

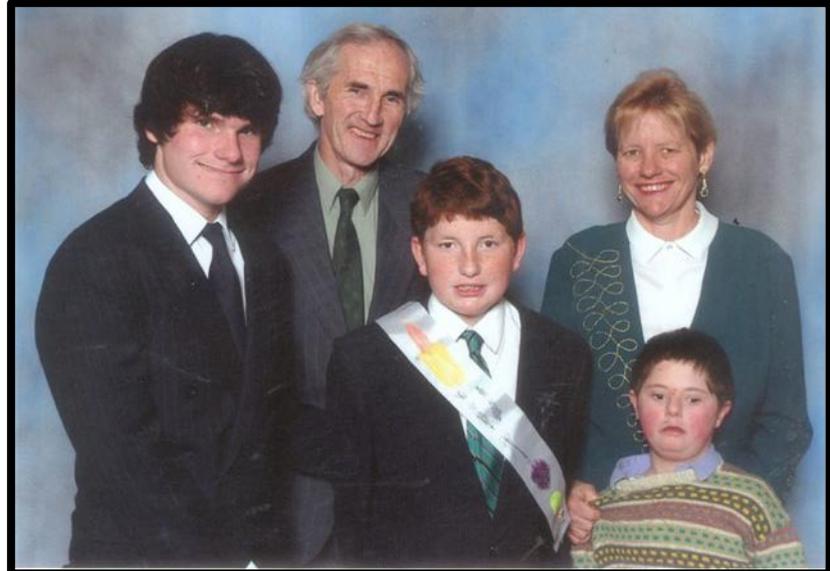
A Message from the Kennedy Family

Catherine Kennedy

Hello to all the readers.

We are the Kennedys. Now, we like to think we are just a normal Australian family, nothing pretentious about us at all!

We have three boys Edmund aged 18, Damien aged 12 and Francis aged 10. Now this family likes the everyday activities that other families do too; e.g. sport. Edmund liked the World cup



soccer, but he, Edmund, didn't like it when Australia lost to Italy in a match, even though he, Edmund, has Italian heritage! He, Edmund, wisely was barracking for Australia! Edmund and Francis and Mum barrack for the Demons (AFL) and they are all still patiently waiting for a Melbourne premiership; still waiting, waiting, waiting since 1964!

Damien likes the Simpsons, collecting toys and Francis likes swimming and going for train rides. Dad, Chris, likes watching world history shows and Mum, Catherine, likes gardening (trying to grow tropical plants in Melbourne e.g. macadamias and frangipanis) but we also like going to Mass on Sundays. We so look forward to that and we, parents, have also enjoyed seeing our boys receive some of the Sacraments (Confirmation, Holy Communion and Baptism)! So God has played a big part in our lives and always will!

Francis is a Down syndrome child. He, Francis, has a right to his life and he, Francis, loves his life! We Kennedys are so pleased that the Church has always protected the right of people such as Francis to have their life!

Well, we could say that we are handicapped in tennis compared to Andre Agassi, others are handicapped in music compared to Beethoven, so we all may have our handicaps in life!

So the fact that Francis is handicapped makes no difference to us; we just love and accept Francis for what he is! That is not to deny that sometimes looking after him is hard e.g. we have to make sure he doesn't run out the front gate (we have put locks on). But if you are sick, Francis is the most loving child; so empathetic to you and he will ask you if you are alright and be very comforting!

So GOD is always in our lives as a source of comfort to us! And the religious community here does its bit par excellence at representing God in our lives by being so accepting of Francis!

Francis has a Salesian godfather, Stanley Francis Rossato (a Salesian of forty years) and Fr Peter Cross (deceased), Fr John Salvano, Fr Terry Curtain, Bishop Prowse, Archbishop Emeritus Sir Frank Little, Archbishop Hickey and Cardinals Pell and Rodriguez and so many other religious have all been so very kind to Francis!

So we feel that God is always close by this Family! So take care everyone and may God bless you all!