



Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst & St Raphael's South Hurstville

Twenty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year B

BULLETIN 5TH SEP 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 118:137, 124

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

First Reading: Is 35:4-7

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

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

(R.) 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: Jas 2:1-5

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

Gospel Acclamation : cf. 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.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak. When Jesus healed the man in the gospel story the crowd were admiring of what he had done. They even exclaimed, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' These words are a direct echo of the Isaiah text – they were recognising Jesus as fulfilling the prophecies of the promised Messiah.

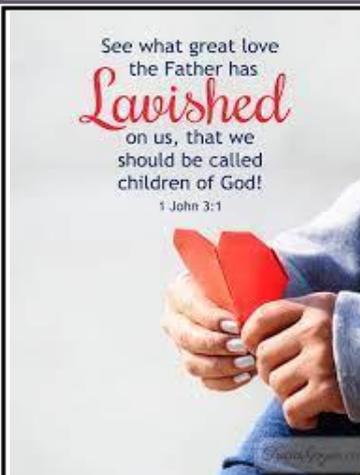
However, the passage also demonstrates to us that Jesus was trying to show the people that he was not exactly the Messiah that many of them were anticipating. This healing story takes place in the region of The Decapolis – south-east of the Galilee region and populated mostly by Gentiles. By travelling in this area and working miraculous healings, Jesus is making the point that his mission is to all people, not just 'the Chosen People' of Israel. He commands the crowd who witnessed the healing to tell no one about it but, filled with the idea that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for, they broadcast the news. Jesus wanted their silence because he knew that they did not fully understand the sort of Messiah that he was. Only when they understood that this Messiah must suffer and die would he have allowed them to speak of his deeds.

Gospel Focus – Ephphatha

The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different understanding of Messiah.

Living the Gospel – Open to compassion

When Isaiah described the signs by which the Messiah would be recognised, he identified those people who were isolated from society by their physical afflictions. He portrayed a Messiah who released them from those afflictions and allowed them to re-enter society. That is what Jesus did time and time again. In the healing of the deaf and dumb man, Jesus called on all those around him to also be opened – that their hearts may be opened to compassion. Jesus calls to us through today's gospel to also be open to compassion and open to the needs of those around us.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Dear Parishioners

This Sunday is Father's Day and as I celebrate Mass, I pray for all Fathers and Grand Fathers. I will also remember Fathers who are no longer with us.

I want to remind you of the great love that God our heavenly Father has for us.

Blessings and enjoy this day with your families, Fr Thomas Alukka

Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever; and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow - Saint Augustine

National Child Protection Week is being held from 6 September to 12 September 2021

This year, the Archdiocese will be celebrating Child Protection Week beginning Monday, 6 September and ending on Sunday, 12 September which the ACBC has declared Safeguarding Sunday.

Key Message: Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

- When a parish in the Archdiocese of Sydney is called upon to safeguard its community, we are being asked to pro-actively support a culture of care that champions honesty and engagement. The result of this is a community environment where children and young people are valued, heard and protected from harm.

- Please give your attention to the new resources that the Safeguarding Office has developed as a result of the consultation between children, young people and adults within the Archdiocese:

- *Feeling Safe Activity Book for Children*
- *A Guide for Young People to Better Understanding Wellbeing*
- *Children and Young People's Participation in Catholic Communities*

- From the Government through to our parishioners sitting in the pew at Mass. We all have a responsibility to contribute to a culture of safety and care through actions of promoting safe, healthy environments and healthy behaviours, providing positive support to children, protection, love, understanding, patience, following applicable laws in screening and reporting, following diocesan policy and processes, prayer, speaking up when required and listening intently

- A fundamental principle of safeguarding is understanding that everything done to create a safe space begins and ends with the knowledge that God's love is for all people. (John 3:16) The primary advocate and leader of safeguarding, of course, is Jesus himself. He went out of His way to take action and to alleviate suffering for the vulnerable.

Pray for good health of : Giselle Oscuro, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.

Mass Offered: Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop

Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Go Make Disciples

Daniel Ang, Director of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation shares his vision for Go Make Disciples with the Catholic Weekly's Marilyn Rodrigues
<https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/>

Please note change in account number

PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving can be done via bank transfer:

First Collection (for the priests)

BSB 062784 Acctn Nr:100006233 (indicate SR or MD)

Second Collection (for the church maintenance)

Mater Dei: BSB 062784 Account No. 100000476

St Raphael: BSB 062784 Account No. 100000380

Ref: Your name and envelope No. (if any)

Thank you for your generosity.

Catholic Weekly online (Free)

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar— August 2021

Until end Sept	COVID-19 Lockdown—no Mass	SR & MD
Postponed	MD Pastoral Council Meeting	MD
TBA	SR Pastoral Council Meeting	SR
TBA	Sacrament of First Eucharist	SR & MD
Postponed to Dec 2021	Combined Parish Dinner	SR & MD

St Vincent De Paul- Support for the Disadvantaged in Lockdown

St Vincent De Paul volunteers have recently distributed 900 snack packs, 250 self-care packs and 130 hampers through a range of services including Redfern Youth Connect, Parramatta Mission Meals Plus and local support hubs.

Find out more and what support is available [here](#).

Write to your local NSW MP to stop proposed euthanasia laws in our state.

Parishioners are encouraged to please contact your local NSW MP, expressing your opposition to the voluntary assisted dying bill, proposed by Independent MP Alex Greenwich : https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2108_ocp_nsw

If parishioners do not wish to use an online tool, you can download [a series of sample letters here](#), and [a letter writing guide here](#).

Husband says to the judge.
"Your Honour I want a divorce."
Judge: "Why?"
Husband: "My wife is going from bar to bar every night."
Judge: " Why is she doing that?"
Husband: "She is looking for me."



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Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie