



Janssen Spirituality Centre

22 Woodvale Road, Boronia, 3155, Victoria, Australia

Volume 1/Number 1

From the Director's Desk

This is a first attempt to keep the members of the Arnoldus¹ family and our friends informed about the activities and events here at Janssen Spirituality Centre. The 30th January 2010 marked the handover of directorship of the Centre from Frank Gerry SVD to myself. Frank is the founder of the Centre and through his initiative and persistence we have his beautiful place today. The presence of the Good Shepherd Sisters who lived and prayed here for many years, have left an indelible mark on the place. So too did our Brothers and our young men in brother formation.

We also bid farewell to Sister Mila Sandoval SSpS, after serving the Centre for 2 years as assistant director and manager. I am very grateful to Mila for her assistance in making my transition to this position as smooth as possible. In saying goodbye to Mila, we welcomed Sr Sarita SSpS, who has assumed the role of assistant director for the time being.

We welcome back Gilbert Carlo SVD who returned on Sunday from his work in Europe and holidays in India.

Retreats

During the last week we have played host for 10 members of the *Heart of Life* team, who had their introductory session here at JSC. This was followed by having our 2 SSpS pre-novices here for a few days under the direction of Sister Sarita. We still have our two SVD novices Sio and Willy, who are making their retreat in preparation for First Vows. Please keep all these people in your prayers and they go through this time of spiritual discernment.

¹ Divine Word Missionaries (SVD's) and Holy Spirit Sisters

Other Groups

Each week we host Centering Prayer groups and people come to the Centre for Spiritual Direction. On a monthly basis we host the Catholic Interfaith Committee and several other groups.

Knox Cultural Festival

The Knox City Council, which is the local authority in which our Centre is located, conduct a Cultural Festival within the City each year. **This year we are happy to be able to host seven (7) Tibetan Buddhist monks**, who will stay at the Centre for the duration of the week long activities. It will be good for us to host them

SVD's and SSpS in Melbourne

Sarita, Frank and I manage to visit our SSpS and SVD communities whenever possible and for special occasions. We are most grateful to Joseph Vu SVD and the members at Dorish Maru, Bill, Thien and Ennio at Preston and Sister Felicitas and the sisters at Box Hill and Sister Christa and the sisters at Kew, who always make us welcome.

Our City

I will give an overview of the diversity of the City of Knox at the end of this newsletter.

I think that is all for the first newsletter. I would like to extend an invitation to each of you to feel free to drop in at the Centre any time you are free for a chat or a cuppa.

Gerard Mulholland SVD
Director

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AN OVERVIEW OF THE CITY OF KNOX

Who are we

The City of Knox is located in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, between 20 and 25 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne CBD. The City of Knox is bounded by the City of Maroondah in the north, Yarra Ranges Shire in the east, the City of Casey in the south, and the Cities of Monash, Whitehorse and Greater Dandenong in the west.

The City of Knox includes the suburbs of Bayswater, Boronia, Ferntree Gully, Knoxfield, Lysterfield (part), Rowville, Scoresby, The Basin, Upper Ferntree Gully (part), Wantirna and Wantirna South, and a small part of the locality of Sassafras.

The City of Knox is a predominantly residential area, with some commercial, industrial and rural areas. The City encompasses a total land area of 114 square kilometres.

Knox is named after Sir George Knox, former local and state parliamentarian.

Where were we born?

Country of Birth top 10 overseas birthplaces ranked for 2006 (persons)		City of Knox
Enumerated data		number
United Kingdom		8,498
India		2,007
Malaysia		1,967
Sri Lanka		1,966
New Zealand		1,796
China		1,429
Italy		1,313
Germany		1,307
Viet Nam		1,063
Netherlands		1,055
Non-English speaking backgrounds		24,285
Main English speaking countries		12,232
TOTAL OVERSEAS BORN		36,517
AUSTRALIA		101,976
NOT STATED		6,244
Total		144,737

What are our religions?

Religion top 10 religions ranked for 2006 (persons)		City of Knox
Enumerated data		number
Catholic		37,409
Anglican		20,099
Uniting Church		6,902
Buddhism		4,246
Orthodox		3,958
Presbyterian and Reformed		3,917
Other Christian		3,616
Baptist		3,328
Pentecostal		2,810
Hinduism		1,975
Christian Total		86,724
Non Christian Total		9,017
No Religion		33,192
Inadequately Described		1,128
Not Stated		14,677
Total		144,738

Language spoken at home?

Language top 10 non-English languages ranked for 2006 (persons aged 5 years and over)		City of Knox
Enumerated data		number
Cantonese		3,473
Italian		2,197
Mandarin		2,023
Greek		1,989
German		1,259
Arabic		1,127
Sinhalese		940
Vietnamese		940
Filipino (Tagalog)		733
Tamil		719
Speak English Only		114,635
Non-English total		25,788
Not Stated		4,313
Total		144,736