

STUDENT BULLETIN No 9

December 2021



SA Adelaide Language Centre Ltd

ELSPM

English Language Studies
for Pastoral Ministry

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Invitation

The Staff and students of ELSPM invite you to our Graduation event.

Graduation marks the end of the semester for a number of students and the end of the current level of study for many students.

It is a time to celebrate the achievements of the past 20 weeks; to thank those who have helped students along the way and to wish the graduating students a successful future in study or ministry. It can be a challenging time for many students as well as an exciting time to take the next step towards their goal.

Graduation 2021 Semester 2

Time: Dec 17, 2021, 11.30 am Australian EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82786422761?pwd=MU5Vdk9lUzRnOEU0cDdTUVh5azNldz09>

Meeting ID: 827 8642 2761

Passcode: 407464



Continuing the Story:

From its beginnings, ELSPM has strived for a high standard of learning English for students who want to learn to study Theology and prepare for Pastoral Ministry. Of course it depends on the motivation of the student learning but also on the high professional standards we have expected from our teaching staff. That expectation has been easy to achieve when the staff themselves enjoy teaching students English at ELSPM. We appreciate the creative and positive environment that has been achieved by the teachers and support staff that we continue to introduce in recent editions. Today we present Jackie and Margaret. Blessings to all the staff at ELSPM.

Fr Kevin CP PEO

How I first came to know about ELSPM

Early in 2017 I caught up with my friend Janette (YTU) who is an old school friend and I told her I was doing a Master of TESOL. At that time, I was doing community support work and finishing my studies. However, a couple of months later she thought of me and said they were looking for someone at ELSPM to work a few days a week to help out with the Intermediates. The position had already been published in The Age so I applied the next day and a couple of days later was interviewed by Margaret Bentley, Ian and Br Pat CFC. Luckily, I got the position and I was so pleased to get a job with such a close-knit community and so close to home. I realised ELSPM was a special place to work in because I also did some part time work at Monash College in 2018 but I much preferred to work at ELSPM. It was the students that really made the difference as they were so friendly, dedicated, grateful and happy. There was a serenity and sense of humanity and mission that inspired ELSPM students rather than progress at all costs, material gains or business pursuits as was generally the case in other institutions.



What is unique about ELSPM?

It is the friendly community and the dedication of the students. The professionalism of the staff and the warm, intimate atmosphere where the students are more than just a number, they are known and valued for their uniqueness. We can share in our humanity as we learn from each other and journey together. I have witnessed some amazing progress in many of the students and have found that very rewarding. I am very grateful to work here and continue to learn so much from the students, staff and volunteers here at ELSPM.

What gifts have I received in teaching at ELSPM

I have learned so much. ELSPM is a culturally diverse place where different outlooks and ways of being are woven together into a rich tapestry of humanity, service and love. It is a happy place. I am always impressed by the depth of understanding and compassion shown by many students and appreciate that many students have sacrificed a lot to follow a religious life and I admire their passion and devotion. I have learned about mission, service, sacrifice, community living and God's living and mysterious presence that works in different ways through the wonderful students and staff at ELSPM. Thank you all.

Jackie



At the end of 2015 I had retired from Catholic Education after close on fifty years – over thirty in Darwin, and prior to that, nine years in Melbourne after beginning teaching in my home town of Griffith NSW. In 2016, I was just coming to the end of a year at Siloam at Heart of Life, Box Hill, in anticipation of a return to Darwin and was thinking about the possibilities for Spiritual Direction in the North. I was at Mass at Holy Cross, Templestowe when my cousin said, ‘That looks like you’ as she showed me an advert for volunteers at ELSPM. I thought, ‘yes that does look like me’. So after two or three weeks of discernment about such an unexpected change of direction and a consideration of the logistics involved, I decided to speak to Fr Kevin, and, as in all the big decisions in my life, everything just seemed to fall into place. Fr Kevin pointed me towards what was to become ELSPM house in Donvale and after meeting Sr Margaret I decided Darwin could wait! After a holiday up north in Queensland, I returned to Melbourne and moved into Donvale and a couple of weeks later so did Sr Margaret.

One of the great gifts for me has been rediscovering the joy of teaching. From the very beginning I felt right at home and the experience over the last five years seems to have taken me back to my early teaching career. I think in the latter years the accountability side of leadership had dulled the bloom of actual teaching, perhaps it was because of having to often juggle too many balls in the air at once! These days I feel I have regained the enthusiasm of that very young teacher. I love the unexpected, the funny things students may say, do or write. I doubt I’ll ever forget a student’s written description of the feathers on the guinea pigs, the ex-student who seemed to make it his daily mission to make me laugh when I was teaching a very serious IELTS class in the Franciscan Collection room in St Paschal’s Library, the student who emerged from his IELTS speaking test a nervous wreck because he’d made up a story that his father was a businessman, or the student who could not stop crying (in relief and joy) after getting her IELTS results! Her tears and the reactions of others have brought home to me the realisation of just what IELTS results can mean for the future direction of our students’ lives

To be part of the journey of our students is such a sense of mission. It is a privilege to be witness to their faith, enthusiasm, happiness, commitment, determination, progress, innocence and developing confidence. I particularly enjoy the heartfelt nature of the weekly gospel sharing and pulling together the unique contributions to the Student Bulletin. During Covid I have really missed onsite teaching, the gatherings for the weekly Eucharist, the music, the camaraderie of the Common Room and the overloaded microwaves! I feel constantly motivated by the challenges of teaching, seeking the best way for the students and learning to teach online certainly has had its moments! It is so rewarding to be working with all the team – there is such dedication and a wonderful spirit present amongst the staff and volunteers. There is always someone ready and willing to assist and share ideas.

So despite the long Covid lockdowns, the sometimes very long Melbourne winters, the occasional longing for my home in the tropics I suspect that Darwin may just continue to wait unless the Holy Spirit leads elsewhere – who knows!

Margaret

Congratulations to our current students who recently took an important step as Postulants in their Passionist journey



Trong (Elem.) Tai (EAP) Phuc (Interm.) Huy (Pre-Inter.) Tien (interm.) Nam (Elem.)

Past students from ELSPM 2014 - recently ordained in the community chapel in Saigon



Joseph Dominic Tan, Mike Tuyen, Peter Huynh, Vincent Luong, Francis Xavier Tuan, Paul Kien

Recent Ordination of Five Past Students of ELSPM as Divine Word Missionaries



Edward Hai Duc Francois Marius

Congratulations to Br Luan Ha OMI who made his final vows in Adelaide recently as well as Srs Ut and Oanh and their RNDM companions who made their final vows on December 8th in Vietnam.

Birthdays

November

- 1 Nga**
- 2 Kieu Oanh**
- 23 Huong**
- 27 Aung Seng Ja**
- 30 Ut**

December

- 9 Long**
- 3 Francois B**
- 10 Seraphina**
- 12 Mariana M**



This time we hear from the Elementary and Pre-Intermediate Class who were simply asked to share stories involving their motorbikes or another means of transport. Enjoy!

Thien An Orphanage



Today I want to tell everyone about a memory of mine. That event changed my life so much. After Christmas when I was 18 years old, when I was in my final year of high school my classmates and I had a charity trip to the place where the orphans live. It was Thien An orphanage. That house belongs to Trung Linh parish, Bui Chu diocese, Nam Dinh province, Vietnam. The Thien An orphanage belongs to Trung Linh Rosary Community. There were 35 children and 8 Rosary sisters living in the house. The children were from 2 months to 16 years old.

When we got there, all the children were waiting for us. So, we gave gifts to the children. We also gave the Sisters rice and the food we brought. Then we helped the Sisters clean the house and fix some broken things. At noon, we had a lunch with lots of food and drinks. We had been preparing these since morning. After lunch, we continued to clean the house.

That day, I felt very happy because I had done useful things. I had brought joy and care to the children there. That charity event changed my life. It helped me to know a lot of things. I was so lucky to have a family, I was so lucky to always be taken care of by my parents. I was so lucky to have grown up in the love of my parents. But, I didn't know to love those things. Since then, I have always loved my parents, my brothers, my friends and all the good things that God has given me in my life.

Long





Viet Nam is a country that has a lot of motorbikes. There are many people who can ride them.

I took a picture when my group finished a three day retreat at Order de Saint – Sai gòn city. There are many brothers said “hello” and big smile. We finished our retreat in peace and happiness. After that we came back our community and had Tet holiday.

Every Christmas holidays we usually make gifts for the homeless, poor people living around the city. We wait until midnight to give them to the homeless and poor people. We use motobikes to transfer the gifts. We went to some streets to find where some homeless were sleeping and then we gave gifts to them.

Nam



An Exciting Journey

During Tet 2015, I attended a backpacking group by motorbike. This was the first time I enjoyed a full exciting



journey. We began from Sai Gon to Dong Nai province to pick up some friends then we came to Da Lat City that belongs to Lam Dong province, this place was called Dreamy city. My group had 30 members going backpacking. On the journey, I had many interesting experiences, a lot of new things for me such as feeling cool in the atmosphere there, sleeping by the roadside like refugees and observing nature such as the mountains and forests. Then we arrived at Dreamy city to rest. Some hours after that we went to the forest about 20km away.

In the forest, we set up some tents for a break and picked up dry twigs to burn so that we could keep warm because the air was very cold. I really liked this time because it gave me a new feeling. This was the first time I slept in the forest, and it felt wonderful as I slept without a blanket or a pillow, with many mosquitoes around me and I could also pick wild orchids near the banks. We prepared food and beer so that we could have a delicious meal and not only that, we also sang together. We stayed in the forest one day then we moved to Da Lat city to travel and we stopped at Tung Lam parish to rest overnight. We went around Da Lat city. It was very cool but it was so romantic. In the night, we went to the park and drank hot soy milk. The food in Da Lat was extremely delicious and it was not very expensive. We went to the night market where they sold a lot of things made of wool, for example sweaters, wool scarves and beanies. We enjoyed this holiday away.

Trong



I have a memory about my motorbike and my brother when coming to Da Lat. Motorcycles are the most convenient means of transportation because they can stop anywhere for us to take beautiful pictures. For me, a motorbike is an interesting way to be able to visit beautiful places and Da Lat is one of my favourite destinations. I was unlucky

because we went in the rainy season and they were fixing the way down to the falls. But lucky for us, while going downhill, my motorbike was 'fuming' and broke down. However, there is a repair shop right there and the motorbike was not damaged much. After repairing it, we continued our journey to visit the waterfalls. It is my memory of the motorbike I rode on my travels.



Huy

Then again maybe there are better ways to travel in some places in Vietnam!

Has anyone ever been in a cable car?

The scariest experience for me was riding in a cable car for the first time. When entering the cable car compartment, I felt very scared but it also felt very interesting when I was in it to look outside. When the cable car started moving, I felt my heart beat very fast because of fear but instead, there was a wonderful feeling to see the beauty of nature. I can see sights that I have never seen before in real life. The cable car slowly lifted me up but when I looked down I felt so scared of the height of the cable car that I was dizzy. When I got to the top, I breathed a sigh of relief because I had arrived safely. Although I'm afraid of heights,



I love that great feeling. The cable car is very suitable for those who like a new feeling, both scared and excited because they can see the surrounding scenery very beautifully. You should try once with the cable car. Places with cable cars are Ba Na Hill, Da Lat and Vinpearl Land in Vietnam.

Huy

Emails In

From: Cầu Sáo Trúc

Sent: Saturday, 20 November 2021 12:32 PM

To: Margaret Bentley
<manager@elspm.org.au>

Subject: Many thanks

Good morning dear Sister Margaret and friends in ELSPM - from Singapore

How are you today and your life as well? I wish that you all are doing well and safe.

I am very grateful with all your love that you did for us, at least for me in nearly 2 years in Melbourne. Thank you and thank you very much with many lessons, experiences, understandings, help, support, love and compassion that you have given me.

It is very happy to meet, to know and to share my life with you there. The most important thing for me there is that you are a part of my brothers, sisters and friends in God's family.

Also, that time in Australia is a great and wonderful gift and blessing from our loving God for you and me as well. Thank you for your support, love and help in Australia and your gift too. I will remember you in my prayers.

At the moment, my brothers and I are still in Singapore airport with a couple hours to wait and we will fly from here to Ha Noi at 12:00 Singapore time(3:00PM Australia).

I am happy to see my family and loved ones again after over two years far away from them. But also, sadness because I will be far away from you, lovely and nice people in my life.

Once again, thank you and see you soon Sister Margaret and friends. God bless you and keep safe.

My regards and love

Cau

The Passionist Congregation

Greetings from
Josie now
based in
Adelaide





The Davao course

My warmest greetings to Father Kevin, Sister Margaret, Robyn, Michael, Jackie, Jeff, Mary, Margaret, Ian, ELSPM's tutors, and all old and new students!!!

I am Sister Ut from Vietnam. I belong to the Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions. I have been a student of the school for almost a year and a half. I returned to Vietnam on May 11, 2021, to attend the Davao course to prepare for my lifelong profession in December 2021. Because of the Covid pandemic, my course was held in Vietnam instead of in Davao, Philippines.

My course lasted four months from June 21 to October 23. We were a group of 19

Sisters from different countries: three Indian Sisters, four Bangladeshi Sisters, three Myanmar Sisters, and nine Vietnamese Sisters. Our facilitators are wise, experienced and knowledgeable Sisters. They come from different provinces in my Congregation: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam. Since my facilitators come from different time zones, my class times also change frequently.

My curriculum is quite various with many different subjects. These include Sacred stories, Cosmology and Ecology, Liturgy and RNDM Spirituality, Women in Scripture, Consecrated life, Missiology, Encountering Euphrasie - our Foundress, Euphrasie's letters, Dialogue with other faiths, The Rule of St. Augustine, Constitution, and Stewarding Oneness for Missions.

The form of learning is also quite diverse. All learning materials are entirely in English. They are carefully prepared by my Sisters, including PowerPoint, Videos, audio recordings, readings, online websites and drawings. They are mailed to me the day before the course begins. I read and reflect on my own time. Then each day, I had two hours on zoom to discuss in small groups, share in large groups and ask questions to the facilitators. At the end of each day, I wrap up my reflections with prayers, or poems, or songs, or symbols and post them on the group's website.

In addition to formal classes, I take turns to prepare opening prayers before each school day, write monthly newsletters, thank facilitators after each course, and prepare for cultural presentation days.

It can be said that my curriculum is very heavy but it is very quality and extremely necessary for each of the RNDM Sisters. All participants worked very hard: facilitators, mentors, spiritual directors, participants, and technical team. This is a time of grace for each of us. I had a very good opportunity to deepen my understanding of God, the Charismatic and the Spirituality of my Congregation. I have been prepared with the most necessary luggage for a new journey ahead.

I felt that everyone turned to and prayed for me throughout the course. Thanks to the prayers of the Sisters of the Congregation, family, teachers, and friends, my course ended successfully. I have gathered much spiritual fruit from the course. I would like to thank everyone.

In particular, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my English teachers at ELSPM. I thank you for your love, support, and dedicated teaching for me to have the necessary for my skills during my time at your school. Thanks to that, I was more confident when entering the course, ready to face and overcome the difficulties of a second language. May God the source of love, grace, peace, joy, and blessings be with you always!!!

November will be my retreat time. Please continue to carry me in your prayers.

Much love and prayers,

Teresa Ut, RNDM