

The Living Word

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

8 September 2024

First Reading Is 35:4-7

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

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

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) *Praise the Lord, my soul!*

or:

(R.) *Alleluia!*

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 Jas 2:1-5

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

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 Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 7:31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

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 by Nick Brodie

One of the most important messages in today's Gospel is that right speech follows from clear hearing. When Jesus cures the man the signs of healing are that his ears open first, then his tongue starts working. As with everything Jesus said and did, this has wider implications for Christianity: a message needs to be heard before it can be proclaimed. Every preacher must be a listener first.

Jesus' vision of a listening Church is expressed many times in the Gospels and has endured throughout the centuries in diverse forms, from local synods to Ecumenical Councils. From long experience the Church learned that by listening to the signs of the times Christians could better proclaim Christ to each new generation.

In our own time, as Pope Francis puts it, the Church needs 'to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. Environmental and human degradation are everywhere, crying out for remedy. In this Season of Creation we might ask ourselves whether we are good listeners. Do we listen to the warnings of scientists about climatic change, to the stories of climate refugees, or do we block our ears in closed-minded self-interest and ignore Jesus' command, 'Ephphatha' – be open.

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Entrance Antiphon: Psalm 118:137, 124
You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

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.
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GOULBURN MISSION

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday ---- 6pm SPP Goulburn
6pm Taralga
Sunday ----- 8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)
9am (Crookwell)

Binda -10.30am (1st Sunday)
Marulan - 8.30am (2nd Sun)
Tarago - 8.30am (3rd Sun)
Tuena - Nil until further notice
Bungonia St Michael's: 7pm, Thurs Rosary

CONFESSIONS

SPP: 11.30 -12 (Wed /Thurs/Fri), Sat 4.15pm
OLOF: Sat. 9.30am -10am
Taralga: 4.30pm (1st Sat)
Crookwell: 8.30am (2nd Sun)

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

SPP 11am Fridays

Holy Hour: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 5.30pm OLOF

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - 5pm (OLOF),
Wed, Thurs, Fri - 12md (SPP)
Sat - 9am (OLOF)



Mass Offerings: Please send to office, or central collection boxes.

ROSTER Coordinator-

judith.stuart11@gmail.com

BAPTISMS: Book through the Parish Office.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SEP 11: Crookwell Morning Tea 10.30 am
Sep 18: Taralga Prayer group 10 am
SEP 21/22: Confirmation MASSES
SEP 28: St Michaels Bungonia Mass 10am
OCT 12: Men's Breakfast 7.30am-9am Tatts
OCT 19: Reunion of Orphanages Sat 19th Oct 11am-3pm
OCT 27: Marian Procession Goulburn 10-3
NOV 24: Christ the King Taralga 90th Anniversary

RCIA has launched its summer sessions.
6.30pm Wednesday at SPP presbytery.

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Men's Breakfast: 7.30am-9am Saturday 12th October. Guest speaker Fr Michael Lim will discourse on his new book **"Who am I in God?"** addressing your true Christian identity. Please contact Michael Lamarra to reserve your seat.

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BUNGONIA: St Michael's Church Mass September 28th
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VOLUNTEERS: For the Marian Procession are welcomed. A Gardening Bee at the Cathedral & Presbytery will be held on 21st September 10am-2pm. Bring your hat, some water, and enjoy some light refreshments and a laugh.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday (formerly Child Protection Sunday) on the second Sunday of September -- at the conclusion of National Child Protection Week. Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.



Women's Retreat day, **God's love transforms** hosted by 'Call to Connect' Guest speakers: Sharon Brewer & Rachel Fleurant MGL On: Saturday 12th October 10am-3.15pm at St Monica's Evatt ACT. Click on QT Code for more details and to register.



Recently Deceased: Brother Francis Riley, Michael Percival, Maureen Swampillai, Sue Hall, Dianne Conner, Petrina Elliott, Kay Tapper, Jennifer Stewart, Rex Bryant, Pauline Grech, Ronald Jeffrey, Gloria Downey, Michael Carlon,

Anniversaries: Jack Eggleston, Corinna Prevadello, Frank Probert, Harold Falk, Timothy Joseph McCormack, Joan Canning, Kevin Falk, Bill O'Keefe, Phyllis Corby, Olive Thistleton, Margaret Vial, Fred Fiegert (Temora), Daphne Byron, Sally Barrett, Geoff O'Brien, O'Brien and MacIntosh families, Marjorie Ellen Mackay, Phyllis Corby, Reg Bower, John McQuaid, Paul Collins, Sr Marie Jeanne, Keith G Mackay, Maxine Probert, Gregory McIntosh, Christine Mary McCormack, Winifred G Conroy

Prayers: Bill Bourke, Leonardo Conroy, Christopher White, Leslie King, John Hall, Dulcie Elliott, Dorothy Brewer,