



**23RD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

5 September 2021

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,

open our eyes to the wonders this life sets before us,

that we may serve you free from fear and address you as God our Father.

Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts,

'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,

vengeance is coming,

the retribution of God;

he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

the ears of the deaf unsealed,

then the lame shall leap like a deer

and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,

streams in the wasteland,

the scorched earth becomes a lake,

the parched land springs of water.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St James

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'



REFLECTION on the Gospel of Mark 7:31-37

Poor in the World, Rich in Faith

A young man got up to speak at the local Newman Community Centre last week. At first, I thought he was speaking a language unknown to me; then gradually I realised he was speaking my language. But his ability to make himself understood was nearly strangled by an impediment that made him repeat himself in a loop, over and over, until he could complete a single sentence. I felt sad and frustrated for him.

When he finished speaking, an attractive young woman translated his message for him, emphasising his main points. And the crowd of adolescent students cheered his name, over and over. I realised that this young man, though impaired, was practically a cult figure among his peers. They knew him, liked him, accepted him. Though his tongue was bound, his spirit was free.

Many of us labour under impediments to love that seem insurmountable. They may be physical, mental, or spiritual in nature, grounded in past injury or present dysfunction. However impossible it seems that we may be freed from what hold us bound, the appearance is deceiving. Jesus cured a deaf mute with his spit. He holds the power to open hearts too. GPBS 31 August 2021

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: On this Fathers' Day, we pray that people will see signs of God's love in the way Fathers care for their children. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for people who are deaf or cannot speak, that they will be able to communicate with others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for people who are poor or hungry or homeless. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the people of Afghanistan in this moment of crisis and for all the military who tried so hard to help them in the last twenty years. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all peoples who are struggling under the covid-19 restrictions Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, including Norma Flack, Karen Suitor, Bob Haigh, Teonie McMahon, Jeremy Nelson, Helen Campbell-Davys, Ian Vardanega, John Shiels, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermet, Val Biggers and Celia Roach, that they will be touched by Christ's healing power Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for those who have recently died, Sr. Heather Roberts, Don Ryan, William Gunderson and the people who miss them. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING BLESSING

Lord,

May the gift of your Son and your Word

lead us to share your life forever.

Amen.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is nearly six months since I began ministry in Braidwood and Bungendore parishes. In that time we have been limited in our activity by the pandemic with reduced numbers at Mass, cancellations of marriages, baptisms and first Holy Communion and an inability to visit parishioners. The circumstances, over which we have no control, have caused a great deal of anxiety. I am especially conscious of those living alone and parents with children being home-schooled. If you are finding the going tough, give me a call or speak with Julie-Ann at Bungendore office or Helen at Braidwood, we will attempt to help you in these difficult and unusual times.

During my time in this region I have held meetings in the two parishes and have sought to gain an understanding of the needs of the many communities serviced by Bungendore and Braidwood. As I mentioned at all gatherings, I see my primary role to put in place a workable region for the priest who will follow me. These days many of the priests are from other countries who come to Australia with a great zeal for the Gospel but, with little experience of running a parish.

Within our parishes there are two executive bodies; the Parish Finance Council required by Canon Law and the Parish Pastoral Council at the directive of our Diocesan Synod, both with distinct roles. I will outline the responsibility of the PFC and PPC next week.

The Braidwood parish is undertaking a significant project, long overdue, repairing the roof of the church in Braidwood. I acknowledge the tireless effort of Terry, Laurie and the PFC for their industrious efforts obtaining grants for this major undertaking. (see some photos below)

For over twenty years the Bungendore parish have consulted and discussed the building of units on church land. This past week the Bungendore PFC have accepted an offer on the land at Sutton which will seed the building of the units. I spent time with Helen Delahunty, the Financial Manager of Canberra/Goulburn and Fr. Tony Percy, Vicar General, and concluded that the financial viability of Bungendore parish required moving on this project. In planning for the future, with the massive development in this area, we also need to accommodate people in a place of worship.

Keep safe and well,
Yours in Christ,
Mick Burke

Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

HAPPY FATHERS' DAY TO ALL OUR DADS. I'm hoping to send you a little video to watch. Check later in the week.

The church will be closed to the public for the duration of the NSW lockdown. All other groups and meetings are also cancelled until further notice, including the Krawarree Mass set down for 29 August and the monthly markets on 28th.

While our churches are closed, Archbishop Christopher invites all to pray the Rosary via Zoom **Wednesdays and Fridays at 4 pm.** If you don't have internet, you could join by saying the Rosary by yourselves. All you need are your Rosary beads and your intentions.

TIME: Every Wednesday and Friday at 4 pm sharp!

ZOOM DETAILS: Simply click on the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022458332?pwd=MDZ4ODFhNjlvdnFkd21aVDQzWnAydz09>

Or enter in the details below after opening the Zoom app

Meeting ID: 850 2245 8332

Passcode: 543675

It is Legacy Week. Due to the lockdown Legacy ladies are not able to sell their daffodils and badges. They ask if we might donate online at <https://www.legacy.com.au/legacy-week/>



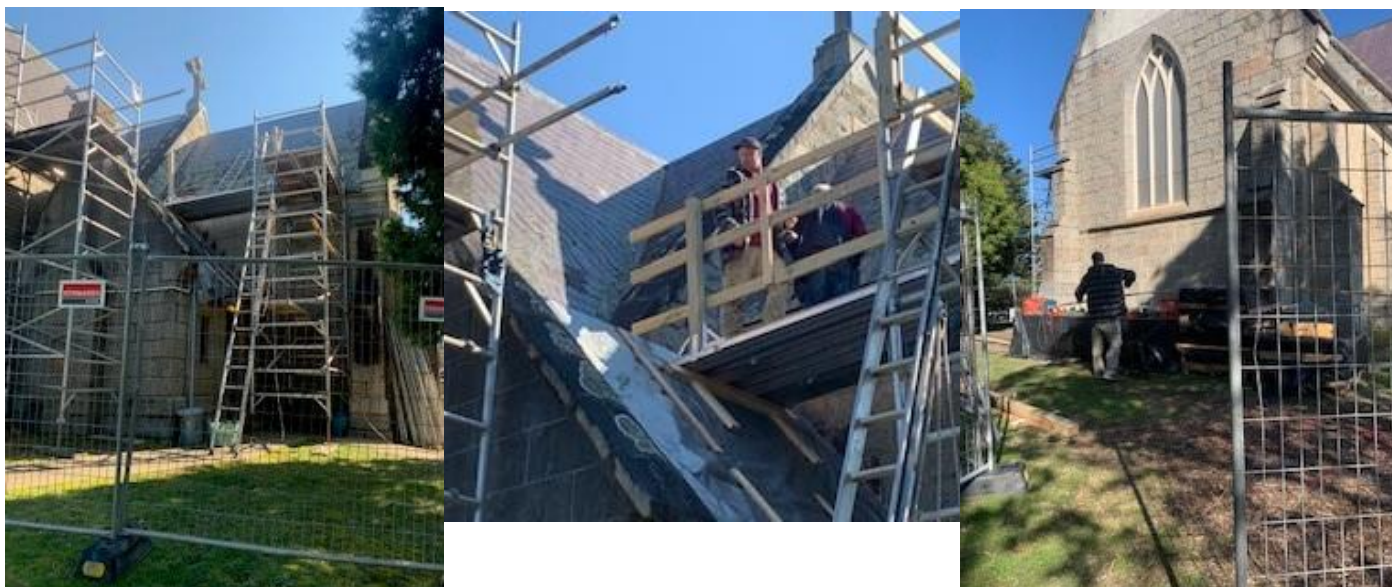
Don't forget you can watch Mass 11am on Sundays and weekdays at 12.15pm

Online Link: <https://catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online>

COVID-19 Links for information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Readings for 24th Sunday: 1st: Isaiah 50:5-9. 2nd James 2:14-18. Gospel: Mark 8:27-35.

Take care, keep safe and look out for each other,
Helen Hart



WORK IS UNDERWAY

