



# THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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**"I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die!" John 11.25**

From the Rector's keyboard:

3rd May 2011

Dear Readers

This letter has been delayed by a few days ... need I say, just too many things all happening at the same time!

Life is tragic for those who have plenty to live on and nothing to live for.

The celebration of Easter, the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, reminds us all very powerfully of the gift of life we all share on this planet, but also of the ultimate meaning of our eternal destiny. Yesterday's news of the death of Osama bin Laden and the hype that surrounded it, does not resolve the issues of mankind's dilemma with the meaning of what our life is about, and the distortions that somehow death is the answer to its challenges. Harmony and peaceful co-existence has its roots in care and concern for the life of each and everyone, the unborn through to old age, whatever the race, nationality, colour or creed. The growing disposition of people to "solve" their problems by taking the lives of their citizens, partners, children, neighbours, teachers, school companions...is only reinforced when faced with the example set by others who should know better.

The celebration of Resurrection of Jesus is an affirmation of life, a reminder that our present life has a spiritual meaning that reaches beyond the limitations of our present existence. It is up to each one of us to deepen our appreciation of this mystery if we want this world to be a better place.

Easter Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Death is not a period but a comma in the story of life.

## BOSCO CENTRE NEWS.

1. Our Calvary (up the hill) Stations of the Cross on Good Friday drew a crowd of about 250 people from all parts of the Archdiocese. We started at 10am from the Chapel, and began the stations at about 10.20 at the foot of the hill. The weather was very good to us, overcast but not wet. From the top of the hill the view was fantastic, clear, fresh and green. We finished at about 11.15. It was also an opportunity for confessions as the pilgrims came back to Savio Church. Many people waited around, had a picnic lunch, and joined in with the 15h00 Good Friday Service.

2. As reported in the last Bosco-Link Mr M. Ferrero and his son Pietro visited us here at Bosco. So we were shocked to hear a couple of weeks later that Pietro had passed away, apparently from a heart attack while he was cycling. I received a letter shortly after the news thanking the Salesians for their hospitality, signed by Mr M Ferrero and his son Pietro. May he rest in peace.

3. The new chalets are being promoted among our friends...if you need to know more, contact us.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

1. Holy Week was fairly quiet at the Centre, but the community were involved in helping out with reconciliation services in Meyerton and Robertsham. It was also a good time to have our own meetings.
2. The Easter Triduum had the usual turnout here at Bosco. Fr Sebastian went to help out in Heilbron.
3. Fr Václav Klement from our HQ in Rome visited Bosco for a week to see how things are done here at Bosco. His portfolio for Salesian Missions takes him all over the world. So we enjoyed his stories and experiences about Salesians working in the far flung corners of this fascinating earth of ours.
4. Fr Roy Fosker died 19th April at the age of 88. Fr Fosker was born in Ipswich Suffolk on 25/10/1922. He spent a year at Salesian College Battersea in 1948 before making his novitiate in Beckford. Apart from his theological studies, he spent the rest of his Salesian life in Africa, mostly South Africa, but more recently at the Provincial House in Ashaiman, Ghana. May he rest in peace.

## PAST PUPIL NEWS

1. Another Salesian Past Pupil (Salesian Institute, Cape Town), Fr Peter Holiday, has been appointed a Bishop. His diocese is to be Kroonstad. Our prayers go with him as he wraps up his duties in Maryvale, Johannesburg.
2. Michael Hennessy writes: I was at St John Bosco in Daleside from 1962 – 1967. Fr Melly was Rector throughout this time (a lovely man, but when he stood in as a teacher from time to time, it was not a good idea to get your work wrong), Fr Fosker was Prefect of Studies for a short while (one year, I think) and Fr Stubbings took over from him. He was definitely a strict disciplinarian and recalcitrant boys had absolutely no chance. He had a dog of indeterminate breeding as a pet, a large and forbidding creature, not entirely dissimilar to his master, and it was not clear who was more to be feared. I visited Bosco once or twice after leaving school and was amazed to find a friendly, if not gentle, person behind that cassock. He utterly charmed my wife, who could not reconcile my anecdotes with this courteous man. "Jenny," I said, "believe me when I point with feeling to some of my wounds and scars". "Well, it was clearly all your fault then; you deserved it all, so stop whining, man" She was right, you know, and from a distance of nearly 50 years, I look back on it all with great fondness and nostalgia. My only regret is that the school is not still functioning.
3. Today (2<sup>nd</sup> May) Eddie Lewis soccer coach of both Gavin and I died of cancer aged 74 at 13h00. Will be sadly missed for various reasons. (Michael Lambert.)

**Nowadays there are more model homes than there are model families.**

### **Some of the Groups through during April 2011 :**

**LoveMatters: Parishes** – St John Bosco; St Charles; Sacred Heart Cathedral; St Thomas More, in total 73.  
Brescia House (46); St Matthews Primary (79)

**Day Retreats/Picnics:** . Alberton Methodist Church.

**Weekend Programmes:** .St Therese (20); Our Lady of Peace (68); Our Lady of Fatima (9); St Therese (43); African Presbyterian Church (40).

### **SOME STRANGE, FUNNY AND THOUGHT PROVOKING STUFF RECEIVED**

A little silver-haired lady phones her neighbour and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started." Her neighbour asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbour decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says,

"First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he said with a deep sigh ..... "Let's put all the corn flakes back in the box."

## FAMILY TRADITIONS

Paddy had long heard the stories of an amazing family tradition. It seems that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 18th birthday. On that special day, they'd each walked across the lake to the pub on the far side for their first legal drink.

So when Paddy's, 18th birthday came around, he and his pal Mick took a boat out to the middle of the lake. Paddy then stepped out of the boat.....and nearly drowned! Mick just barely managed to pull him to safety.

Furious and confused, Paddy, went to see his grandmother.

Grandma, he asked, "It's me 18th birthday, so why can't I walk 'cross the lake like my father, his father, and his father before him?"

Granny looked deeply into Paddy's, troubled brown eyes and said, "Because your father, your grandfather and your great grandfather all had their birthdays in December when the lake is frozen. But you were born in August....."

## 10 things to learn from Japan

### 1. THE CALM

Not a single visual of chest-beating or wild grief. Sorrow itself has been elevated.

### 2. THE DIGNITY

Disciplined queues for water and groceries. Not a rough word or a crude gesture.

### 3. THE ABILITY

The incredible architects, for instance. Buildings swayed but didn't fall.

### 4. THE GRACE

People bought only what they needed for the present, so everybody could get something.

### 5. THE ORDER

No looting in shops. No honking and no overtaking on the roads. Just understanding.

### 6. THE SACRIFICE

Fifty workers stayed back to pump sea water in the N-reactors. How will they ever be repaid?

### 7. THE TENDERNESS

Restaurants cut prices. An unguarded ATM is left alone. The strong cared for the weak.

### 8. THE TRAINING

The old and the children, everyone knew exactly what to do. And they did just that.

### 9. THE MEDIA

They showed magnificent restraint in the bulletins. No sensationalizing. Only calm reportage.

### 10. THE CONSCIENCE

When the power went off in a store, people put things back on the shelves and left quietly

**Life is too short  
for negative  
drama & petty  
things. So  
laugh  
insanely, love  
truly and  
forgive  
quickly!**

## DEFINITIONS

TEARS: The hydraulic force by which masculine will power is defeated by feminine water-power!

OFFICE: A place where you can relax after your strenuous home life

YAWN: The only time when some married men ever get to open their mouth

EXPERIENCE: The name men give to their mistakes

DIPLOMAT: A person who tells you to go to hell in such a way that you actually look forward to the trip