



Callan Officer Needs Urgent Brain Surgery

Rose Kum, 41, a special education resource officer from the Callan Services for Disabled Persons at the Divine Word St Benedict's campus in Wewak, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor that can only be removed by surgery overseas.



Rose holds a bachelor's degree in special education from Divine Word University and a masters in inclusive or special education from the University of Newcastle, Australia. After a brain scan at Wewak General Hospital, Rose was referred to neurosurgeon Dr William Kaptigau at the Port Moresby General Hospital who advised her to have the tumor removed overseas within the next three months.

Rose would very much appreciate any assistance with funding not only for transport to Australia but also with the surgery. If you would like to help you can make your donation direct to a special account in Australia as follows:

Beneficiary Bank SWIFT address / BIC (8 or 11 Characters) - CTBAAU2S
Beneficiary Bank Sort Code / Routing Code -- Not Required
Beneficiary Bank Name - Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Beneficiary Bank Address -
Cnr Burwood Road & Belmore Street
Burwood NSW 2134
Australia
Beneficiary IBAN / Account Number: 06212800801666
Beneficiary Name - The Congregation of Christian Brothers (PNG) Incorporated

Would you also contact Brother Charlie Smith in PNG at casmith@edmundrice.org to advise him your name, contact number and the amount of your donation so he can keep an accurate record on Rose's behalf?

Death of Elliott Fletcher



The entire Edmund Rice Oceania Network was saddened to hear of the tragic death of Elliott Fletcher at St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe on Monday 15 February. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the parents and family of the deceased boy and to the Principal, Dr Michael Carroll, the staff, students and parents of the College. Elliott was buried after requiem Mass in the Callan Centre at the College last Friday. The Mass and Funeral Service were conducted by the College Chaplain, Fr. Liam Horsfall in the presence of Elliott's family, friends and fellow students. The

Archbishop of Brisbane, the Oceania Province Leader, the State Premier and local and Federal members of Parliament or their representatives also attended the Mass. May he rest in peace.

(Read Executive Director Wayne Tinsey's reflections on this tragic event in News & Events at www.erea.edu.au)

Reflecting on Prayer

Recently I was reading an article about Religious men and their lives. A comment was made about prayer as part of their lives. It was said that Religious pray too little today. I wonder if this is true. I certainly hope not. Prayer may be a little more difficult today than in the past when the rhythm of life was more predictable and there was not so much stress and less noise¹.

Since reading the article I have been reflecting on prayer and the different ways I can develop my relationship with my God. There is richness in different ways that I can be with my God – in individual prayer and in community prayer. I am challenged by a number of questions. Do I use the same way of prayer each day? Am I prepared to risk a new approach and allow a deepening of my relationship with my God? Or do I continue with a way I think that nurtures my relationship with my God? Am I creativity in community prayer? Yes, there are many challenges for religious today and ways to develop and nourish my relationship with my God.

There is much written on prayer. Yes, I can read articles and books on prayer but the challenge is to practice and trust my God in the silence of presence. Meditation and contemplation, the scriptures, centring prayer, lectio Divina, chanting and psalms and songs of presence in the environment, others and in encounters in my life are all ways I can develop my relationship with my God.

Can I share my prayer experiences with my Brothers in the community context? Do I put on the 'mind' of Christ? To put on the mind of Jesus I need to go deeper, discovering my own self in the secret of Jesus. His capacity was to open himself to life. Being in the presence of God and acknowledging God's presence in the situation. The Eucharist is also bringing us into the living presence, remembering and a fellowship meal where we share our lives in the breaking of the bread and thanksgiving of our active God.

Community prayer brings us together and there is value in praying with others. Community prayer takes me out of myself and widens my horizons to the other.

I am left with the question which each of us could ask 'Is prayer part of my life as an individual and as community?'

Chris Meehl

¹ National Catholic Reporter February 2nd 2010

Cluster Leader Nominations

Tony Hempenstall, the Cluster Leader for Qld/Philippines Cluster 'A', is going on sabbatical in July 2010. We are all very grateful to Tony who has done an outstanding job as Cluster Leader. The brothers in Cluster 'A' are presently making nominations for their new Cluster Leader. They can nominate any brother in the Oceania Province except members of the OLT and current Cluster Leaders. Cluster 'A' brothers have been asked to contact the brother(s) they wish to nominate to ascertain their willingness to accept nomination.

Peter Harney

Introducing the Oceania Website

There has been an influx of members to the site this week. This is good to see. I hope you have had a look at the site and have, perhaps, made it your Home Page. The next task will be to get members to start using the site to communicate what you, your ministry or your group are doing in the name of Jesus and Edmund Rice. At the moment there are not enough new articles to make it worth the while of members to visit the site each day. Breaking news articles are rare but I am hoping this will change as people get more confidence in adding their own articles.

One new feature has been added this week. A button has been added to the left side bar of the *Community Page* which will provide a link to the edmundrice.org webmail.

The next part of the instructions on how to use the site has been added. It will tell you how to prepare and submit an article.

Check it out at <http://www.edmundrice.org/er:How-to-Use-Part-2>.

Bob Chambers

International Website

Dear brothers and others in the ER network

This has to be a circular letter because it needs to reach many people, but please give it a few moments. I'm writing to invite you to be part of making our global umbrella website – www.edmundrice.net – really *work* for us all. I've recently taken over from Michael Godfrey as editor, working with Francis Hall of the CLT and Neil Richards who handles the technical design, and we need your help, to ensure the site is useful to you and to get it widely read.

So if you seldom or never look at it, my first request is simply: ***please open it weekly***.

Roughly each week I try to have at least:

a new thought-provoking reflection in the 'Rice Express' section,

a new Profile of someone in the ERN,

four or five new stories that capture something of the Edmund Rice spirit at work in today's world,

and a column called 'This Week in Prayer' which is a practical resource for your prayer and for preparing prayer for a community or group, based on the week's special days/times/occasions.

And there is a spread of excellent standing items that have been created as a resource – you might explore these to find out what they offer you. In time, we'd like to introduce many new features – maybe a spotlight on particular ministries, a place where ER schools can

share some of their best practices, a section where young people can express their ideas/problems/questions, etc.

What can you do to help? Well, if you start by just opening the site regularly, other possibilities will open up quite naturally, for example...

You might take up the invitation to **write a comment** directly under a 'Rice Express' article. We want to get conversation going.

You could cue me about relevant **special occasions/days/events** coming up in our part of the ERN so I can mention them under This Week.

You could **cue me or your local 'Webster'** (someone asked to supply stories and material from your part of the ERN) about something that may be of interest to the global ERN and to the reading public. There's a list of the Websters at the end of this letter.

You could **write an article or a story** (like your own Profile) – just an A4 page-worth of text, plus photo attachments – usually via your Webster.

You could **inform me** if there is any information on the site that needs to be included (e.g. a programme), updated (e.g. Vocation Promoters), or corrected.

When new sections start up, you could help **mobilize participation**.

You could **give us constructive feedback** or make suggestions for the site. We will listen carefully to your ideas, though we trust you'll understand we can't try them all. (We can't even try all our own ideas!)

You could **make the site known** to others in and beyond the ERN – one very obvious sphere would be ER school staffs and students. To help with this, I'm offering two advertisements below that you're invited to share wherever you have the chance – newsletters, noticeboards, circulars, etc.

By the way, don't be put off (as I was) by the site's old 'Log On' button – it has never worked; it's no longer there; it's just a possibility for the future.

What makes our global site different from your local ERN website and newsletters is its worldwide scope and its particular focus: it's essentially about sharing, through stories and reflections, flashes and glimmers of Edmund Rice spirit – both the spirituality and the action arising. It's about spreading the calls of our recent Chapters. And it's as much for seekers 'out there' as it is for those who already feel at home.

Michael Burke

Editor of www.edmundrice.net

E-mail: mtbmichael@hotmail.com or find me by clicking 'Contact us'.

YOUR WEBSTERS

AFRICA	East:	Charlie Majeliwa	
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OCEANIA:		Steve McLaughlin	
		sdmclaughlin@edmundrice.org	
INDIA:		to be announced	(but we need to hear from you!!)

Visiting scholar, author and liberation theologian

'Catholic Schools and the Church of the Poor'

A Presentation for School Leaders, Identity Leaders, Teachers, Board members and anyone interested in hearing an inspiring and challenging speaker

Sydney Tuesday 11 May 2010

10.00am to 3.15pm St Patrick's College

Francis Street STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Brisbane Thursday 13 May 2010

10.00am to 3.15pm St Laurence's College

82 Stephens Road STH BRISBANE QLD 4101

Adelaide Monday 17 May 2010

10.00am to 3.15pm Rostrevor College

Glen Stuart Road WOODFORDE SA 5072

Melbourne Tuesday 18 May 2010

10.00am to 3.15pm St Kevin's College

Moonga Road TOORAK VIC 3142



Dr James Nickoloff

Brothers return to China



Pat Lynch (Guiyang) and Peter Downs Changchun spent Christmas 2009 with Michael Dredge in Beijing

We wish Brother Pat Lynch well for a further twelve months of ministry at Guizhou University for Nationalities in Guiyang, People's Republic of China. The good wishes of the Province also go with Brother Mel Couch in his ministry at Fuzhou in Fujian Province where he works in the Foreign Affairs Office of the Anglo-Chinese College. Brother Peter Downs will head for China on March 12. Let us hold these Brothers in prayer as they continue their silent witness to the charism of Edmund in that vast and challenging country. Meanwhile Brother

Michael Dredge has returned from a six-month term at the Beijing Language and Culture University. At present he is involved at the Centre, Randwick, where he works to introduce seventeen overseas priests destined for the Broken Bay Diocese, to the life and culture of Australia, particularly honing their English language skills. We wish him well in this ground-breaking venture.

Motorised Bicycle on offer

Ray McInerney is giving up using his motorised bicycle which has given him much enjoyment over recent years. He is wondering if there is a Brother who could make use of it. If you are interested please contact Ray at Edmund Rice Community (03) 9521 2542.

Tim Moloney

Message from Edmund Rice International

This is my first Eco-Justice Letter to you for 2010, on behalf of Edmund Rice International (ERI). The new strategic plan for ERI has heightened our need to link more closely with provinces and regions around the world, so 2010 will see stronger joint advocacy structures emerge, with ecological sustainability embedded in them.

With Lent upon us, the great annual sloughing of our old skins, let's focus on what we want to see emerge, supple and gleaming, from the old. A movement gaining traction amongst Catholic religious is '**CARBON FASTING**' for Lent 2010. But beware! This is not a privation we can happily reverse on Easter Sunday, like giving up chocolates or alcohol. Carbon Fasting is an option that keeps on giving. My own version proposes a cumulative series of decisions, leaving us (and our planet) fitter and happier for the rest of our lives.

In the Year of Luke, the Church leads us to ash (Feb 17), through a desert (Luke 4, 1- 13), up a mountain (Luke 9, 28 – 36), across an orchard (Luke 13, 1 – 9), past a family farm (Luke 15, 1 – 3, 11 - 32), into a temple courtyard (John 8, 1 – 11) and finally to Calvary (Luke 22, 14 – 23, 56). It's a six-week retracing of Jesus' steps, following the logic of his heart, through a landscape that nurtured him yet could break open, providing encounters with God.

This is my proposal for carbon fasting, as we move through this landscape with Jesus, post-Copenhagen but pro-Easter. Let each week free us for a cleaner world, with a reduced carbon footprint, and more chances for all other living things and our fellow human beings.

Ash Wednesday: get rid of something you don't need, but costs you energy. *Be free.*

1st Sunday (the desert): change one meal a week to a vegetarian meal. *Enjoy.*

2nd Sunday (the mountain): change one trip a week to public transport. *Slow down.*

3rd Sunday (the orchard): buy a local product, instead of one made overseas. *Save fuel.*

4th Sunday (the family farm): pick up some garbage and recycle it. *Forgive.*

5th Sunday (the temple courtyard): turn off something to save electricity. *Entertain silence.*

6th Sunday (Calvary): plant local plants, vegetables or herbs. *Choose life.*

Of course, the other two Lenten traditions, prayer and alms-giving, can flourish as we release the grip that fossil-fuels have on us. Edmund Rice himself provides the three key images – solitary prayer in the Chapel, reading the Bible, giving to the poor in handfuls. 2010 has also been declared the Year of Biodiversity. But this requires another letter! May our Lent be a thoughtful following of Jesus through landscapes both nourishing and full of unexpected grace.

Moy Hitchen

Oceania Updates

Please send any information, news items or photos for Oceania Updates to the Province Publications Co-ordinator Brother Nev Thornton to ntthornton@edmundrice.org