



Greetings, Friends! Welcome to Week 6, where we find ourselves right in the middle of the semester's journey. We hope you've been enjoying your time here at the college so far.

Cultural Night Recap A big thank you to everyone who joined us at the Cultural Night event. It was a fantastic night of sharing our unique cultures. We hope you had a great time, whether you were talking, performing, or helping behind the scenes. Below are some more photos of the night.

Hidden Pearls Syriac Literature Prof Sebastian Brock, the father of Syriac Studies, will be joining the Hidden Pearls Syriac Literature class by zoom on Tuesday, 5 September 2023 at 7pm Melbourne time to talk to us about Syriac dialogue poems. If any YTU Student would like to join the talk via zoom please email Dr Katherin Papadopoulos at kpapadopoulos@sac.edu.au who will add you to the Zoom list.



Stay Updated: College Timetable Here's a quick update on our college's schedule. Take a look at the timetable below to keep track of your classes and events:

25th Sept – 6th Oct	Non Teaching period
3rd Nov	End of Semester 2/ Last date to withdraw from unit
6th – 10th Nov	Study Week
13th – 17th Nov	Exam Week

Calling for Volunteer To all fellow YTU students who would like to engage in some Pastoral Ministry in aged care, Please join me, volunteering at VMCH - Villa Maria Catholic Homes, at Ashwood. We are looking for caring, compassionate and understanding people to join our Pastoral Volunteer team. One of the most rewarding and uplifting experiences that you will encounter in your Pastoral ministry journey. Please find the link attached below as the first point to contact if you are interested, (link: <https://vmch.com.au/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/>). If you would like to know more information about what is required in this role, you can contact me on 0475 063 330 or send an email to paula.noronha@vmch.com.au.

Paula's Article this Week We want to give a special thanks to Paula for her wonderful writing this week. Your words are truly inspiring to our whole college, Paula. Thank you!

Keep up the enthusiasm, and teamwork that make YTU an inspiring place to learn and grow.

Every Blessing,
Hoa

Seasons

As we commence a new season – Spring, this week, I thought it would be worth reflecting on the seasons of life.

I am blessed and privileged to be working as a Pastoral practitioner at VMCH Ashwood aged care. My call to Pastoral ministry involves journeying with one of the most vulnerable groups of people in our community, the elderly. This vocation has seen me live through many different seasons of life within a short period of time. As I welcome residents into their new home, I journey with them through seasons of change and transition. Leaving their familiar surroundings and family homes is a new beginning, a transitional time of change – we might associate this with the spring in their journey. A season of new growth, newness and often at times the most painful period in their life.

Moving into the summer season there is now acceptance and warmth as they begin to familiarize themselves with the new place, new faces and a variety of spiritual and lifestyle activities. This season can seem quite long and dry; however, it is also filled with warmth and peace as new friendships are formed and memories created.

The season of Autumn may reflect life slowly fading away. Time gets longer as aches and pains are more evident both physically and emotionally and many begin to show their concerns, fears and anxiety about their life's journey. As the leaves begin to fall, there is a newly formed trust and openness created through vulnerability. It is a period of letting go of what was and embracing the present and all that it brings.



Before we know it, winter has arrived. As stillness begins to unfold in the fog of acceptance amidst doubt, a darkness creeps in as we keep searching for the warmth of the light. For some the journey will come to an end, but for others we are able to commence another season of hope and life.

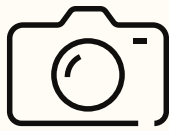


Within our own lives we may possibly undergo different seasons, inviting change, transition, fear and hope. Our vulnerability to go on this journey with courage, compassion and faith is the continued light that guides us through the seasons of life. Reflect upon your journey today. What are you leaving behind in the winter of your life, and welcome and invite in this season of spring? What new growths would you allow to happen in your life during this season?

Joyce Rupp wrote an amazing book, *Dear Heart, Come Home*, which really puts into perspective our journey, as we head towards our own mortality. Seasons come into our life to enable us to grow, we are the seed that has been sown, and this seed will grow, smoothly, rocky and thorny, maybe even wither and die, but the new leaves that will begin to blossom will continue to grow and produce a harvest of kindness, compassion and love, if you allow yourself to accept and transition through the seasons of life.

May we all embrace our seasons and continue to grow in faith and hope, knowing that God's light is always guiding us through the darkness. Have a blessed week YTU community.

Paula



Some Photos in our Cultural Night

