



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH, CRANEBROOK, NSW

# The Net

Visit our website: [www.corpuschristi.org.au](http://www.corpuschristi.org.au)

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

**TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B**

**7TH & 8TH SEPTEMBER,  
2024**

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### Ephphatha

As we began to welcome the Gospel, we made the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our hearts. It is meant to be accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' It wouldn't be enough to mentally recite that little prayer. We have to do something physical.



Jesus could not have been more physical than in the story of today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle, saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. But he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. We are not angels, but ensouled bodies and that is how our Lord particularly related to this man in need of healing.

It is in the sacrament of Baptism that we imitate the Ephphatha incident in today's Gospel. At one stage, the priest lightly touches the ears and then lightly touches the

mouth of the person being baptised. This brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith.

We could take a moment to recall the Ephphatha dimension of our baptism. Take your thumb and lightly touch your ears (a parent could do this for an infant) making a prayer along the lines of our baptism: 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He again touch my ears to receive His Word and my mouth to proclaim His faith to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.'

**We, the people of Corpus Christi,  
seek to grow in living  
a Christ-centred mission,  
sharing our gifts to foster welcome,  
justice and community in today's world.**



**A very warm welcome to anyone who  
is new to the parish.**

*So that we can get to know who you are,  
please introduce yourself to the priest or acolyte after Mass  
and fill out a Census Card, which is available in the foyer.*

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGIL 6PM

SUNDAY 7.30AM & 9.30AM

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday & Wednesday at 6pm

Thursday & Friday at 9.10am

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday evening from 5.15pm -  
5.45pm in the Meeting Room

### ADORATION AND DEVOTION

First Friday of each month after  
9.10am Mass.

This is also an anointing Mass.

### CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

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Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/  
CorpusChristiParishCranebrook](http://www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook)

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm  
(Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri)

### PARISH TEAM:

Administrator - Fr Jessie Balorio  
- [jessie.balorio@parracatholic.org](mailto:jessie.balorio@parracatholic.org)  
- 0451 851 610 (*emergencies only*)  
- Presbytery: 4729 1675

Mrs Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary/  
Sacrament Co-ordinator  
- [mc@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:mc@corpuschristi.org.au)

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support  
- [sw@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:sw@corpuschristi.org.au)

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament  
Support

### SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary - ph 4726 2200  
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College - ph 4777 0900  
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

# Parish News

## PHOTOGRAPHY VOLUNTEER NEEDED:

We are in need of a volunteer to take photos at two of our First Communion Masses, Saturday 14th September at 11am and Saturday 21st September at 11am.

If you are able to help please contact the Parish Office.

## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION



### Sacrament of First Eucharist

Please keep in your prayers the children of our parish who are receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist this weekend. May their families be great models of faith for them during this important time.

The Sacrament of First Eucharist will take place on the following dates:

Saturday 14th September at 11am and during the 6pm Mass

Saturday 21st September at 11am and Sunday 22nd during the 9.30am Mass

### Sacrament of Baptism

Parents wishing to have their children Baptised are asked to contact the Parish Office to book the date of Baptism and to register for the Rite of Welcome and Information Meeting.



## WEEKDAY MASSES UPDATE

COMMUNION SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE AT CORPUS CHRISTI WHILE FR JESSIE IS ON LEAVE.  
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY @ 6PM  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY @ 9.10AM

Weekday Mass Times at St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith

Monday: 9:30am  
Tuesday: 6:45am & 9:30am  
Wednesday: 9:30am & 7pm  
Thursday: 9:30am  
Friday: 6:45am & 12:10pm

Weekday Mass Times at St Joseph's Kingswood  
Monday to Friday at 8.00am & Saturday at 8.30am

## LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

### Recently Deceased:

Clayton Briggs (30/08/24)

*Clayton Briggs funeral service will take place here at Corpus Christi on Monday 9th September at 10.30am.*

### Anniversaries:

Vanessa Smith (07/09/22), Marie Liliane Ducasse, Rosemary Hall, Christ Zahra, Christine Jeffery, James William Sinnet

### For those who are sick:

Max Ducasse, Barbara Kemp, Werner Rauker, Rose Zahra, Eleanor Albertyn, Rosa Pronesti



## BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

Thank you to those parishioners who donated to the appeal last weekend. If you were away and would still like to contribute, please pick up an envelope from the foyer and place it in the collection plate.

## PARISH GIVING

### Planned Giving/Parish Donations

Your gift to Planned Giving helps cover the running of the parish and also contributes towards outreach in our parish community and beyond.

If you would like to contribute directly, the parish bank details are:

BSB: 067 950  
Acct No: 100000698  
Acct Name: Cranebrook Parish



**Please ensure you put your details in the reference section (ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME)**

*Please contact Marie at the Parish Office if you*

- ◇ are contributing to the Planned Giving Program via the envelope system and would like to change to credit card or direct debit;
- ◇ would like to join the Planned Giving Program.

## SAVE THE DATES

### Parish Morning Tea

Morning tea will take place after 9.30am Sunday Mass on the following dates:

13th October; 10th November; 8th December

### Junior Altar Serving Training

Children interested in becoming a junior altar server are invited to attend training on

**Wednesdays 23rd & 30th October at 7pm in the Church.**  
*Please note that children must have already received their First Holy Communion before becoming a junior altar server.*

## CORPUS CHRISTI YOUTH MASS

SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER AT 5.00PM

Mass followed by refreshments.

Please note that parents are welcome to attend the Mass and registration is not necessary.



## CORPUS CHRISTI YOUTH MASS DATES

Parish Youth Masses will take place on the following Sundays at 5.00pm:

**20th October; 17th November; 15th December**

For more information about our parish Youth Masses please contact Fr Jessie or Kieran Faccin.



## Parish News

*Special thanks to Fr Philip Alesin who has been supporting our parish during weekend Masses while Fr Jessie has been on leave.*

*Your presence has been very much appreciated by our parish community.*

### 'YOUNG IN SPIRIT' SENIORS GROUP

**Our seniors group meets on the last Friday morning of each month after 9.10am Mass in the Parish Office.**

Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea. New members are always welcome.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

#### **Catechist News... Are you able to help?**

If you can spare about an hour each week during school terms and would like to find out more about becoming a teacher or a helper, you can call the Parish Office or our Catechist Co Ordinator, Lorrene Gorman on 0414 471 329.

#### **Children's Liturgy Volunteers Needed**

Children's Liturgy is on during the school terms at 6pm and 9.30am Masses. We try to keep your rostered times to a maximum of 3 each term. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

#### **Adopt a Garden**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to adopt a section of the parish gardens. If you are experiencing any problems with the work you are doing in your section, if you have any queries or would like to join this group, please contact the Parish Office, who will put you in touch with Greg Hall, the coordinator.

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The modules are available to complete online at <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/>

**Cycle 1 (New staff/volunteers who have not completed any training within the Diocese)**

**Cycle 2 (Renewal Training for staff/volunteers who completed Cycle 1 two years ago)**

Should you prefer to complete the modules in face-to-face meetings, the following dates are available:

#### **Cycle 1 (Initial)**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September (Modules 1-3) 10am-3pm at St Marys Parish

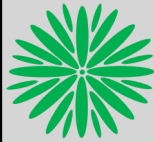
For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

## Diocesan News

### **Launch of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church**

The Diocese of Parramatta is excited to announce the launch of our **Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church 2024-2028: 'Behold, I am with you'**.

This plan marks the culmination of our 16-month Synod journey, a time of listening, discernment, and envisioning the future of our Diocese. Now, we have a shared roadmap to revitalise our local communities and guide our mission in the years ahead. To explore and download the Pastoral Plan, visit <https://parracatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Behold-I-Am-With-You-Always-Pastoral-Plan-for-a-Synodal-Church-2024-2028-WEBv.pdf>



### **MET Worship Children's Liturgy Workshop**

*Children's liturgy team members are invited to attend a workshop with an outline of the Diocesan Guidelines and a Children's Liturgy Q&A session with the Diocesan Liturgy Educator, Sr Mary-Louise Walsh.*

**Thursday 19th September from 7pm - 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown.**

To register or for more information, please email Lucy on [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or use this link: <https://parracatholic.org/events/met-childrens-liturgy-workshop-19-sept/>

### **Positions Vacant:**

- Development Manager - Property Services, Diocese of Parramatta.
  - Parish Secretary - Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmere.
  - Lead Facilitator of Diocesan Plan Implementation - Diocese of Parramatta - **Applications close 25 September**
- More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](https://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/)

### **Will Wonders Never Cease. What Will Be Your Legacy?**

A gift in your Will is an enduring way to give thanks to God and share your blessings beyond your lifetime.



During *Include A Charity Week*, we invite you - after providing for your loved ones - to consider a gift in your Will to our parish or a Catholic ministry in our Diocese. Legacy gifts advance Christian works of faith, hope, and charity for future generations.

For information on remembering our Church in your Will: [parracatholic.org/giftsinWills](https://parracatholic.org/giftsinWills)

# The Living Word

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

8th September 2024

## First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*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!**

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.)**

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.)**

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

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James  
*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

Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*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.'

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

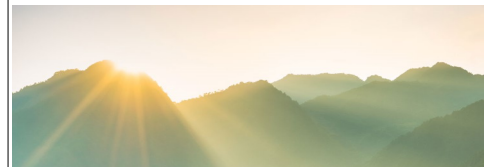
### Questions for Adolescents

- \* Why did Jesus take the man aside in private rather than healing him in front of the crowd?
- \* What is significant about Jesus touching the man in such a personal way?
- \* Why did Jesus travel and perform miracles outside of Jewish territories?
- \* In what areas of your life do you need to 'be opened'?
- \* How can you cross the boundaries and make a difference in someone else's life like Jesus did?

### Questions for Adults

- \* What message emerges from the gospel passage for you?
- \* Why did the gospel writer make reference to the passage from Isaiah in the words of the crowd?
- \* What might have happened next in the life of the man who was healed?
- \* Why was Jesus so keen to keep his actions quiet?

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## REFLECTION *by* Dianne Bergant CSA

Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world.

There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims, 'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.' The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present.

Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way. Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

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## REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*by* Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

People are amazed that Jesus can cure deafness. They are probably also amazed that Jesus would even be interested in giving any attention to a person who cannot hear. In his culture it was a popular belief that if you were deaf or blind or disabled in any way, it was because of a sin – your own sin or the sin of your parents. Anyone with such a condition was considered a social outcast, but Jesus is modelling a new type of behaviour. He reaches out to anyone and everyone – even the ones most people are afraid to touch or talk to.

What makes someone a social outcast in your school? (Please do not name any names, but discuss the traits or criteria that might be used to decide why a person might be given such a status.)

Who decides who the social outcasts are? Is there complete agreement, or do different people have different ideas of who is acceptable and who is not acceptable? Does everyone know their own status? Is everyone aware that they are cast as acceptable or not acceptable? If so, how do they know?

What would Jesus say about the social games that are played out by young people in their schools and in their circles of friends? What advice would Jesus give you? Are you willing to follow it? Why or why not?

Do you have any friends or relatives who are deaf? Do you know any sign language? If you yourself are deaf, what is it like not hearing in a world built for those who can hear?

© St Mary's Press

## Reflections *by* Greg Sunter

### 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.

### Scriptural context

#### Isaiah's Prophecy

All three synoptic gospel writers were at pains to demonstrate that Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of the scriptures. This reference to Isaiah's prophecy appears in all three synoptic gospels. It is perhaps most familiar in the context of the Gospel of Luke, where the gospel writer actually combines it with a different passage from Isaiah and portrays Jesus as reading it in the synagogue as an announcement of his mission (Lk 4: 16-21). It is good to have the Isaiah text as the first reading this week and then see the way it is referred to in the gospel of the day.

### 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.



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August

*For political leaders*

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.



# Children's Worksheet

## Jesus cures a man who cannot hear or speak



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Finish the story of Jesus healing the deaf man by adding the missing words and pictures.

Jesus travelled to the land of Decapolis.

A crowd of people \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus to heal a man who was \_\_\_\_\_ and could not speak properly.

Draw Jesus walking along the road

Draw the deaf man

Jesus touched the man's \_\_\_\_\_ and tongue and said, 'Effatha!', meaning '\_\_\_\_\_ up'.

The man was very happy because now he could hear and talk! The people praised Jesus.



Draw the people celebrating and praising Jesus



Jesus did many good things, such as healing people and helping those in need. What are some good things you can do for others?

Follow the path into the ear to find out what Jesus said to the deaf man. Write down each letter in sequence as you pass them.

' \_\_\_\_\_ !'

*With many thanks to all these local businesses  
who support our parish throughout the year.*

*Please consider supporting them when in need of these services...*



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# Solutions

Follow the path into the ear to find out what Jesus said to the deaf man. Write down each letter in sequence as you pass them.

**START** **E** **T** **F** **H** **A** **A** **F** **FINISH**

**‘ EFFATHA ! ’**