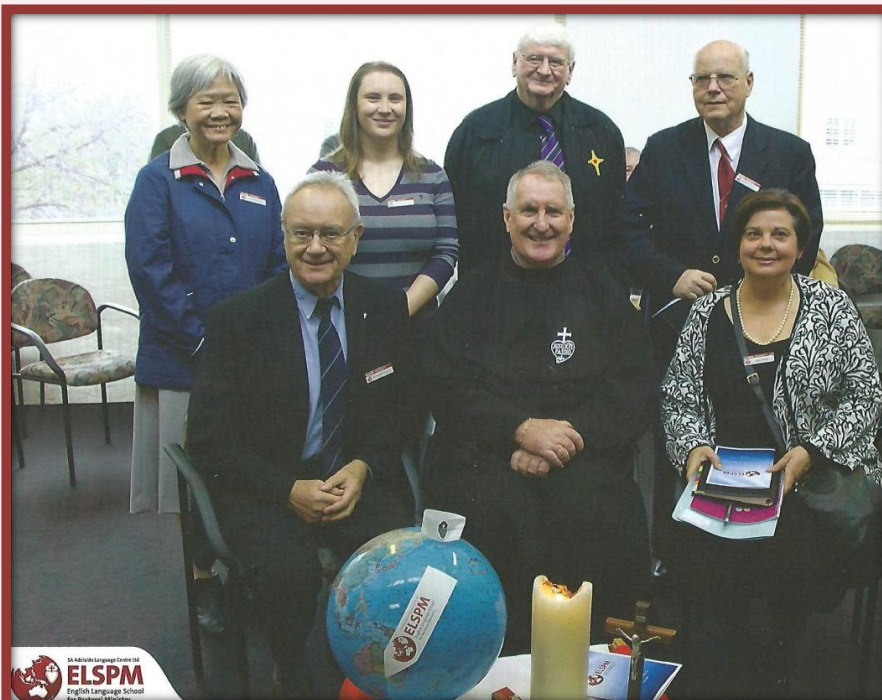
THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY ACROSS MANY NATIONS: ELSPM

Part one: the birth of ELSPM

Fr. Kevin Hennessy CP

Some years ago I was giving retreats in the Philippines to the Passionist Sisters mainly in Mindanao in the South of the country. It meant that I flew over the top of the south of the Philippines to Manila, and then caught another 2½ hour flight back down to the end of the Philippines. On my return to Manila, the capital of the Philippines, I was at our Passionist House with our young men who were preparing their visa forms to come to Australia for their Novitiate in South Australia. Even though they were learning English at a language school, they were not practising at home as they always returned to the security of their own language. The local Filipino language was spoken at meals. They asked me for help because as most of the students at ELSPM would know today, those visa papers are not easy to complete.

On my return to Australia I said to Fr. Tom McDonough CP, the Provincial that the English of our Chinese and Vietnamese students was not good as when they left the classrooms in Manila they were returning to their own languages to communicate and were not practising their English!!!!



2014: The first Staff, Members of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee

Back row: Liz Tham, Shannon

Sands, Fr Kevin, Peter Downs,

Front row: Pat Cronin, Fr Tom,

Karen Du Bois

So Fr. Tom said, 'Well, you'd better start investigating whether we can start our own Passionist English College for our students around the world.' When I returned to Adelaide, I sought out the help of Br. Pat Cronin, a Christian Brother in the College of CBC Wakefield Street. After a long time of investigation and seeking approvals, we bought a license for an English Language school for one dollar! St. Aloysius College, a Mercy Sisters' School in Adelaide gave us all the learning books they had. We established an advisory committee of volunteers with expertise. With many years of experience in education Br. Pat Cronin headed the advisory committee and Professor Bill Sultmann a renowned educator from Queensland and one of our many advisers came up with the new name for our school ELSPM meaning English Language School for Pastoral Ministry.

The Advisory Committee included a lawyer, financier, a member of the Passionist Community at Glen Osmond South Australia, Educators and policy writers and the first Academic Manager of the school, Br. Peter Downs cfc who was highly qualified and with extensive experience in Asia, mostly in China as well as Indonesia, and Korea. Though we bought the license and were generously donated many books for teaching English as a second language, we had to employ lawyers to comply with government regulations for owning a school. Carroll and O'Dea lawyers in Sydney with the help of David Bennett our Passionist Manager attended to ensuring the school was legally sound and met with the approval of the National Government. We rented the premises of the old English Language School of St. Aloysius in Angus Street, Adelaide with two teachers Br. Peter Downs and Shannon Sands, and Liz Tham as the first counsellor. Students from the Dominicans and Passionists were to be our first students to learn English in Adelaide.

We employed Karen Du Bois as an advisor in the field of government to assist Br. Pat and me with ongoing regulations, It was indeed an exciting time despite the risk but with fine staff and enthusiastic students from China, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea we began the journey of discovering a new world of culture and language that would open doors for students who would go back to their countries as pastoral workers or begin further studies in theology at a University.

We have retained the legal name of SA Adelaide Language Centre with the SA standing for St Aloysius.

Next Edition - Part 2: the early years



My name is Huong, I'm 29 years old and my birthday is November 23. I come from Viet Nam and I am living in Ho Chi Minh City. I belong to the Passionist Congregation and I just completed two years of philosophy at Dominic Academy.

My hobbies are playing football, reading books, jogging and listening to music. They help me enjoy my life and make it worth living. I like reading books while listening to music in the early morning. Now, I want to be a member of the Passionists and follow my dream of becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.

I am Thoai! I belong to the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ. I come from the central highlands, one of the regions of Vietnam, in the beautiful province of DakNong. My hometown is located in the southwest of Central Vietnam and lies on a large plateau. It is renowned for the majestic landscape of waterfalls, nighttime campfires with the sound of gongs, and the local-favored stem wine.

My personality is in tune with where I was born. That's why I am a simple lifestyle person. As far as I know, simplicity does not only help people to have a simplified life, also to keep what is really necessary and bring their happiness. I just finished a philosophy program at the Redemptorist academy. Currently, I am studying English at ELSPM through online zoom software. And I'm so excited to be able to join the class with everyone.



I'm glad for this opportunity to introduce myself. My first name is Ca, which means "singer" and I'm Vietnamese. I am thirty years old. I was born and grew up in Ben Tre Province and at present I live and learn in Ho Chi Minh city in the south of Vietnam.

There are six people in my family. I have two sisters and a brother. My father is a farmer. My mother is a housewife. She is nice and she is really good at cooking. I love my family so much.

I'm a generous and easy-going person but when it comes to work I'm a perfectionist. I'm also an optimistic and outgoing person so I have many friends and other social relationships. I enjoy reading books, writing and listening to music. I decided to become a Psychotherapist because I have always been fascinated by children who have difficulties, teenagers who have problems with their lives and solitary older people.

To achieve that dream, I have tried to study hard, almost 5 years of university lectures. I got a bachelor's degree in psychology after years of trying. To prepare for the job, I took a course in therapy and support for children with communication difficulties. At the same time, I also finished secondary school for general practitioners, thanks to little more medical attention, so my work has achieved certain success. Previously I made a living through children's speech therapy and child psychology so my clients are mostly children. After a while of studying and working, I decided to leave for the monastery, continuing with my passion and love in the consecrated life to be able to devote myself to the service of God and to be more fully human in the religious life of the Passionist vocation.

What's been happening? A wonderfully enjoyable Cultural Day with an online difference showcasing the creative talents and countries of current students. There was also great evidence of teamwork across the suburbs of Melbourne and three countries!



China



The Congo 'amani'

To all the team at ELSPM, and the students

Many thanks for an absolutely fantastic Cultural Morning. The English of the presenters, along with the presentations was very very good. It was terrific to see their self confidence and pride in their different cultures - and what a feast we had.

Thank you so much for the effort and energy and planning that went into the morning. And very proud of our three Vietnamese young men, only their fourth day at the school!

What a worthwhile morning.

Fr Tom



Indonesia



Myanmar



Vietnam



Emails



Good morning Margaret

How are you doing? I hope you are safe and well. Thank you so much for sending me a bulletin. I am very grateful to you, the teachers as well as the volunteers for everything.

I feel very warm and close to all of you as well as the atmosphere of the school every time I read the bulletin. I hope that ELSPM will rapidly develop in order to help more students from other countries improve their English skills

May God bless you and I wish you all the best.

Yen

Thanks for your beautiful article. I am still in Perth.

Hope everyone is safe and well.

God bless

Assumpta



I always enjoy seeing the ELSPM newsletter. It reminds me of the three very happy occasions when I've worked there as a volunteer.

I'm continuing my work in Brisbane, despite the virus. Next week I start work again at the Romero Centre. It's been closed for a while because of the virus. I have my own students, plus I'm at St James College twice a week to work with a Ugandan asylum seeker. This young man is about 21 but this is his very first year of school. I'm happy to say that he's thriving.

The baby kangaroo was being fostered by a friend in Tenterfield. He was such a little sweetie but sadly she died. This happens a lot with the tiny babies.

Best wishes to all at ELSPM. I know life is difficult in Melbourne at the moment. Stay safe and well.

John



Dear Margarets

Lovely to read the see the happy photos of many involved with ELSPM. I was especially delighted to see the happy face of Fr Jose Elias who sends a positive message from a country suffering such hardship. Blessings for your continued great work.

Carmel

Dear Sr Margaret
How are you going?

I do love and appreciate the idea of the Student Bulletin.
I am always grateful for all everything I have gained from ELSPM, which has been helpful to my study and ministries so far.
After my Siloam graduation, I have been working at Saint Mary's Towers Retreat Center for one and a half years. Then, I was appointed Vocation Director last May. I am now accompanying three young students living in Adelaide and seven candidates, of course, via Zoom or Messenger. I found my new ministry challenging but meaningful for it enables me to be with others in their vocation journey. Honestly, with a belief that it is God's work, not mine, I carry out my new ministry without any expectation but with big hope only.

It is very hard for me to express my gratitude to you all in words for what I have learned from ELSPM. I will try my best to make good use of that in my daily life and ministry.

Once again, thank you so much.

Please, send my regards to everyone, especially Robyn my challenging teacher.

God bless you all.

Thang, msc



Dear Margaret and friends,
How are you all there and how is your studying?

I hope and wish that all of you are very well and your studying is the same and everything in your families are good too.

I'm Paul Cau, and you can call me "Cau" it means "Prayer". I come from the middle of Vietnam and I belong to the Passionist Congregation. I have studied English at ELSPM in the last year.

Long time no see and I still remember you in my prayers and love. Even though I don't see your face often like before but your smile and love always be with me. I believe that in this new semester there are many new brothers and sisters in the ELSPM, although I don't know you before but in Jesus' faith and love, I trust we are one family in God's name. Please let me make friends with you, thank you for your kindness.

In this difficult time of pandemic, you still continue to study on Zoom. We know that it is not really good like face to face classes, but I always hope you enjoy learning and discover many of the values and blessings in this situation.

For me, I'm very well and my life and vocation are very good here. And my brother Vietnamese men are fine too. I'm still in Holy Cross centre of the Passionist community. I'm really happy and joyful with my new journey here, because I have more time to pray, reflect and discover God's love and mercy. This time is very wonderful and I still have face to face classes everyday. I will remember you in my love and prayers. Also, please pray for me too, because I really need your prayers in this time

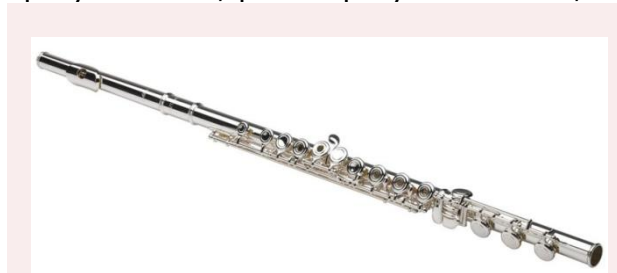
Wishing you always happiness and peace again, take care and keep safe all of my best friends. All the best. Thank you so much. See you soon and again.

My love and regards

Your brother and friend

Paul Cau

Holy Cross centre 16 August 2020

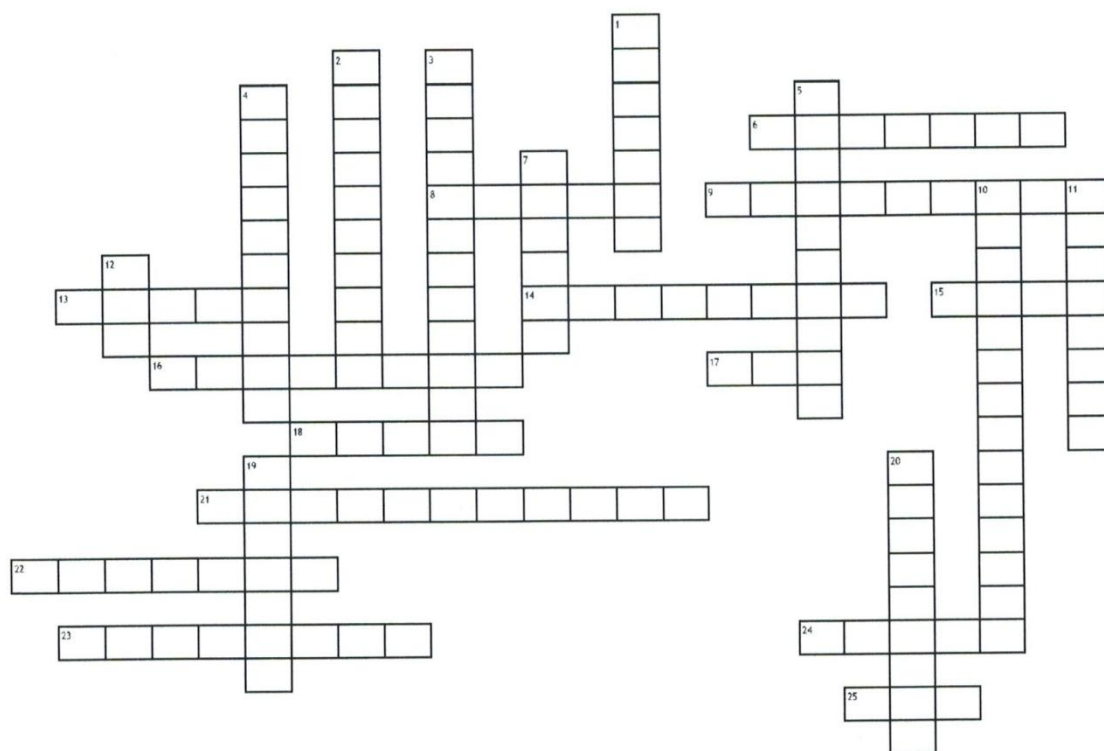


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jE3ISJevGMA&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3PVhr8FIKyZvKLKuntlt35ilXdoa6Z0CgFSyjlxcGTtqKOxucAxdZLwgA>

(Editor recommends listening!)

Belated Birthday Congratulations to Peter Zin for 12th August (editor's apologies!)

ELSPM Cultural Day



Across

6. Agustina began the prayer: ' _____ (7) the pattern of our togetherness'
8. Francois told us this about the Congo, 'We need _____ (5) always.'
9. _____ (9) are traditional food in the North and seafood is in the south of this country
13. Fr Kevin told us how many years ELSPM has been operating. (5)
14. These days are wonderful opportunities to _____ (8) the talents and cultures of our students
15. The song we sang was 'One Day at a _____' (4)
16. Fr Tom gave us a _____ (8)
17. A very popular dish in Vietnam. (3)
18. The _____ (5) Festival happens every year in Myanmar.
21. Fr Kevin commented on the colourful _____ (11) and flags of each country.
22. Francois composed the two songs he sang. One was in French and the other was in _____ (7)
23. The focus of Huong, Thoai and Ca's presentation was their _____ (8) work throughout the year.
24. 'We share a _____ (5) and sing with one voice'
25. How many countries were represented during the presentation? (3)

Down

1. An Australian who really struggles throughout life is sometimes called an Aussie _____ (7)
2. Vera explained that _____ (10) symbolise heaven, human and earth in harmony
3. _____ (12) Day is celebrated in Vietnam on 2nd September
4. Yasinta was a very happy MC: 'Master of _____' (10)
5. Mariana invited us to visit but she also warned us 'Don't forget to get _____ (10) from our government'
7. What is the language that units the country that has 730 local languages? _____ (6)
10. The song from Myanmar was the N _____ A _____ (2 words)
11. Lord Jesus, give me the _____ (8) to do what you want me to do.
12. The most expensive _____ (3) in China is green.
19. The editor would really love to see the _____ (7) Festival in Myanmar.
20. The flag of this country is red and white. (9)

Solution to previous ELSPM Crossword

banana, mate, Eucharist, zoom, elementary, IELTS, YTU, courtyard, jigsaw, humour, pastoral, guineapigs, common, Graduation, cultural, listening, microwave, activities, washing, students, academic, volunteers, seasons, food, Intermediate, assessment, studies

Congratulations to Ut who was the winner of the first Crossword Competition. Apologies if it was a little too challenging. Ut's prize is going to take her (almost) virtually to another place in Australia! You can also head somewhere special if you are the winner this time. Don't forget to ask your teachers and classmates for clues. If you can't quite find all the answers, you may submit an entry and you may well receive some help! Winner is the first to have all correct answers. Good luck.
Thanks for all contributions – it is exciting to be hearing responses and news from our past students and associates. Love to hear from you. marg.hugs95@gmail.com