

ADULT EDUCATION

International Day of People with Disability (IDPD)

Wednesday 3 December 2008

I have a story

My name is Anthony Succar and I was asked to be part of the offertory procession during the Closing Mass of WYD08. I rarely leave affairs to the mercy of spontaneity and devise multiple plans for multiple scenarios. However the big day itself did not begin without its hurdles.

At one point, my wheelchair decided that it wouldn't keep up and refused to turn back on. I sat in the dressing room stranded for about five minutes, praying that it would turn back on! Eventually it went back to normal.

Eventually, before I even knew what was happening, I was told to make my way up to the high altar. Finally I was standing face to face with the Vicar of Christ. Everything I planned to say evaporated as I stood in awe before the Pope. With love and absolute gentleness, the Holy Father put out his hand, placed it on my cheek and blessed me. It took every ounce of strength I could muster just to hold back my tears as an overflowing surge of joy stirred deep within me.

This encounter was not a shallow gesture burdened with the formality of protocol – it was a profound encounter, overwhelmed by genuine peace and entrenched in a very real love.

Excerpt from <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents>. Go to the website for the full story/more details.

Celebrating IDPD

The Church encourages a view that embraces our total community as the living Body of Christ. It is appropriate to highlight 3 December each year as the International Day of people with Disability especially within the setting of the start of Advent.

This year's theme is 'Dignity and justice for all of us' and is an invitation to change seeing disability from being a burden to being a chance for us all to journey in faith, perseverance, hope and love. The church, that is all of us, must acknowledge that we are **all** gifted, called and loved.

It is a time to truly proclaim that we are all made in God's image and we are *wonderfully made*. (Psalm 139).

Most Rev. Peter J Elliott – Bishops' Delegate for Disability Issues (Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life)

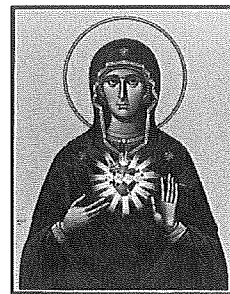
An Immaculate Parish Goal!

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8 December

Once again we can use the occasion of this lovely Marian feast, a celebration of God's spirit alive in Mary, to focus on prayer and on strengthening our parish....

How familiar is my family with the 'Hail Mary'?



Do my nieces/nephews/ godchildren/grandchildren know how to pray the Rosary?

Let's make a special effort on Monday 8th (or near to this feast day) to pray the 'Hail Mary' with someone.

More information on a number of websites including <http://www.rosarybeads.com.au/howtopraytherosary>

'Our Journey to Christmas'

Don't forget to pick up your parish Advent brochure ... to keep in touch with dates and events during Advent.



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is an old German tradition now adopted by many Christian homes and communities. The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreens. The circle is a symbol of eternity and a reminder that God has no beginning nor end; the evergreen is a symbol of eternal life and a reminder that God is immutable or unchangeable. The wreath can be hung from the ceiling by ribbons (preferably purple) or placed on a table. The devotion is usually incorporated during the family meal, or during family night prayers. Fastened to the wreath are four candles standing upright, at equal distances. These candles represent the four weeks of Advent: three candles are purple, reminding us of the penitential nature of the season and one is rose. The rose candle is lit for the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday. The name is taken from the entrance antiphon or Introit "Rejoice (gaudete) in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice." It is reminding us that the end of Advent is almost here, and we can hardly contain our joy.