

First Reading Is 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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1
(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading Jas 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.

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

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.'

Next weeks readings: First Reading Is 50:5-9, Responsorial Psalm Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9, Second Reading Jas 2:14-18, Gospel Acclamation Gal 6:14, Gospel Mk 8:27-35

PARISH

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NEWSLETTER

9th September 2018

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

The Parish has been entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco since 2000



St. John the Baptist



St. Monica

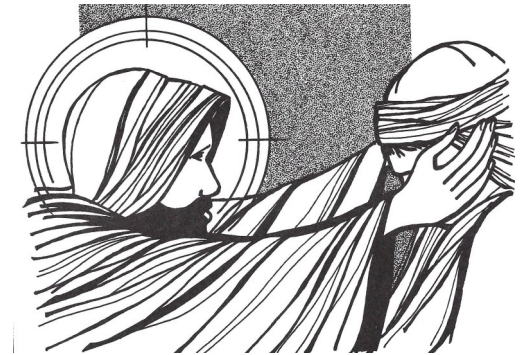
Dear Friends,

In today's first reading we hear the prophet Isaiah's enthusiastic promise that someone is coming who will open the eyes of the blind, unseal the ears of the deaf, cure the lame and make the dumb speak.

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled when God becomes man in Jesus Christ—and in today's gospel we see an incident where using the rather strange techniques of Jewish and Greek healers of the time, he cures a deaf person and is acclaimed as Messiah.

In 2018 we need a messiah, a saviour as much as people needed one 2000 years ago. We need one who will open **our** ears: open them to the eternal wisdom of the Father - but also open them to the cries of people in need whom we are well able to help. We need a saviour who will open **our** eyes: open them to the everlasting truth of Christ's teachings - but also open them to the plight of the homeless in our society. We need a saviour who will loosen the bonds of **our** tongues: loosen them so that in our words we can proclaim the goodness of God - but also so that our tongues will be ready to speak words of kindness and not of hurt, words of forgiveness and not of spite, words of encouragement and support rather than words of mockery.

St James tells us in today's second reading that its not so much our individual physical problems like blindness or deafness that count, but our indifference to those who are down-trodden in our society. We should be protesting about our government's callous treatment of asylum seekers.



Alone among the countries of the western world Australia incarcerates asylum seekers for more than a few weeks. Many, including children have been confined to the island of Nauru for five years, facing the prospect of indefinite detention for the "crime" of fleeing religious persecution and seeking a better life. Criminals convicted of manslaughter, and armed robbery often cop a lighter sentence! We treat fellow humans this way as a deterrent to show other would-be asylum seekers the brutality that awaits them. St James criticizes our double standards.

As we celebrate our Mass together today let us ask God to forgive any of our words or actions which have not contributed to peace and harmony. Let us ask for the courage to raise our voices against injustice, to change us from being crippled inside into a people who are a sign that the Messiah has come and is active among us.

Wishing you a rejuvenating Spring-time and all God's blessings.

Fr Lawrie

**PARISH DIARY
September 2018**

8 Saturday, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 9.00am Mass at St John's
- 9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation at St. John's

- 6:00pm Vigil Mass at St. Johns

9 Sunday, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8.30am Mass at St Monica's
- 10.00am Mass at St. Johns

10 Monday, Week 23

11 Tuesday, Week 23

- 9.00am Mass at St. John's

12 Wed, Week 23

- 7.30pm Fin. Com. Mtg.

13 Thursday, St John Chrysostom

- 12.00pm Mass at St John's

14 Friday, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- 9.00am Mass at St John's

- 7.00pm Ordination of Fr Fidelis Udousoro

15 Saturday, Our Lady of Sorrows

- 9.00am Mass at St John's

- 9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation at St. John's

- 6:00pm Vigil Mass at St. Johns

16 Sunday, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8.30am Mass at St Monica's

- 10.00am Mass at St. Johns

Candidates' Corner

Candidates are nearing the completion of their preparation for joining with the faith community at the table of the Eucharist. They will be reflecting on what it means to share in the Body and Blood of Christ and what this means for each one of us. What it asks of us is summed up in the hymn they have been singing - Go Now You Are Sent Forth.

First Eucharist

Everyone is invited to share in welcoming the young people as they celebrate Eucharist with us for the first time on **Sunday 23 September** at the 10.00am Mass. Join with them as they continue the celebrations following Mass. (A plate would be welcome.)

Social Justice Sunday

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 September. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land'. The Statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing. For details about the Social Justice Statement, call (02) 8306 3499.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL warmly welcomes all to our next Healing Mass on **12th September** at St. Joseph's Church (side chapel) cnr. Macquarie/Harrington Sts in the city. Evening commences with Songs of Praise and Worship at 7.30 pm. There will be an anointing during the Mass and opportunity for personal prayer afterwards. Evening concludes around 9pm and supper for those who wish to stay. Enquiries: Di van Tienen 0447350379

The annual **John Wallis Memorial Lecture** will be delivered by family man, theologian and author, Mr Michael McGirr, an entertaining and anecdotal speaker. In *God, Family and Other Home Truths*, he will share, what it is like to ride the bumpy journey to faith and meaning with three teenagers in the internet age. Auslan interpreter. Books for sale. Supper. Donation: \$10/\$5. Guilford Young College, Hobart Campus 7pm Wednesday 19 September: RSVP (catering) Eva Dunn 0417 734 503.

National Council of Priests Convention

Fr Lawrie will be attending the NCP Convention in Canberra from Monday 10th till Saturday 15th September. The Convention will be held in Canberra and the theme is, "Being Catholic in Australia today.... After the Royal Commission and before the Plenary Council 2020."

Spring High Tea

Last chance to book for the Spring High Tea! Tempting sweet and savoury bites, silent auction, lucky door, enjoy Dr. Bridgette Watts sharing her experiences in Nepal, fascinating company and more! All proceeds go to supporting students at Don Bosco Technical School, Biratnagar, Nepal. Tickets/bookings available after Mass or RSVP to phillipsfelecia@hotmail.com or mob. 0447 887 512 by Sunday 9 September.

Parish Fundraiser

(Please note the change of dates)

Saturday 6th October after the 6pm Mass. Trade table, Assortment of gifts, books, plants, lemons, jewellery, Jam, pickles, cakes etc.

Sunday, 7th October after 10:00am Mass. Trade table as above, and Sausage sizzle. This fundraiser event can only be a success if each and every one of us contribute something, even our time. Any items for the trade table would be appreciated. Contact Kay Grainger.



FOOTY POINTS MARGIN

Found - one winner. Don Ambler had the winning ticket for round 22 (8 points). Round 20 (3 points), round 21 (43 points), round 23 (22 points) and the 'bye' round (12 points) are still waiting to be claimed. The nominated game for the Semi-Final will be the game to be played on Friday night.

OUR SICK - Please remember in your prayers:

Leonie Hills, Ester Underwood, Monique Matzner, Carol-ann Jones, Zayden Direen, Mary Nichols, Charlie White, Patricia Mc Donah, Sarah Gill, Nance Bennette, Trevor Coleman, Kate Hayes-Newington, Patricia Leamey, Delma Walsh, Maila Beekmeijer, Peter Crane, Ted Grainger, Lani Baron, Marie Knight, Alida Beric, Nell Smith, Peter Drake, Eileen Sherrin Tracey Deayton and Warwick Cardamatis

WEEKEND MASSES

St John's, Glenorchy

- 9.00am Saturday
- 6.00pm Saturday Vigil
- 10.00am Sunday

St. Monica's, Chigwell

- 8.30am Sunday

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. John's, Glenorchy

- 9.00am Tues, Friday, Sat.
- 12.00pm Thursday

ROSARY

At St. John's, Glenorchy

- 8.40am every Saturday

RECONCILIATION

At St. John's, Glenorchy

- 9.30am & 5.15pm Sat.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

At St. John's, Glenorchy

- Cancelled until further notice

LEGION OF MARY

at St. John's, Glenorchy

- 6.45 pm Every Tuesday

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER GROUP

at St. John's, Glenorchy

- 1st Wednesday of the month at 10.00am

COUNTERS' ROSTERS

This Week: 10 Sep

Anne Hansch's Team

Next Week : 17 Sept

John Grace's Team

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Envelopes: \$ 1,040.00

Loose Plate: \$ 792.15

Direct Debit: \$ 530.00

TOTAL: \$ 2,362.15

Weeks Budget: \$ 2,500

Deficit: \$ 137.85