



## Visitation – Salaam Alaikum

In the Alyth Gardens Synagogue in London two men spoke to the assembled crowd. The first said, 'I am Ahmed and I am a Palestinian. My son died in the intifada, killed by an Israeli bullet. I come to wish you all *Shabbat Shalom*.' The other then spoke: 'I am Moshe and I am an Israeli. My son also died in the intifada, killed by a Palestinian teenager. I come to wish you all *Salaam Alaikum*.' They had met in a reconciliation group, the Parents' Circles, who provide free phone calls into the homes of those who had suffered loss and hurt in the intifada, to express their empathy to bereaved parents on the other side of the barbed-wire fence.



This story illustrates the power of an empathetic imagination or Good Samaritan compassion captured in what Hebrews says: *'Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured'*. To make this move requires one of the most important single moves in the life of faith, to escape the prison of the comfortable self that controls our culturally conditioned way of seeing the world. Ahmed and Moshe had let go of the comfortable, familiar self and ignored the resonant voices of narrow orthodoxy, restrictive legality and market-place respectability. They spoke their truth from deep inside their shattered hearts. From a father's pain at losing a son whose life was about to blossom into manhood.

What have these stories got to do with our lives as brothers? Over 40% of brothers responded to the recent survey on the significance of the visitation of the OLT to communities. Visitation is a time when elected leaders have a chance to sit with communities and individuals and share both their anxieties and joys, real life stories of friendship and loss, and dreams for a world that embraces brotherhood and mutual compassion for all life not just the privileged few.

During the community reflection at visitation 18 characteristics of our brotherhood in community were shared and reflected upon as they were lived out in over 100 communities across Oceania. Many of our senior brothers, who are coping with decline in physical health, spoke of their daily lives of prayer, sacred reading and caring for those with whom they lived especially those who were suffering sickness, pain or loss. Their lives offered healing and forgiveness and brought alive the good humour of 'the kingdom' evident around the afternoon tea table. Through their stories, words and actions they offered *Shabbat Shalom*. There was no sense of blaming the hand that life had dealt them. The trials and difficulties were now woven into the very fabric of life allowing them to identify with those who were suffering in prison or languishing in detention centres. Healthy, compassionate communities in mission look like this.

Brothers everywhere are actively engaged in making visitors warmly welcome, reflecting on the Sunday readings each week together, sharing the cooking of the evening meal, visiting the sick in hospital, assisting with the transport of brothers to medical and other appointments, teaching English to refugees or those newcomers who wish to learn English, living and working with those who are marginalized and poor, ministering in the local parish, taking those who are 'less mobile' for coffee, ensuring the community house is kept tidy, the grass is cut and garbage bins put out each week. The Cluster Leaders were affirmed for their community visits and concern for the needs of each brother. The CREAT team was seen as a gift for communities who worked with them. There was a consciousness of the need to live simply if we are to pass onto the next generation a healthy planet. Many communities are working at living sustainably by looking at ways to reduce energy consumption and work with community groups who share similar attitudes and values. These were all signs of *Salaam Alaikum* expressed in practical ways in our daily lives.

Yet much remains to be done if we are to continue to grow in our way of being compassion to those in need of the presence of the visible, loving God. Philip Pinto in a recent letter challenged us to become more active as advocates for those who are voiceless:

*For over two hundred years the focus of our Congregational ministry has been largely on service through the provision of education. The call to become involved in advocacy is therefore something that is new to many of us. It may also be something that we may feel unqualified for, or that is better left to those given particular responsibility in this area – however it is something that can involve us all.*

*Through age and infirmity many Brothers are no longer able to be as active in ministry as they once were, or would like to be. On the other hand we have all been blessed with intellectual gifts, educational opportunities and a rich variety of experience denied to many – qualities that have not been diminished and which can be directed towards advocacy.*

Is this a challenge each community could take to heart in the months ahead? We know that a small group of like-minded people moved to action is all that is needed to change comfortable hearts. As Martin Luther King knew *'you cannot set the captive free if you are not willing to confront those who hold the keys. Without confrontation compassion becomes merely commiseration, fruitless and sentimental.'*

Try this website...[www.edmundriceinternational.org/](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org/)

*Salaam Alaikum and Shabbat Shalom.*

Peter Harney for OLT

## New Support Services at Alice Springs Youth Hub - NT



Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today welcomed Edmund Rice Education Australia Youth+ to the Alice Springs Youth Hub.

Mr Hampton said Edmund Rice will be running outreach support and bridging programs from the Youth Hub, in a first for the Territory.

‘A key component of the Alice Springs Youth Action Plan is the re-engagement of disadvantaged secondary aged students,’ Mr Hampton said.

Read the complete Press Release on the website [here](#)

## Inter-faith Calendar - WORLD

Visit the Inter-Faith Calendar [here](#)

## Horn of Africa 2011 - AFRICA



As I watch the tragedy in the Horn of Africa unfold I wonder: 'what can I do?' What does living with the inspiration of Edmund Rice and being a radical disciple of Jesus mean for me today, knowing the situation of people there?

There are always possibilities:

Find out more about what the situation is like for people on the ground - by following news broadcasts, newspaper articles and aid agency websites.

Send some money to an aid agency with staff on the ground

Meet someone from the affected region - Malik Osman and Adam Omar are based at the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice, Sydney. Both Somali students, they are working hard to raise funds which will go to WARDA, an Islamic relief agency operating inside Somalia.

Find out the perspective of our Edmund Rice people in Kenya - Gerard Ellul, District Leader based in Nairobi, writes: *Yes, the horror of this famine is devastating and more and more die. The local news as well as world news keep it on the agenda of peoples' consciousness. The CB District made a sizeable donation via the Sisters Justice and Peace Group. Other non-church groups have rallied and Kenyans in general have been marvellous at donating a lot of money.*

Then pray to share something of the spirit of the people there, trusting in our God who knows of their plight

### *Prayer for East Africa*



*"Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy,  
I will now arise," says the LORD.' (Psalm 12:5;NIV)*

Lord God, creator and giver of all that is, defender and protector of those in need, we ask you to bring the peoples of East Africa beneath your loving care. Their children are hungry and their land is dry.

Lord God, bringer of hope, your love brings water to flow in the desert and light into the darkness of despair. Show us how to be witnesses to your love and bearers of your light, alongside our sisters and brothers, who face the urgent challenges and terrible fears of lasting drought.

Francis Hall for CLT

## Positions Vacant - VIC

*The Executive Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), Dr Wayne Tinsey, invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced educational leaders for the following position:*



REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR Southern Region  
Based in Melbourne  
(Starting date: January 2012)

EREA is responsible for the governance and administration of forty Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition and two educational entities across Australia. This senior position will support the mission of EREA in Victoria and Tasmania as it gives expression to the educational vision for Catholic schools as articulated in the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

The successful applicant will be a senior leader in Catholic education with a proven record of delivering quality educational outcomes at the highest level. Significant experience in educational administration at an advanced level (e.g. Principal and/or Assistant Director/Area Administrator) is essential.

Remuneration is commensurate with the senior nature of this position.

An Information Package outlining the key responsibilities for the position and Selection Criteria can be obtained from the EREA website at [www.erea.edu.au](http://www.erea.edu.au) or by contacting Helen Bird on (03) 9426 3209 or email: [helen.bird@erea.edu.au](mailto:helen.bird@erea.edu.au)

EREA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

All applications are to be posted or emailed -Attention The Executive Director at [recruitment@erea.edu.au](mailto:recruitment@erea.edu.au)  
or

EREA National Office  
PO Box 91  
RICHMOND VIC 3121

Applications close at 4pm Wednesday 31 August 2011

## Death of Fr. John Carnie CSsR - VIC



Many Brothers would know Fr John Carnie CSsR, Redemptorist Priest.

Sadly, Fr. John passed away on 10 August in the Intensive Care Unit of The Epworth Hospital from complications following a number of surgical procedures to remove cancer from his body. Marcellin College is particularly mourning as Fr John was blessed in having him with them as their Chaplain for the past 25 years.

We remember especially, and pray for Fr. John's family and his many friends during this time. May God continue to bless the much-loved Fr. John.

Andy Kuppe

## Glimpses and Images - the coming of Summer - CHINA

*The fourth of five instalments from Peter Downs in China*

### 4. The Story of Henry Puyi

Changchun is nowhere near a famous Chinese City, even in Chinese eyes. Just lots of massive car factories and heavy engineering plants etc etc. However, there is a very special historical corner-piece that is unique and precious to this little part of God's world. And it was made famous and special by that outstanding world-famous Bernardo Bertolucci movie -- *The Last Emperor*. The story of Puyi. Puyi 'ruled' China from Changchun. The Palace of Emperor Puyi is fully preserved and well-kept -- and encapsulates some of the extraordinary experiences of this unique man first crowned Emperor at the ripe old age of 2.



The Japanese built the Palace at Changchun and installed him in it as their 'puppet' Emperor.

He refused to live in this Palace building itself -- and lived in a secondary set of buildings at the side which were designed for staff and administration in general.

Chinese first viewed Puyi as an abhorrent traitor. But Puyi saw himself as a genuine Emperor, especially as he actually became one from the age of two. But a closer examination of his actions revealed that he had no time for Japanese -- something that Chinese history did not grasp until many years later. He didn't see himself as 'their' Emperor -- although the Japanese tried to make it out that way. He believed the Japanese had planted listening devices in the royal palace, so he never used it.



## Moving house - TAS



Sean and Peter moving house

The Christian Brothers in Tasmania, Brothers Peter Flint and Sean McManus have a new residence. The new address of the Brothers is: 15 Amy St, Moonah, Tas 7009.

A house on the same site is now being refurbished to serve as a centre for the Edmund Rice Network in Tasmania with offices, meeting and hospitality spaces.

Telephone numbers are being relocated but contact can be by mobile phone made to Peter (0439 738 327) or Sean (0417 136 640).

Peter Clinch

## Brothers gather at Kefamo - PNG



Standing (left to right): Charlie Smith, Maurie McCallum, Phil Grundy, Barry Louisson, Vince Duggan, Gerard Buzolic, Ambrose Tottenham, Alfred Tivinarlik, Ezekiel Biat (candidate), Peter Dowling, Herman Wagira, Vincent Stallard, Kevin Ryan, Mark Varbongoi, Fidelis Toatahi  
Kneeling: Tony Hamilton, Cosmas Pulkapo, Andrew McBeath, Francis Hall, Desmond Taboeya (candidate), Paul Kikisi (seated), Cosmas Manau, Francis Toliman (candidate), Andrew Demane, Julian McDonald

Read the complete report of the gathering on the website [here](#)

## Changing the way kids are educated - QLD



Jan McLucas at the opening of the centre  
Photo: Suzanne Lowe

A MULTI-PURPOSE learning centre in Townsville, which missed out on Federal Government funding two years ago, opened its doors to students following a million-dollar renovation.

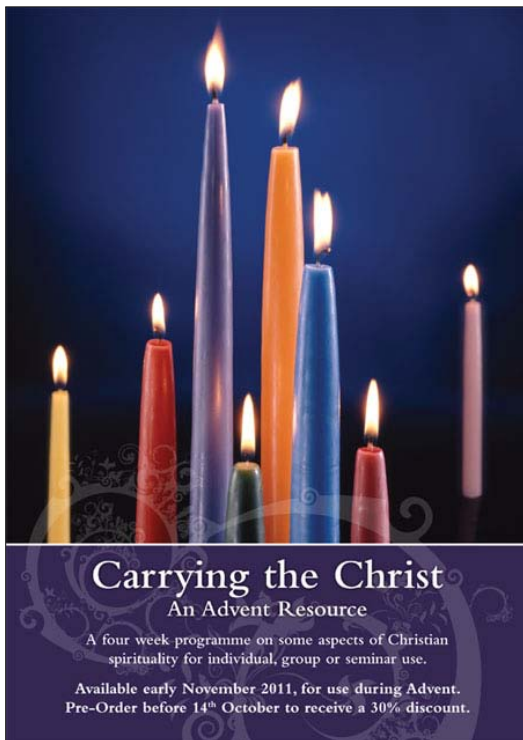
The Edmund Rice Education Flexible Learning Centre on Ingham Rd, West End was granted the \$1.16 million under the Building the Education Revolution program after it had missed out on \$500,000 in funding for a science lab when the Federal Government re-allocated the money in 2009.

The BER grant was spent on renovating four classrooms, creating a new music studio, refurbishing a hospitality teaching kitchen and establishing a sports court.

Barbara Lynch  
Townsville Bulletin  
13 August 2011

Read the complete report on the Townsville Bulletin website [here](#)

## Carrying the Christ Advent Resources - OCEANIA



*Carrying the Christ* is an Advent Resource from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn designed as a four week programme outlining some aspects of Christian spirituality for individual, group or seminar use.

Available early November 2011, for use during Advent. Pre-Order before 14 October to receive 30% discount.

Week One: Conceiving the Child

Week Two: Carrying the Child

Week Three: Giving birth to the Child

Week Four: Showing the Child to the World

[Click here to download the four page information flyer or make an online pre-order via the Archdiocesan faith resources shop](#)

Please contact us at the CatholicLIFE office for further details: 6163 4300 [info@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:info@catholiclife.org.au)



The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn  
Cnr Weston and Loch Sts  
Yarralumla, 2600, ACT  
Ph: 02 6163 4300  
Fax: 02 6163 4310  
[info@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:info@catholiclife.org.au)  
[www.catholiclife.org.au](http://www.catholiclife.org.au)

## New EREA Charter launched - AUSTRALIA

On Monday 22 August at St. James College Brisbane, the new charter for EREA schools was launched before many friends of those inspired by the charism of Edmund Rice. Representatives from international, national and local ministries were present as the Charter was passed on to EREA Executive Director Wayne Tinsey and EREA Board Chair Des Powell by Br. Paul Oakley. Wayne and Des then passed the Charter on to the principals and representatives from all colleges in Queensland.



Congregation Leader of the Christian Brothers Philip Pinto spoke eloquently of the challenges facing Edmund Rice schools as they aspire to be true to our revised Charter. He affirmed the values of the Charter and encouraged all to be truly present to the spirit of Edmund Rice as they go about their lives.

A touching ceremony, beautifully crafted by Stephen Byrne and the Charter launch team, began with a welcome to country from Aunty Theresa Gunn and then a performance by the indigenous 'Jimmies' dancers performing traditional dances of welcome.

The ceremony highlighted each touchstone of the charter and St. James' expression of how they would aspire to bring it to life in their community. Beautiful singing by the choir from St. Laurence's accompanied the liturgical dance and the charming bell choir from Nudgee Junior College led the congregation out to the tune of the Trumpet Voluntary.



The Charter will now be launched at schools throughout the country over the coming year.

Brendan Douglas  
Professional Officer Formation  
EREA Identity Directorate

## Oceania Updates

Please send any information or news items for Oceania Updates to the Province Publications Coordinator, Brother Nev Thornton, Email: [ntthornton@edmundrice.org](mailto:ntthornton@edmundrice.org)

I am particularly interested in receiving any good quality images of people, places, sights and faces throughout Oceania.

**CAST YOUR NET WIDER**

[www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net)