

ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

[Mary Help of Christians Church]



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Free Parish App **myFaith** (available in Apple Store or Google Play)



Rev. Fr Paul Aguilar, PP | Mrs. Liz Hearne, *parish secretary* | Rev. Paul Manvell, *deacon*

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

05 SEPTEMBER 2021

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading | Isaiah 35:4-7

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.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 145(146):7-10

Response: 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.

Second Reading | James 2:1-5

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.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 4:23

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

Gospel | Mark 7:31-37

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Our History, Our Story 1971-1981

Father John Curran left us in February 1982 bound for Inverell. He was replaced by Father Gerard Hanna who came here from Warialda. A member of an Armidale family involved in business there for many years, he had been in London parishes after Ordination and was especially talented with church music. He was able to arrange the music for the Opening Mass at our new church. It was magnificent. He left us and spent a time at Saint Nicholas, East Tamworth. He was then placed at Moree where he remained until 2002 when he became Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

Ever increasing cost meant further delays in building our church. A new architect to the district, Michael Nelson from Uralla, was commissioned to produce working drawings for a complex, estimated cost to be \$620,000. These drawings were shown as overhead projections at all Masses on 22nd /23rd May. Comments were invited. The plans were readily accepted, so we were on our way at last to a new church, 14 years after Father Meehan planned to build his War Memorial Church.

*(Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still...
Recounted and written by Kitty Thomas)*

(The Church Upon the Hill – Kitty Thomas)

COVID RELIEF SPECIAL COLLECTION INDIA THANKS

A letter of thanks to parishioners was received by Bishop Kennedy from Father Joby Kavungal, Major Superior of the Rogationist Fathers in India:

“Let me express my sincere gratitude to you and your esteemed Diocese for your timely help, concern and love towards our Congregation of the Rogationists and especially to our Province. It was indeed a great help and relief for many who are suffering.”

The funds raised assisted:

- 15 of our most needy families in Kerala
- 15 single-parents of our children in Snehabhavan
- Children in our Orphanage in Nalgonda-Telangana
- Distributed to Rogationist Academy Community who are feeding the hungry in the streets of Aluva
- Distributed to Provincial Community who are feeding the hungry in the streets of Angamaly
- Vaccination of 50 persons

THE WORD IN OTHER WORDS

First Reading | Commentary

While Israel was still in being, the Day of the Lord was a threat, a day of expected punishment. Once the axe of the Babylonian exile had fallen, and disaster had come upon the whole of Israel and Judah, the Day of the Lord becomes a promise of salvation. Hence this lovely, joyful poem, looking forward to the coming of the Lord to heal Israel and take vengeance on her tormentors. It looks forward to the coming of the Lord himself, not of his representative. We call it ‘messianic’, as though it concerned the coming of the Lord’s anointed. But in the expectation of the deliverance of Israel, even up to the time of Jesus, it was not clear whether God would visit the earth personally (whatever that would mean) to effect the total reversal of all things and the healing of all misery, or whether his messenger and herald would come first. In the late prophecies of Malachi, not long before the Incarnation, the prophet Elijah will come as the Lord’s herald, to prepare the way. So was John the Baptist this Elijah-figure, preparing for Jesus? Or is Jesus preparing for the Lord? Or is the coming of Jesus the coming of the Lord?

Second Reading | Commentary

The Letter of James has been described as ‘a manifesto for social justice’, and among all its pieces of advice this is certainly a strong emphasis. Concern for the poor and the less fortunate runs right through the Bible. Human beings were created in the image of God, and this is one of the ways in which this image must be expressed. So Israel is constantly told, ‘You must treat the stranger among you as I treated you when you were strangers in Egypt’. Similarly, widows and orphans are the special object of God’s care. In the beatitudes of Luke’s gospel the poor, the hungry and those who weep are assured of God’s blessing. In more modern times the great Papal Encyclicals on social issues gave the first official teaching anywhere on the rights of exploited classes after the industrial revolution, the right to a just wage, to health care, to form trade unions, and so on. However, it is always instinctive and natural – as this witty and poignant reading shows – to give more honour to the Lord Mayor at the front than to the tramp who shuffles in at the back of the Church, forgetting that in God’s eyes they have just the same value.

Gospel Reading | Commentary

The roundabout route taken by Jesus from Sidon to the Lake via the Decapolis is often used to claim that the evangelist Mark did not himself know the Holy Land. On the other hand the reliability of the tradition behind the story is confirmed by the Aramaic word ‘*Ephphatha*’. The gospel tradition received its present form in Greek-speaking lands, which makes it all the more remarkable that there remain such nuggets of Jesus’ own language.

Jesus’ activity as he goes around ‘doing all things well’ is the coming of God into the world, the Day of the Lord when the tongues of the dumb will sing for joy. Jesus is the sacrament of God. In him God is active in the world, bringing peace, healing and joy. In him people met and experienced God. His gestures of putting his fingers into the man’s ears and touching his tongue with spittle are affectionate ways of showing that God is physically at work in him. In a modern hygiene-conscious world such gestures might be frowned upon. But if we are truly acting as the members of Christ’s body in the world we cannot hold back, and from time to time will be involved physically and totally in helping others. We too can bring Christ’s healing in countless simple, but often costly and courageous, ways.

Sf ‘absence makes the heart grow fonder’, it may be that, rather than becoming accustomed to doing Church from home, our hunger for the Eucharist will intensify and make us value all the more gathering for it when at last we can. In the meantime, we’ve been given a time of retreat to meditate upon what Holy Communion means to us all and we’ve been given new opportunities and new pastoral strategies. - *Archbishop Anthony Fisher, DD*

In your charity, please pray for

Our sick

Shelly Howlett	Barry Winning
Sally Shrago	Fr John Willis
Harryson Rits	Chris Fardy
Petrina (Fardy) Keys	Angela Allan
Ricky Lee Peachy	Jay Peachy
Addison Peachy	Narelle Albans
Julien Ryan	Laurence Hearne
John Green	

Our Deceased

+ Gwen Press	+ Nola Addinall
+ Patricia Whale	+ Marilou Molon
+ Athol Ryan	+ Romeo Polinar

Roman Martyrology

06/09 St Petronius, *bishop & confessor*
 07/09 St Regina, *virgin & martyr*
 08/09 Birthday of Mama Mary, *Queen of Heaven & Earth*
 09/09 St Peter Claver, *priest*
 10/09 St Pulcheria, *empress & virgin*
 11/09 Sts Protus & Hyacinth, *martyrs & eunuchs*

Omnnes sancti Márytes, oráte pro nobis

COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
 we pray for care and healing.
 For those who are particularly vulnerable,
 we pray for safety and protection.
 For all who experience fear or anxiety,
 we pray for peace of mind and spirit.
 For affected families who are facing difficult decisions
 between food on the table or public safety,
 we pray for policies that recognize their plight.
 For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
 we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.
 For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration
 status,
 we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.
 For our brothers and sisters around the world,
 we pray for shared solidarity.
 For public officials and decisionmakers,
 we pray for wisdom and guidance.
 Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope,
 comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant
 healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

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PASTORAL CARE

Under the NSW Health “Other Reasonable Excuses for Leaving Home,” priest or religious minister or member of a religious order are able to leave residence in order to provide pastoral care. This means that Deacon Paul and Fr Paul can undertake home visits to provide one or all of the following: Deacon Paul (holy communion), Fr Paul (holy communion, anointing of the sick and hear confession). Please let us know how can we help.

TV / ONLINE MASS

HOW TO PREPARE FOR TV/ONLINE MASS

1. Prepare yourselves well.
2. Do not watch it with a cup of coffee or tea in hand. Mobile phone in silent or flight mode.
3. Before the Mass, read the Mass readings to prepare yourselves to hear them better once they are proclaimed in the Eucharist.
4. Have a few moments too to think what you are to thank the Lord for and what to offer to him during this Mass.
5. Remember that you are praying this Eucharist with many other fellow Catholics not only in our parish but all over the world.
6. Stay in reverent gesture throughout the Mass, standing and sitting up properly when possible.
7. Do not watch the Mass. Join it with your prayers, responses and singing. Join in it with your family.
8. At the time of communion, make the Act of Spiritual Communion. At the end of the TV or online Mass, take some moment of silence.

TV / ONLINE MASS SCHEDULE

TV Mass - Channel 10, every Sunday 06.00am

Online:

Armidale Cathedral Parish | Sunday 10am
<https://youtu.be/B4Q6c5vvnv8>

Zoom backup link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81439016769?pwd=Nlo2TnY5bUZVYTBrZXZxdrQjN1UWNWUT09>

St Mary’s Cathedral (Sydney) | Sunday 10.30am
<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>

St Patrick’s Cathedral (Melbourne) | Sunday 11am
<https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/mass-online>

Hornsby Cathedral Parish (Broken Bay)

Daily Mass 7.00am, Sunday Mass 9.30am.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf7i14XB9TsVBrLvQ/videos>

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Public Worship & Church Bulletin

Our Church is Closed

Due to the snap lockdown, our church building is CLOSED. Public worship and visiting is suspended until further notice. A shrine was erected in the church foyer for people who wish to make a short visit. For updates, visit our parish website: <https://stedwardsparish.org.au/>

Daily Mass (Missa sine populo)

Daily Mass is celebrated in private.
 Monday thru Saturday 12.00noon
 Sunday 09.00am

Church Notices/Bulletin

Church bulletin is sent out via email, if you want to be in our mailing list please notify us by phone or email: southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au
 Also available on the parish website: <https://stedwardsparish.org.au/> Hard copies are available in front of the church: Sat. 12pm-5pm, Sun. 8am-5pm.

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR YOUR HOME

Keeping the Lord's day holy even in isolation.

1. Set up a Sacred Space

Gather a few religious items from around your house to make a small prayer space. Consider including:

- A Bible
- A candle
- Holy Water
- A Crucifix, Cross, or picture of Jesus
- A rosary or images of Mary and the saints.
- Paper & pencils for writing prayer intentions
- If you have children, have them draw pictures of Jesus, or a saint and include their drawing.

2. Begin with the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3. Read and Reflect on the Sunday's Scripture Readings (page 1 & 2)

Begin each reading: A reading from...

End each reading:

The Word of the Lord,
R: Thanks be to God.

End the Gospel reading:

The Gospel of the Lord,
R: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Watch a Gospel reflection Sunday Reflection:

<https://stedwardsparish.org.au/homily/>

or use these questions to reflect on one of the readings

For Adults:

- a. What words, images, or ideas stood out for you in the reading?
- b. How do those words, images, or ideas relate to your life right now?
- c. What is God saying to you? What is He asking you to do?

For Children:

- a. What's happening in this Bible story? What are the people thinking or feeling in this story?
- b. How do you see God working in this Bible story?
- c. What did you learn from this Bible story?

Prayer Moves Us to Action

As we draw closer to the Lord in prayer, He helps us to see the needs of our brothers and sisters. Who do you see in need? • Write a thank you note to workers in hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores, etc. Thank them for working hard to insure health and safety for all of us. • Send snail mail! Make cards for elderly neighbours or the homebound to brighten someone's day. • Contribute towards the social justice initiatives of the parish.

4. Share Prayer Intentions

Consider reading aloud these prayer intentions;

then go around and invite everyone present to share a prayer intention.

Leader: Lord, we turn to you with all our hopes and fears, our joys and our sorrows. Hear our prayers, fill our hearts with hope, and grant us your peace.

Leader: For all people of faith, that we may find closeness to God and His Church, even in times of isolation. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For local and world leaders, may God guide them in making decisions for the common good. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For the sick, the vulnerable, the fearful, and the lonely, may God bring them healing, comfort, and peace. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For what else shall we pray? (Allow each person to share a prayer intention, responding after each prayer with:) We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

4. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

5. An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

6. Closing Prayer

Close with the following prayer of thanksgiving - even in difficult times, we can foster a heart of gratitude!

Lord, we thank you for this time of prayer and for our community of faith who, even in this time of isolation, are drawn together in our continued worship of You. We entrust all our prayers, work, joys, and sufferings to You, Lord Jesus, and ask you to fill our hearts with hope and love.

For what do we give thanks?

After everyone has a chance to share, end with:

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good

All: His mercy endures forever.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.