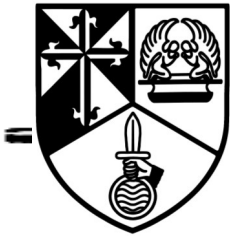


Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



Issue 42
5 September 2021
Year B

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest
Fr Mannes Tellis OP
(To contact Please Text)
0414 396 532

Assistant Priest
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

Dominican in residence
Br Francis McKinnon OP

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Phillip Avenue &
Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address
PO Box 900, Dickson
Ph. 6248 5925

Office Hours -
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9am to 12.30pm

Office Staff
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Jim Smith

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watson@cg.org.au
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www.cg.org.au/watson

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson

Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass

Tuesday & Thursday
8.00am

Wednesday & Friday
5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am

Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,
5:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 4pm—4.30pm

Adoration - Holy Hour

Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

Pray the Rosary

First Saturday each month 3.30pm

**If you are in Urgent need of a Priest
out of office hours call - 6248 8253**



Be Opened

BOOKINGS

**FOR WEEKEND MASSES ARE ES-
SENTIAL.**

**If you are feeling unwell please DO NOT come to church.
Please scan the QR Code & record your name, alternatively please write your
name and contact number on the register provided.**

**PLEASE sanitise your hands on entering the foyer or parish centre.
Please DO NOT return your bulletin to the basket,**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Psalm 118:137,124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
Treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING

First reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 14(15):2-5

Praise the Lord, my soul!

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.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

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.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING

Second reading: James 2:1-5

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation: Cf. James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Communion Antiphon: John 8: 12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

Text - Copyright © 1996-2020 Universalis Publishing Limited

This coming Sunday (Father's Day, 5 September) we pray for fathers everywhere. We especially pray for those who are separated from their families, as well as for those families that make the difficult decision to embrace lives in new homes, far from the lands of their birth. From 1 September to 4 October (Feast day for St Francis of Assisi) we celebrate the Season of Creation. In his article, Pope Francis has made it clear that the most pressing task for the world is to respond to the threats to the environment.

SPIRITUAL DEAFNESS AND MUTENESS

Being hearing impaired can be an isolating and frustrating experience. As I have grown older I have often been unable to hear what others are saying to me, especially in a crowded room. Background noise has become my enemy, occasionally I am left trying to lip read rather than actually hear what my interlocutor is trying to tell me.



This challenging experience is lived by millions around the world, and as we age the sharpness of our hearing begins to wane and we are left sometimes in our own world. I remembered this quite starkly when I lived in one of our Dominican communities, one of our brothers who was well into his 80s was almost profoundly deaf, though he did have hearing aids he spent most of his time in isolation, you really had to speak to him one on one and very loudly for any kind of meaningful conversation. The superior would make it his custom to speak to this brother at meal time so he would be concluded otherwise he was kept out of what was happening at table.

I think these experiences are really metaphors for our relationship with God. At times we can accuse God of being deaf to us, we talk, sometimes very loudly, sometimes very quickly, sometimes very softly, but nothing seems to get

Cont...through. Often we're left with radio silence, we scratch our head-did that message get through?

quickly, sometimes very softly, but nothing seems to get through. Often we're left with radio silence, we scratch our head-did that message get through?

But the same accusation may be made against us, what about our deafness? Sometimes God does try to get through but we're too distracted we've got the music played up rather loudly, the clanging of daily life drowns out the soft whisper which God often speaks in. We know from our scriptural tradition that God does not often manifest himself in grandeur or loud exhibitions but rather as a soft whisper, this scenario is best illustrated in the story of the prophet Elijah who when despondent and on the run from Queen Jezebel, who sought his life because of the execution Elijah wrought on her prophets of the foreign god Baal, took refuge in a cave and waited for God to speak to him:

9 There [Elijah] made his lodging in a cave; ...Then word came to him to go out and stand there in the Lord's presence; the Lord God himself would pass by. A wind there was, rude and boisterous, that shook the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire, the whisper of a gentle breeze. 13 Elias, when he heard it, wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out to stand at the cave door. There a voice came to him, Elias, what are you doing here? 14

Our deafness can only be overcome by being open. This is the word Jesus uses 'Ephpheta'. This word is preserved for us in the original Greek which Jesus would've had spoken. Jesus uses Greek here because he is no longer in Aramaic speaking territory but in Sidon which is in what we would now call Lebanon. This being open then is the challenge to our deafness. We constantly need to remain open to what the Lord has to say to us. This theme of listening is prevalent throughout the scriptures, psalm 91 exhorts us "if today you hear his voice harden not your hearts" whilst the Book of the Apocalypse commands the Churches of Asia Minor "Listen, you that have ears, to the message the Spirit has for the churches."

Listening demands silence. We are then challenged by God to make sometime for silence in our lives. This is a hard thing for us to do, we are good at talking not good at listening, silence is an enemy for us, we like to fill it because we're afraid that the silence may actually allow us to listen. On this Father's day I thank the good Lord that one of the great gifts my Father gave to me is to listen in prayer. Each night we would kneel around my Mother and Father's bed and say our night prayers. Dad would begin it first with a short act of contrition and then we would be silent before we said our other prayers. It was those minutes of silence that allowed God to step and speak before we spoke to him. Another memory of my Father was seeing him sit on the side of his bed in the morning in silence offering up prayer for all of us. It was that silent example that had a profound effect on me and my need for prayer in silence.

Today as we reflect on the deafness that we have in our spiritual lives may we be opened to the silence in which God speaks so that we may hear the voice of the Father who calls us as our opening prayer prays beloved sons and daughters who hope for an everlasting inheritance, the inheritance of the Kingdom.

God love you all.

Fr Mannes OP

A TOUCHING ENCOUNTER!

Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year.

Fr Peter Clarke OP

reflects upon the gifts of speech and hearing.

What love, what respect, what consideration, what faith on the part of those who brought to Jesus the deaf man with the speech impediment! They believed He could heal this man.

Nowadays we speak of people being challenged- challenged to think and act positively within the limitations of their own situation. Within my own circle of family and friends, in my visiting schools, hospitals and special homes, I have been deeply moved by the loving respect, the supportive, encouraging acceptance that has been shown to those who are in any way challenged - allowing them their own space to be themselves, 'do' for themselves and fulfil themselves.

We all know that sadly this is not always the case. I don't want to dwell on this now, nor do I wish to rush into reading something spiritual or symbolic into Jesus healing the deaf man with the impediment in his speech.

Rather, I welcome the opportunity to record my admiration for teenagers who talk about their future careers and tell me they wish to become professionally involved in teaching physically, emotionally, spiritually challenged children and adults or in caring for the elderly. Here is a call, a vocation, to a lifetime of expressing love in a very practical way. Such care-givers are most surely signs of the Kingdom of God being present here and now before our very eyes. They are sacraments of the compassionate, healing ministry of Jesus vividly present in our midst.

The Gospel of today tells us that Jesus "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 that, "And his ears were opened, and at once the impediment of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly." Those who witnessed this were filled with admiration. "He has done all things well," they said, as they saw this to be not only an act of power but also as one of love.

From the early days of Christianity the Church has seen this healing by Jesus as a pointer towards the spiritual healing, character shaping, that takes place shortly after a person has been baptized.

In the Rite of Baptism it is stated that,

"The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the child with his thumb, saying, "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

In this age of highly sophisticated communication technology is accessible even to small children. I would like to suggest that this simple rite of blessing of the ears and mouth is of immense importance and relevance.

The ears represent our ability to receive sounds and images that are liable to influence the way we think, feel and act. Our mouths represent the ability to 'put out messages' that have an impact on the lives of others. Our intake and output of 'media matter' will frequently be for better or for



Cont...worse- morally, spiritually. We must question what we are doing to ourselves through our media intake; what we are doing to others through our media output. In both cases it could be a lot of good or it could be a lot of harm.

The choice is ours. It is a moral, spiritual choice. We may be inclined, enticed or tempted to imbibe material which is spiritually 'unfit for human consumption.' At baptism the ears are blessed that we may choose to receive the 'godly word' and reject the ungodly one. Our mouths are blessed that we may communicate to others godly words that are truthful, charitable and inspiring and resist the temptation to lie, mislead, and talk nastily about others.

God knows, even if we don't, how much we all need healing and restraining in the wonderful, awful world, of interpersonal and mass-communication! What a challenge we have to take this seriously and encourage others to do so!
<http://english.op.org/torch>

A NEW CAPACITY TO HEAR AND SPEAK

'Two aspects draw our attention in this story. The first is that this man's encounter with Jesus results in a new capacity for speech. By touching his ears and his mouth, Jesus has given the man a voice for the first time. And did Jesus really expect the man not to exercise it? This leads to a second aspect which is the comment made by the Gospel writer: 'The more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it.'

'In baptism we are healed so that we may hear God's word and thus proclaim God's deeds. We have been given, as for the first time, a voice, which we are to raise to the praise and glory of God the Father.

'The only question is how we use this new capacity to hear and speak that Jesus gives us. Of course it takes time to mature, to grow out of the infancy of faith, but the sad thing is that too many of the baptised seem to have taken seriously Jesus's command not to proclaim it. Too many seem to spend their Christian lives as if they would remain voluntarily deaf and dumb.'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Mark Edney OP

REFLECTION

Jesus's cure of the man with a speech and hearing impediment is a clear echo of the First and Second Readings. God chooses the weak, the poor, those without capacity, to show that one's level in society counts for nothing. What is of lasting value is a heart set on God.

As I begin this time of prayer, I might ask that the Holy Spirit help me to see everything through faith, to recognise that power counts for nothing unless it be the power of love.

I might move into prayer by reading the text, noticing what is striking me, or by putting myself in the Gospel, perhaps as the man needing healing. Where, in my life, do I want to be opened? However I am praying, I keep my gaze firmly on the person of Jesus and on his priorities, noticing that he is even at pains to avoid the crowd's praise. By journeying through the more Gentile Decapolis region, Jesus is making a choice – those outside the Jewish law will not be forgotten.

In my daily decision-making, who and what directs my own choices? Do I notice when others need help? Do I turn a blind eye? Do I truly listen when someone speaks? Am I someone who helps others to open up and unburden themselves? I ponder...

Prepared by St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham

The Holy Spirit is an inexhaustible well of the life of God in us.

FATHER'S DAY

Psalm 103:13: "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him."

Proverbs 22:6: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

2 Samuel 7:14-15: "I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me."



PRAYER

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the god of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfather, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen



**"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"**

**When my arms can't reach people who
are close to my heart...
I always hug them with my prayers.**

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

Greg O'Neill, Ruth Burke, Frank Zobec, Carol Hallam, Mary Marfin, Barbara Wilson, June Pollard, Anne Corver, Ursula Ramsay, Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mimma Gia, Awny El-Ghitany, Bob Hackett, Joe Schimizzi, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Sullivan, Mary Lou Pentony, Elizabeth Webster, Pamela Sandy, Maureen Blood, Beth Delos Santos, Peter Catlin, Terry Stephens, Bernard Druett, Veronica & Paul Cornelly, Denis Lawrence

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.

Fr John Neill OP, Teresa Paul, Jean Stewart, Nicasia Perahta

IMPORTANT WWVP CARDS

Please forward to the Parish Office any confirmation emails from Access Canberra or new cards for anyone who has been volunteering especially those who will continue volunteering after the lockdown period. If anyone has not provided a new card or email confirmation, can you please ensure that you do so before volunteering again in a role requiring a WWVP.

Please check to see if your card will expire over the next few months and remember to renew.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN FAITH

Join us for a journey of discovery as we explore the role of women in faith.

Presented by Dr Janina Hiebel, Dr Rosemary Canavan, Dr Carmel Posa SGS and Dr Claire Renkin, the series will be held over four sessions. Each session involves all four speakers who will explore three women around a common theme – Old Testament, New Testament, Monastic Women, and the Artwork around them. A Q&A will follow each session.

SESSION ONE—Judith, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Egypt Wednesday September 1, 2021, 7.00pm-8.00pm
SESSION TWO—Esther, the woman anointing Jesus (in Mark & Matthew), Rade Gund Wednesday September 8, 2021, 7.00pm-8.00pm. **SESSION THREE**—Hannah, Mary and Elisabeth (visitation), Dorothy Day Wednesday September 22, 2021, 7.00pm-8.00pm . **SESSION FOUR**—Ruth, Phoebe, Teresa of Avila Wednesday September 29, 2021, 7.00pm-8.00pm. **TIME:** 7.00pm – 8.00pm **WHERE:** Via Zoom Meeting. Zoom link will be emailed after you have registered.

BOOKING LINK— <https://garratt1.wufoo.com/forms/k1h4t4sz1lv5cza/>

.Online registration is essential. This is a FREE event.

SMARTLOVING BREAKTHROUGH

An Online Course for spouses in troubled marriages

If your marriage is under stress or you feel disconnected from your spouse, but don't know how to ease the pain, join us for this online course.

- Identify your conflict triggers.
- Learn strategies to de-escalate an argument.
- Restore hope with practical relationship strategies.

smartloving.org/breakthrough

50% Sale for Our Lady Undoer of Knots (ends Sept 30)

Use coupon code: **UndoerofKnots**

4-5 September

CHURCH OPENING <https://www.trybooking.com/BTQHD>

When lockdown and restrictions are lifted **PLEASE** book to attend Mass using the link below: to avoid congestion in the foyer. <https://www.trybooking.com/BTQWH>

12 September

QR CODE & TRY BOOKING <https://www.trybooking.com/BTQWL>

We are using the online booking system TryBooking (which costs us nothing) and this means we can assist a lot of people who have 'booked' for each Mass. This saves you and your time, speeds up the arrival queue at Mass, and helps us manage the numbers at each Mass.

Government Requirements - Your responsibilities

- Use the Check In CBR app to check in before entering a business or venue, or before being seated.
- If you don't have the Check In CBR app you must provide your details to the church so they can check you in.
- Take personal responsibility for your own COVID safety.

To comply with Government rules we need Welcome Ministers to check parishioners in. Remember that the Welcome Ministers are volunteers who have come to Mass but give their time to welcome you, and to help sign people in. **PLEASE** make sure you arrived before Mass begins.

TryBooking links for September Mass:

18-19 September

<https://www.trybooking.com/BTQWL>

25-26 September

<https://www.trybooking.com/BTQWV>

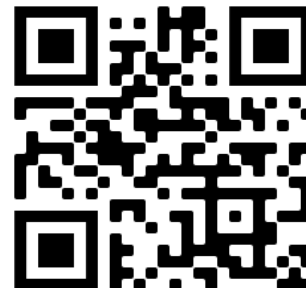
QUERIES CAN BE ANSWERED ONLY IN OFFICE HOURS

CATHOLIC MISSIONS

We were going to run an appeal for Catholic Mission this weekend, however this is impossible with Covid restrictions. The appeal for 2021 focuses on the Mother and Babies Home run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok. Many vulnerable mothers have nowhere else to turn when they most need love and care. Sr Cha-laad provides accommodation, loving care and education for them and their babies.



Please give generously to help continue this life-giving program. You can go online at catholicmission.org.au/Thailand, scan the QR code below, or call Karen McKerrrow the Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission) on 0411 924 288 or email kmckerrrow@catholicmission.org.au



Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

Video Link - https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kbf57wid4cdiod/AABB0yW_hDB48-2iLdVTGC0a/Mother%20and%20Babies%20Home%20-%20Good%20Shepherd%20Sisters%20-%202021%20Catholic%20Mission%20-%20Video.mp4?dl=0

FOR WE CANNOT KEEP FROM SPEAKING about what **WE HAVE SEEN & HEARD** ACTS 4:20

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE NOON TUESDAY