



Emmanuel Centre
A SELF HELP CENTRE
 For People with Disabilities
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EMMANUEL NEWS – NOVEMBER 2018

(Check before coming, could be changed. Look inside for more info.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11 Nov 9.30am: Mass at St Francis Xavier Church (Interpreter & PowerPoint)	12 Nov 9.45-10.45am: National Recycling Week (Challenger) 11-12.30pm: Cooking/ Spinning (Judy)/ gardening	13 Nov 9.30-10.30am: Painting (Geoff) 11am-12.30pm: Community Activities 1-2pm: Bible Study	14 Nov	15 Nov	16 Nov	17 Nov
18 Nov 9.30am: Mass at St Francis Xavier Church-Interpreter,Power Point	19 Nov 9.45-10.45am: Christmas Jars & Tiles (Challenger) 11-12.30pm: Cooking/ Spinning (Judy)/ gardening	20 Nov 9.30-10.30am: Painting (Geoff) 11am-12.30pm: Scrapbooking (Sharon) 1-2pm: Bible Study	21 Nov	22 Nov	23 Nov	24 Nov
25 Nov 9.30am: Mass at St Francis Xavier Church (Interpreter & PowerPoint)	26 Nov 9.45-10.45am: Christmas Cooking (Challenger) 11-12.30pm: Cooking/ Spinning (Judy)/ gardening	27 Nov 9.30-10.30am: Painting (Geoff) 11am-12.30pm: Community Activities 1-2pm: Bible Study	28 Nov	29 Nov	30 Nov	1 Dec
2 Dec 9.30am: Mass at St Francis Xavier Church-Interpreter, PowerPoint followed by St Francis Feast and Christmas Party	3 Dec 9.45-10.45am: Community Activities 11-12.30pm: Cooking/ Spinning (Judy)/ gardening	4 Dec 11am – 2pm: EMMANUEL CENTRE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY-pls bring a plate of fingerfood to share	5 Dec	6 Dec	7 Dec	8 Dec
NO PROGRAMS DURING THE TERM HOLIDAY. ACTIVITIES WILL START AGAIN ON MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2019.						

St Francis Church Feast Day and Parish Christmas Party

Sunday 2nd December 2018

**St Francis Xavier Church,
Windsor Street, Perth**

9.30am Mass

Followed by Lunch

Everyone Welcome

Please bring food to share

Tea and Coffee provided

RECORD ARTICLE By Amanda Murthy

The people of God are made sharers in their particular way in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ, and have their own part to play in the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world – Catechism of the Catholic Church 897.

“Father Paul Pitzen always believed that we are all equal members of the body of Christ, and we are all called to find the best in everyone, in order to find our place at the banquet of the Lord.

“His commitment and perseverance was to ensure that everyone around the Perth Archdiocese had the access to fully participate and be the life of the Church.”

Those were the words of Emeritus Archbishop Barry Hickey when addressing the congregation during his homily at the funeral of Fr Pitzen, Chaplain for the Catholic Ministry for the Deaf and Hard Hearing, as well as founder of the Emmanuel Centre, who passed away on 20 October.

More than 600 members of the Perth community this week gathered to bid their final farewell and celebrate the many contributions shared by Fr Pitzen at St Mary’s Cathedral on 5 November at 10am.



FR PAUL PITZEN

BORN 22nd NOVEMBER 1939

DIED 20TH OCTOBER 2018



Fr Pitzen's casket is ushered into the St Mary's Cathedral by his loved ones. Photo: Josh Low.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Emeritus Archbishop Hickey and presided by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, together with concelebrants Bishop Donald Sproxton, Fr Peter Whitely VG, Mgr Kevin Long, Fr Francisco Mascarenhas and several priests from across the Archdiocese. Frs Wilson Donizetti and Marcelo Parra Gonzalez served as MC.

Emeritus Archbishop Hickey extended his condolences to the family of Fr Pitzen, his colleagues at the Emmanuel Centre and the wider Perth community.

“Fr Pitzen was much loved and respected by the community since his arrival in 1970 – His source of inspiration for everything he did was the Holy Spirit, and I know he would sit down and reflect on the Scriptures – that was his spiritual nourishment,” Emeritus Archbishop Hickey said.

“We have to thank him for his energy and inspiration in being a true champion for the people, especially those with disabilities – Fr Pitzen and his team at the Emmanuel Centre went above and beyond to educate the agencies, Parishes and schools so that they can be inclusive to all,” he said.

Emmanuel Centre Coordinator Barbara Harris, who worked side by side with Fr Pitzen for 37 years, delivered a touching tribute, asking the congregation to pause for a moment and think about what their presence at the Mass meant, and how Fr Pitzen had made an impact in their lives.

“One of the things that I learned very early on from Fr Pitzen was not to judge a book by its cover. It was very important for him to get to know the people and he used to describe it as “just as you need to delve into a book, you need to take time to delve into the contents,” she said.

Barbara Harris said Fr Pitzen had a depth about his spirituality she admired, and he always respected all of God’s creation – echoing the ways of St Mary McKillop to “See a need and do something about it.”

“I remember one story where he couldn’t get an interpreter for a deaf person who needed to do a training course in cleaning. Unfortunately, the course started at 6am – So instead, he went along and interpreted and gained another skill in how to clean properly,” she recalled.

“For Fr Pitzen, it didn’t matter what you wore, where you lived, how you spoke, or what religion you were. He accepted you because you were part of God’s creation. He met you where you were at.

“By his non-judgemental presence, Fr Pitzen helped people recognise that there was a God and God was interested in who they were. He made God real for so many people,” she added.



Archbishop Hickey comforts the Emmanuel Centre community after the funeral Mass of Fr Pitzen



Fr Paul Pitzen passed away on 20 October, after having served as a priest for 51 years.

“Fr Pitzen reflected the love of Christ, and many saw the face of Jesus through his work— We will all miss him dearly.”

There is no doubt Father Paul Pitzen will be remembered as a pillar of strength for the Emmanuel Centre and the wider Perth community, for all his extraordinary works in championing the rights of the people, especially in the areas of disability. Born on 22 November 1939 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA, Fr Pitzen and his family, of which he was the 11th of 12 children, came from humble beginnings.

His first jobs included making toilet seats and laundry baskets at a local factory, and later on he worked as a preliminary bridge survey worker, while juggling to complete his tertiary education. The Pitzen family lived across the road from Church and were actively involved in the community, including Fr Pitzen, who became an altar server.

But it was in 1959 that his desire for God grew, reading about the Servites after his mother shared brochures with him after one of her pilgrimages. He wasted no time, joining the Servite Seminary in California in 1960, where he stayed for three years before being transferred to Benburb, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland in 1962

Fr Pitzen graduated with a Licentiate of Sacred Theology and a Diploma in Mariology.

Speaking about his experience in the Seminary, Fr Pitzen told *The Record* in 2001, “They moved me to Ireland after the philosophy department was closed down. It was really tough, but at the same time it was very rewarding spiritually.” He then travelled to Rome to complete his studies from 1963 to 1967.

During that period, Fr Pitzen was inspired to pick up several languages including Latin, Italian, Lithuanian and AUSLAN, (the sign language for the Deaf community in Australia).

He was ordained in Rome on 27 March 1967.

Fulfilling his childhood dreams of living in Australia, Fr Pitzen arrived on 27 October 1970. He told *The Record* last year during his 50 year celebrations of priesthood, that he was grateful to the Australian community for their warm welcome.

“People allowed me to walk their journey with them, and that is a privilege which I don’t think I would get anywhere else.”

Fr Pitzen experienced yet another life-changing moment during his Sabbatical in San Francisco when he noticed apparent discrimination towards people with disabilities and their families. It was then that he pledged to make a difference, making it his mission to break down the barriers for people with

disabilities in all areas, whether in schools, parishes, or throughout the country. Upon his return to Australia, Fr Pitzen, who had been a science and religious education teacher at Servite College, was asked by then-Auxiliary Bishop Peter Quinn to become a part-time chaplain for the Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a role which required him to celebrate Mass once a month.

It was the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981, and Fr Pitzen together with his life-long collaborator Barbara Harris, opened the Emmanuel centre, a self-help centre for people with disability, their families and carers.

The Catholic Ministry with Deaf and Hearing Impaired People, Catholic Association for Special Education support and the Catholic Mental Health Network also became connected with the Emmanuel Centre.

On this, Fr Pitzen said last year in *The Record*, “Many deaf and hard of hearing wanted to learn more about their faith and their Church and so wish to attend courses and presentations that various organisations of the Archdiocese offer.

“Unfortunately, not all events were accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing.

“Our hope is that every parish or organisation will have an Access and Disability Inclusion Plan as a guide to offering full inclusion of the deaf and hard of hearing.

“Installing an efficient public address system, using PowerPoint presentations, installing audio induction loops or other assistive listening devices, and learning basic AUSLAN skills along with using down to earth language in any material produced together with captioned and AUSLAN video,” the late Fr Pitzen said.

“As an organisation, our aim is to provide assistance for people within the Church to recognise their gifts and talents and access services within the Church that are not currently accessible.”

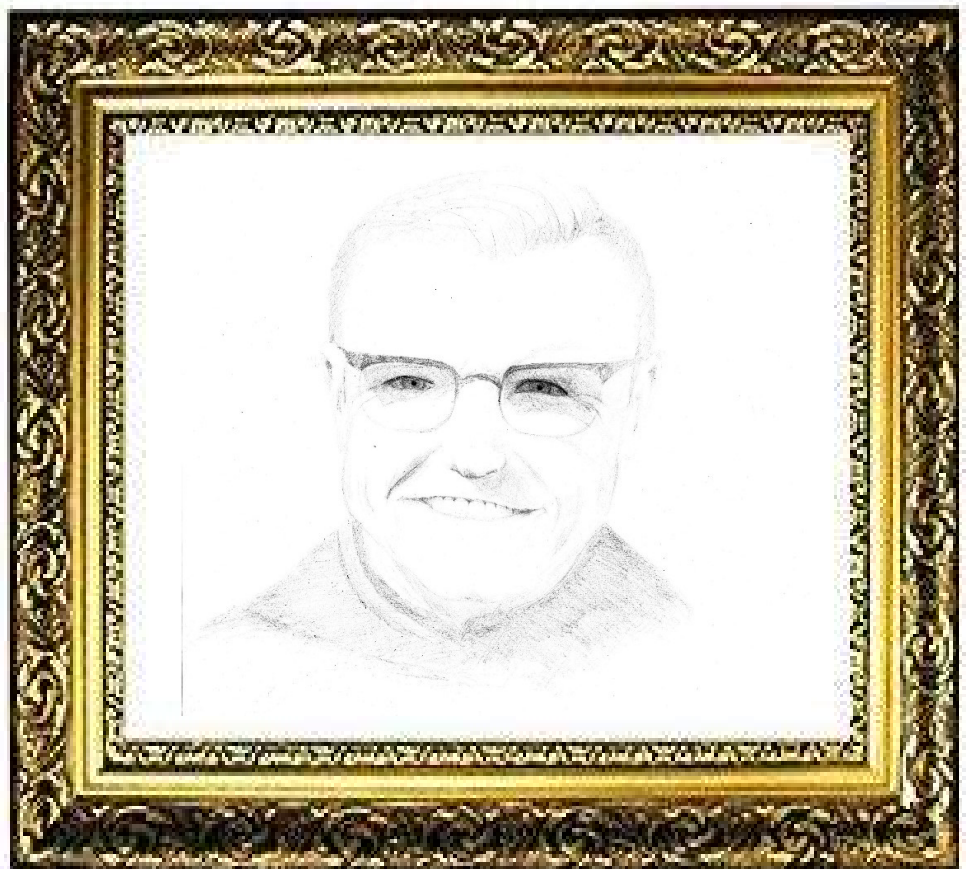
In 1996, Fr Pitzen was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Perth by Emeritus Archbishop Barry Hickey.

He continued to serve the community until his passing on 20 October.

“The eye cannot say to the hand, I don’t need you! And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you! But in fact God has placed the parts in the body every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” – 1 Corinthians 12:18, 21, 27.

Dan shows us his sketching skills.

The past month seems to be the month for painting and sketching! Dan, one of the regular support workers who come to our weekly programs have made this sketch from a photo of Father Paul in our collection. We never knew he could sketch so well! Thank you Dan for sharing your skill with us.



*A picture is worth a thousand words,
but the memories are priceless...*

Thank you from Father Paul Pitzen's Brother

The following message came into Emmanuel Centre's inbox on the morning of Fr. Paul's funeral from Pete Pitzen, his brother, who lives in the USA.

To: Barbara Harris and the Emmanuel Centre

I realize that in just a few short hours, the Emmanuel Centre (EC) family will be celebrating Father Paul's Memories and life. Although I cannot be there in person I want you all to know I am certainly there in spirit. Would you thank all those officiating and attending this service for their love and support of my brother. I believe Paul knew at a young age what path the Lord wanted him to take in life. His mission in life, now completed, the Good Lord brought him home. He did have some bumps, obstacles and detours getting to the Heavenly Highway, but he made it. Now I pray that with the prayers of my family and his EC family the Lord will assign him one more mission. His Mission? Taking over as superintendent of a work crew assigned to clear the pathways leading to the Heavenly Highway. With his expertise in surveying, I'm sure that with help from the brothers and sister who proceeded him, they will be able to clear the paths of detours, speed bumps, holes in the road, unnecessary stop along the way, and any obstacle big and small that would hinder a safe and speedy trip. This will allow me and his remaining three sisters, along with all our families and his EC family, a smooth trip to the Highway to Heaven. I hope that soon (not TOO soon) we all will be able to join him in the arms of our Lord. Thank you all for taking care of my brother. I know he loved his new adopted country and the Emmanuel Centre. God Bless you all. May his soul and all the souls of all the departed rest in peace. Amen.

Brother Pete and wife Gayle Nov 4, 2018



Geoff turns over some new leaves

Emmanuel Centre's painting teacher Geoff has recently used his skills to do a good deed.

A friend, Christina, has recently had a tough time. Her husband passed away a few months ago after a period of illness and she has several health problems herself.

When she said she wanted to hang a picture on the wall of her lounge room, Geoff added his own touch by painting leaves on the wall around the frame. It took him a week to finish the work. Christina added some butterflies later so this is how it looks like now as a finished artwork. Beautiful.

(Photos from Geoff's facebook page, with permission)



Emmanuel Centre's Melbourne Cup Lunch

We at Emmanuel Centre has a long tradition of community gathering, sharing food and drinks with our neighbours and friends. In that spirit, we held our annual Melbourne Cup lunch on Tuesday, 6th November 2018. Everyone was free to dress up as they like and we did see some outfits and hair pieces that we think rival those in Flemington. Do you agree? Judge for yourself from the photos below!



Our two lovely activity coordinators, Milka and Oana in front of all the yummy food that everyone brought.



Everyone watching the race



Preparing the horse list for the board.



Our dapper Master of Ceremony, Gerard, with the lucky winners of the coveted chocolate bars!

Without Christ,
there would be
no Christmas



A SPECIAL PERSONAL INVITATION TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Emmanuel Centre's Christmas Party

**(Also Emmanuel Centre's Anniversary and
International Day of People with Disability)**

WHEN?

**Tuesday 4th December 2018;
11am to 2pm**

Christmas Carols 11.00am – 12.00pm

Lunch and Sharing 12.00pm – 2.00pm

WHERE?

25 Windsor Street, Perth WA 6000

Please bring finger foods to share

RSVP Friday 30th November

Tel 9328 8113 SMS 0401 016 399

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