

STUDENT BULLETIN No 6

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Myanmar Prayer Service

Catholic Religious Australia organised a prayer service recently for Burma/Myanmar and the EAP class joined in. It was a powerful experience as we listened to many religious who were born in Burma and are now living and working in Australia and saw images of the many young people and religious suffering in Myanmar at the moment as they speak out for freedom and democracy. ELSPM has had a number of students from Myanmar, three of whom are still here in Australia. Aung Seng Ja FMM, graduated from ELSPM in June this year. She was a part of the prayer service, proclaiming the Gospel. The EAP class was conscious of the difficulties in Afghanistan and included this country and its people in the prayer as well.

Proclamation of the Word

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke (4:16-19)

When [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Aung Seng Ja

Dear Margaret

Just a note to say how delighted we were to have your English studies class at the Myanmar prayer service last Tuesday. Thank you for your initiative in organising this, and please extend our thanks to each one in your class.

Aung Seng Ja did a terrific job with the Gospel reading! And her beautiful presence spoke volumes.

Again, thank you, for your support with the Myanmar prayer service, and for all you do.

Warm regards

Welcome back Tri who returns and joins EAP after being at the Novitiate in Adelaide



My name is Tri. I come from Vietnam. I belong to the Passionist Congregation. My family is a big family. I am the third among seven children. Before me are two children who have grown up and married already. They live in their own homes and have children. Two of my sisters have joined religious congregations. Of my two younger brothers, one is a student. We are all very happy in my family.

I like to sing in my spare time. I like to play football and volleyball very much, but it's a game for a team and I can't play it by myself. So instead, I look for a quiet room and make it noisy with the sound of my voice.

I joined the Passionists in 2005. I had two years to learn the catechism, Vietnamese and something to add to vocational life. I also had two years to study Philosophy and then came to Australia to study English. Last year I went

to the Novitiate, and I made my first vows in July this year. I hope that my vocation will always be with the Passionist Congregation.

I'd like to be good at speaking English so I can speak with all my brothers. I also hope to study Theology at YTU. ELSPM gives me both an opportunity to grow and learn English. I like the way they teach English here.

Emails in

Dear Sr. Margaret and ELSPM Bulletin Staff.

Through this email, I want to say thank you very much, for the beautiful words and wishes that we got on our country's independence day. Thank you for the special edition.

The Indonesian Catholic Church chose the response psalm on Indonesia's Independence Day which reads,

"You are called to independence, so serve one another in love."

I reflect ELSPM staff has lived up to this call with your dedication to liberate us (Indonesian students past, present and future), from our ignorance of speaking English, as a global language.

I believe English is one of the means to dare to go out in response to the world's needs with all various challenges. English allows us to say "Yes" when sent to faraway places.

Thank you for your dedication and love. May all ELSPM students, bulletin staff, and teachers be blessed with true inner freedom.

Prayer and Love.

Mariana M
(current EAP student)

Dear Sr. Margaret,

Thank you very much for the Student Bulletin.

I enjoyed reading the new students' profiles.

Wowwww... ELSPM is now richer and richer with students from everywhere.

Salute for all of them.

I was busy with teaching plans and marking my student's work. So, I rarely open my email. However, I was so happy to see an email from manager@elspm on the list of my unread email. I opened it first.

Thank you also for the birthday card wishes. I remembered Fr. Kevin as my twin on that day. Please pass on my warmest greeting to new EAP students and especially to all the teachers and tutors. I miss you all.

Stay safe and healthy. God bless

With prayers and love

Agustina (Graduated in June 2021)

Kathryn from the Passionists Province Centre sends the Student Bulletin to the mailing list of the Passionists and received this reply:

Thank you Kathryn

It's lovely to read the students' stories. We travel through their eyes and follow their vocational journey.

Blessings

Jennifer

Endeavour Hills Passionist Companion

What's new for you because of Covid 19?

When the Covid 19 pandemic became dangerous around in Ho Chi Minh City my community was given some sweet potatoes so I now take care of them. 😊 Now I'm sending for you to see.

Have a great day!

Nam (Pre-Intermediate)

Update: Last week, the smaller sweet potato has grown 2 cm in my room. That sweet potato has grown the fastest in such a short period of time. Every day I take care of my sweet potato by watering it and putting it in the sunlight. It's funny in the Covid 19 Pandemic! In the future, I want to take care of different trees.



Write about the most exciting thing that has ever happened to you?

A recent writing task for Pre-Intermediate

The most exciting thing that has ever happened to me is that I study at a most special school, ELSPM and the most interesting thing is that the school belongs to the Passionists. I didn't think I will learn English there at this school. I don't know what the school looks like! Is it as big as the monastery in Melbourne? Or is it more beautiful than the Sydney Opera House? More specifically, I can't go to school every day to study, but I study online at home, I have to change the way I study to be able to enjoy recording with this way of learning.

Online learning has many disadvantages such as network problems, laptop problems and sometimes not understanding what teachers say... but there are also many interesting things when learning online such as not having to go to school, studying with teachers who are foreigners or sleeping without anyone knowing! This is the coolest thing that's happening to me.

Trong (Pre-Intermediate)

Editor and teacher's comment: I wonder whether Trong understands the term 'you're busted'?

From ELSPM to being on the edge of the COVID 19 Virus in Vietnam

Sr Lan RNDM who was a student at ELSPM, along with her companion in Religious Life, Sr Thang, are working among 200 people who have been struck down by the Virus in Vietnam. They are at one of the many centres that have been set up by the government to care for the people. As volunteers they clean, collect the rubbish and care for the patients by feeding them food and drink.

When I was speaking to both women through social media they introduced me to Dr. Ha, the medical doctor who cares for all the people. There is not a lot of food to go around or oxygen but they keep cleaning, collecting the rubbish and assisting in writing the reports for the government. With the assistance of 20 staff which includes volunteers, starting at 3:00 am in the morning, they try to help the sick and elderly who are struck by this terrible virus. So many people are dying. Sr Lan says it is very sad to see the people suffering, crying for help and as a volunteer she brings hope and compassion to those who may not survive the virus. Both women will be there for at least a month as their child care centre is closed because it is too dangerous for the children to come to the kindergarten.

With a smile on her face, and tired from just caring, all Sr Lan asked for was prayer. She still has the positive light of the Gospel in her personality that she had when she was a student at ELSPM. Here English not only helps in her work but also brings the message to the world. If I recall correctly, Sr. Lan was initially marked to go and be a missionary in an African country but of course because of COVID 19 she has been reassigned to run a childcare centre.



Fr Kevin Hennessy CP



Sr Lan at the Emergency Medical Centre on the computer and in her safety gear caring for the patients.



Fr Jose Elias in Brazil keeps in touch as he shares the photos of the outreach to those suffering from Covid-19. He has promised to keep us all in his prayer before the tabernacle.



My dear Sister Margaret,

Thanks a lot.

I get very happy when I read the ELSPM Student Bulletin. Many memories come into my head and my heart.

I don't forget the good time that had been with all of you.

Greeting to you and all my eternal teachers.

Everyday I study English such as listening, reading, writing and speaking...

With my prayer, always
José Elias

Sawako FMM - our unofficial Olympics reporter in Japan

Have you seen the Tokyo Olympics? Don't you think that these Olympic Games are very historic and memorable? Due to COVID-19, the event was postponed for a year and was held without spectators. It was a challenging event with many limitations and difficulties. However, in this situation, the athletes tried their best to be competitive. And they have impressed us all.

The reaction of our sisters in my community was very enjoyable. Some sisters who were watching a table tennis match on TV said that the ball was so fast that they couldn't understand who had won. The other sisters, who were watching the gymnastics competition, held their breaths as they watched the athletes' every move. When they fell, they shouted in disappointment. There were many events that were new to me, such as road cycling, windsurfing, skateboarding and rock climbing. In skateboarding, there were a lot of teenagers participating. It was amazing to see them win medals. They seemed to be enjoying the games rather than competing in them. The way they enjoyed using new techniques and creating original performances made me wonder if this was a sport?

A friend of mine is participating in the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics as a volunteer. I feel that the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games are also supported by many volunteers.

Finally, my most moving moment was the aerial performance of the 1824 drones at the opening ceremony. I think that in the future the Congress will be managed with more IT technology.

Almighty God, we thank you that the Tokyo Olympics to have ended safely. The people did their best under many limitations. We thank you that you were with them and protected them during this time. And we ask you to pour out your grace on the Paralympic Games, which are now underway, and to protect and guide them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





One of the three classrooms overlooking a beautiful courtyard that is the domain of the guinea pigs who miss the students feeding and talking to them. Excursions were also a regular feature of life.



The Common Room is shared with other students and is the gathering place for many a celebration including Eucharist on Tuesdays



Ending a Retreat With Eucharist

ELSPM House in Donvale is another gathering space for all, and our students love to cook



EAP Students enjoying photography



Tri was able to capture these images during a break from class.



Eileen saw this rainbow early one morning in Melbourne

Thank you for the many contributions to this edition. It is very moving to see what our past students are doing now and it's also a great way to keep in touch and be with each other in spirit.

Please keep sending in your news, photos, stories, poems, drawings or paintings or.....

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