

'Where's The Joy!?'

A Christmas Community Event

December 3, 2016

Venue: Nossal High School, Berwick

Aren't we all looking for joy? TRUE JOY!?! Joy that is lasting! Joy that is unaffected by the vicissitudes of life! ***Where's the Joy!?!***

Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus, is epitomized by a spirit of joy. This joyful season marked by festivity and colour embraces all in its sway. However, is this the TRUE JOY of Christmas!?! The Victoria East Region of the Sathya Sai International Organisation of Australia & PNG in collaboration with the Casey Multi-Faith Network set out to resolve this question.

Sathya Sai Baba has said, "It is not by festivity and fun that you should celebrate Christmas. Celebrate it rather by resolving & putting into practice *at least one of the ideals* He enunciated or endeavouring to reach *at least one of the Goals* that He placed before man."

Herein lies the key to the 'True Joy' that outlasts even the holy season of Christmas. Inspired by the words of Sathya Sai Baba, this Christmas Event endeavoured to celebrate the Ideal of 'Oneness' and promote 'Compassion' as our Goal.

Where's the Joy? In the realization that we are all One! In the spirit of Compassion that reaches out to our brothers & sisters in need! Indeed, a celebration of these 'values' underpins the life and message of Jesus, a fitting way to celebrate His birth, Christmas.

The centrepiece of this event was a one-act play entitled "The Other Wise Man." Based on a fictional story by Arthur Van Dyke, the play highlighted that it is in

acts of love and compassion clothed in a spirit of oneness that one encounters and experiences God. Therefore, **“The Journey is the Answer. The Answer is the Journey.”**

The resounding message of compassion was complemented by the underlying truth of our oneness as ‘Children of God’ played out in the ‘Christmas Nativity Tableau’ by children. This simplistic recreation of the story of the first Christmas in Bethlehem was presented to the melodious singing of Christmas Carols and songs.

The values-based thematic focus was further emphasized by the keynote address by Mr Neville Fredricks, Chairperson of Zone 3, Sathya Sai International Organisation of Australia & PNG.

The evening saw the active participation of a number of ‘Charity Organisations’ who set up stalls at the venue. This afforded an opportunity for one and all to engage with organisations involved in our community in serving the needy and thus be inspired by their work.

A joint vote of thanks by the Casey Multi-Faith Network and SSIO capped of an evening of ‘True Joy’ nestled in the message of ‘Oneness & Compassion’ that resonated with one and all!!

