

Special Ephpheta Newsletter

Hi everyone - welcome to our second special Ephpheta newsletter!

This is such a hard time for everyone in the world. We are all missing each other. We are all uncertain about what the future will be. We are all being told that we need to avoid physical contact with each other.

But physical distancing does not mean we need to be apart from each other. We can connect with each other in different ways.

For the Ephpheta team this has meant changing how we serve the community. We are still all here for you but in a different way!

So what have we been doing?

- Having interpreted Masses from St Mary's Cathedral - we hope that you enjoyed seeing the Good Friday service and Easter Sunday mass on Channel 7. If you missed it, you can find the links here:
 - Good Friday: <https://youtu.be/sqbwH6GExUQ>
 - Easter Sunday: <https://youtu.be/Cv7SrmtHzCU>
- We have been making regular daily posts on Facebook and on our Ephpheta website. You can find the Ephpheta Facebook page information here: <https://www.facebook.com/thecentrefordeaf>
- We have been keeping in touch with the community through Facebook, Skype, Facetime, Zoom, email and SMS. We have been sending out special cards and letters. We have been making these extra newsletters.

The Ephpheta team has been working really hard to make sure that everyone in our deaf community is safe and supported.

If you would like us to contact you, our contact details are on page 10 in this newsletter. We cannot meet face to face but we can still chat with each other in lots of different ways!

So sit back with a cuppa and enjoy this special newsletter. We have included some extra games and a recipe which you might like to try to make while you are at home.

Please - stay home, stay safe and look after yourselves and each other. We will all get through this. Think how wonderful it will be when we see each other again!!!

Big hugs from all the Ephpheta team xo



A message from Liz & Dave!

Liz's report

Hi – Greetings to all in our wonderful community!

As I am writing this, I have been thinking about how different life is at the moment.

What a strange Easter it was. No Good Friday gatherings, no Easter Masses with each other. No catching up with family and friends. Many of you know that my parents are elderly – how much I want to give them both a hug!

But even through these are hard times, I have so much to be grateful for. These include:

- The amazing Ephpheta team who are working so hard to support the community
- The Catholic Church for inviting Ephpheta to be a part of the masses broadcast on Channel 7 on Good Friday and Easter Sunday
- Our governments for trying to lead us all wisely and keep us safe
- Our doctors and nurses who are doing incredible work to keep people healthy
- People working in the shops so that we can still buy food, petrol and things we need for our homes
- People working so we have electricity, water and the internet.

The other thing which we have with us for all time is God's love. God who raised his Son to life at Easter after death so that we may all have eternal life with God. God who knows us and loves us. God who is always with us.

These are challenging weeks and months. We do not know what the future will be. But one thing is absolutely certain – God is with us and will never leave us. When you do not know what else to do, spend some time with God. He is always waiting for you.

Take care and stay safe. Until next time,
Liz



Dave's report

The world has changed so much in a short time. We have had bush fires then heavy rains and now the CoronaVirus-2019 (COVID-19 for short) pandemic. This outbreak started in Wahun, China. We must not blame Chinese people. It just happened and Chinese people were the first to get infected. We have to accept what happened and take action straight away. We must stay indoors unless we need to go shopping for important things, visit our doctors and exercise regularly. Often, we want to see our extended families especially the older members of our families. It is not easy.

The Ephpheta Centre is still closed to the community. We will let you know once the social isolation rules are lifted (cancelled). We have to be patient.

We have been very busy typing and printing newsletters and cards for the Ephpheta Deaf and hard of hearing community. We were so proud to have three Auslan interpreters help make the Mass services at the St Mary Cathedral last Easter accessible to many people in Australia last weekend.

We have been posting videos and comments in Facebook. Please find Ephpheta Centre on the Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/thecentrefordeaf> We also have been posting lots of videos on our Ephpheta Centre website. Please visit <https://www.ephpheta.org.au/updates>

We are available for one to one video calls 9.30am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday. We will do our best to have a chat with as many deaf people as we can. We can use FaceTime, Skype, FaceBook Messenger, Text (SMS) and this fantastic Zoom conferencing app. We also write letters!

Communication. Love. Patience. Hope. Compassion. Support. They are what we need for our families, friends and the deaf/hard of hearing community.

Hope you all had a lovely long Easter weekend. The Jesus has risen! Peace be with you all.

Stay safe and well!

David.



Fr Michael's Reflection...

Party Rulez

Well, it's Easter! You know what that means?! The Church's rules say that we must party for **eight whole days**. And then there is a lot of excitement all the way until Pentecost. I know what you're thinking... It's hard work partying for such a long time. However, being happy is good for us. It would be very strange if we received the best gift ever, the gift of eternal life which Jesus promised, and were not happy about it! People get very happy about little things like winning the lotto. People do amazing things for people they love, like throwing surprise birthday parties or make outrageous proposals of love.

We have the perfect love of God to celebrate. We have the love of Jesus which never fails and is greater than we can imagine. So, rules are rules. We've got to celebrate. No more crying, or stress or anxiety. No more anger, tears, or depression. We have the hope of everlasting life to celebrate and a God to love. Thanks to God, we also have a family to celebrate with. Our family is the Church.

This Easter, I think I'll make an effort to talk to some saints I haven't spoken to in a while. I'll tell you about them as well. God's family is so big, it's hard to remember everyone. However, that won't be a problem in heaven.

At big parties there is often a catch-cry for people to shout out and respond, and get excited. Our catch cry at Easter is this:

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed (truly), Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let us celebrate!

God bless and happy Easter everyone,

Fr Michael.



CANCELLED EVENTS AND MASSES

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel some of our upcoming days out, events and Masses.
We will continue to give updates as soon as we can. See below for more information...

CANCELLED

CANCELLED

Date	Time	Where	Event
Sunday 19th April	10am	St Patrick's 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown	Integrated Mass
Wednesday 22nd April	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Thursday 23rd April	10.30am	Bunnings Greenacre	Women's Day Out
Friday 24th April	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Friday 24th April	10am	Erin Fairwood Court Central NSW	CC Deaf Cuppa
Sunday 26th April	11am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Sunday Mass
Wednesday 29th April	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 1st May	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 3rd May	11am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Sunday Mass
Wednesday 6th May	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 8th May	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Deaf Café
Friday 8th May	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Saturday 9th May	6pm	Our Lady of the Rosary 92 Glennie Street, North Gosford	Integrated Mass

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Date	Time	Where	Event
Wednesday 13th May	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 15th May	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 17th May	10am	St Patrick's 51-53, Walsall Street, Blenheim	Sunday Mass
Wednesday 20th May	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 22nd May	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 24th May	11am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Sunday Mass
Wednesday 27th May	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Thursday 28th May	10am	Wesley Top	Combined Day Out
Friday 29th May	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 31st May	9AM	St Patrick's Catholic Church 53 Gale Street, Mortlake	Integrated Mass

This is a current list of our cancelled events.

We will provide you with an update on any changes as soon as we can.

The Ephpheta Centre will provide another newsletter in mid-May with an update on our events.

If you have any questions, please contact the Ephpheta team. Our details are on page 10.

Spot the Differences in Jesus Is Alive!

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 13 things that are different.



Jesus Walked on Water Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.



RULES

	7	2			4	9		
3		4		8	9	1		
8	1	9		6	2	5	4	
7		1				9	5	
9				2		7		
			8	7		1	2	
4		5		1	6	2		
2	3	7			5		1	
			2	5	7			

The rules of Sudoku are simple!

1. Each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares.
2. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.
3. The difficulty is that each vertical (across) nine-square column, or horizontal (up and down) nine-square line across, within the larger square, must also contain the numbers 1-9, without repetition.

*Every puzzle has just one right answer. **Good luck!***

							1	
	4	9	1		2			7
7					9		4	
				2			5	8
5			8		1			9
3	9			6				
	6		7					3
1			2		5	4	8	
	2							

2				1				
	6					9		3
			6		9	7	5	
		5						4
1	2						8	7
8						5		
	9	7	3		8			
3		2					6	
				2				9

3			6	1				8
		2		3		7	6	
			7	5		2	9	
	9		8				1	
	4		1	7	3		5	
	5				9		2	
	3	7		4	1			
	2	5		8		9		
4				9	7			2

						9	2	6
2	6		9	1		5		
	5	4		3				
6			8		5		9	7
8								1
5	4		1		9			2
				2		1	6	
		2		9	6		3	5
3	8	6						

A Q T R K Q H S J A S A
H L S S E C E E Y Y G P
P C L Y A P V V J J B O
E A R E C I O J E R R S
A K R U L Y L H X S E T
C P T T H U V P H K T L
E G O D Y C I E D B S E
N E S I R U P A J P A S
S X X T L H M J D E E Y
P E N T E C O S T W R R
Y Y G R J E S U S A L Y
Y Q D U X K G W M L J D



FIND A WORD

ALLELUIA	MARY
APOSTLES	PARTY
CHURCH	PEACE
EASTER	PENTECOST
GOD	PREACH
HOPE	REJOICE
JESUS	RISEN
LOVE	SHEPHERD



Sultana Slice

By Murreall O'Connor

About this recipe...

This is a slice which is much loved by the team at the Ephpheta Centre – Nicole's husband calls it "the Deaf cake!".

For a variation you can substitute mixed fruit for the sultanas.



Made by June Stathis!

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| • 1 cup sugar (better if you use less) | • 1 cup sultanas |
| • 1 cup coconut (optional) | • 1 egg |
| • 1 cup self raising flour | • 125g margarine melted |

Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C.
- Combine all dry ingredients, add egg and melted margarine. Mix well.
- Place in greased lamington tin – bake for 35 minutes (or slightly less).

Contacting Ephpheta Centre Staff

If you need to contact any staff, here are our contact details:



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Contact one of the Ephpheta staff if you would like to arrange a time to chat with us.

This can be done during Ephpheta business hours:

Tuesday - Friday (**9.30am - 4.30pm**).

Zoom with the Ephpheta Centre

The Ephpheta Team has been using **Zoom** for our regular meetings and catch ups.

This is a fantastic program you can use to make group video calls and catch up with friends while we can't see each other at the moment. We have prepared instruction sheets on how to download and access **Zoom**. If you would like to learn how to make group calls over the computer/iPad, please contact one of the Ephpheta team. We will be happy to help.

Zoom is **fun** to use and we can all chat together while we are at home. Make a cup of tea and join us for a chat!



At this time we cannot come together to celebrate Mass each Sunday. However, the Catholic Church has given us a special dispensation (special rule) as we cannot attend Sunday Mass. Instead we can:

1. Read the Sunday Mass readings for the day;
2. Watch a Mass on-line. Keep an eye on the Ephpheta website and Facebook page where you can access interpreted masses.
3. Say a prayer. See the prayer below for a special prayer when we cannot receive communion.



It is a nice idea to set up a special place in your home to do this. Set up a cross, a candle, your rosary beads and maybe a Statue of Mary to help you to put yourself in the presence of God and turn off the world!

One night I had a dream...

*I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord,
and Across the sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord.
When the last scene of my life flashed before us,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that many times along the path of my life,
There was only one set of footprints.
I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest
and saddest times in my life
This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about
"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,
You would walk with me all the way;
But I have noticed that during the
most troublesome times in my life,
There is only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why in times when I
needed you the most, you should leave me.
The Lord replied, "My precious, precious
child. I love you, and I would never,
never leave you during your times of
trial and suffering.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.*

Prayer of Spiritual Communion when we cannot receive Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there,

I embrace You and unite myself to You;

permit not that I

should

ever be

separated

from You.

Amen.



Readings for Mass - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday 19 April

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The people that changed their lives now followed the teaching of the apostles and shared the community life with them. They prayed and broke the bread together.

The apostles worked many miracles and did amazing things, and many people respected the apostles.

All those that believed in Jesus Christ lived together in community and they shared everything together.

They sold their things and shared the money with everybody, depending on what each person needed.

Everyday they went as a group to the Temple. They broke the bread in their homes, sharing food gladly and generously. They praised God, and people respected them.

Everyday the number of people in the community increased (bigger and bigger), and more people were saved by the Lord.

Psalm - GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS GOOD.

Let all the people of Israel say:

'God's love will never end (finish).'

The enemy attacked me and I fell.

But the Lord saved me, he gave me strength.

The stone rejected by the builders became the important corner stone.

The work of the Lord is wonderful.

This day is special.

We rejoice and we are glad.



GIVE
thanks
to the LORD
for HE is
GOOD

A READING FROM ST PETER'S LETTER

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through his great mercy, God gave us new life as children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance.

This inheritance will never be spoilt or fade away, because God keeps it for us in heaven.

Through faith, God's power will guard (protect) you until the end of time when God will show his salvation to all.

This will give you great joy, even though you now go through hard times.

When God reveals (shows) Jesus Christ, your faith will become real - like gold tested in fire - but faith is more precious than gold because gold can be spoilt.

Then you will receive praise and glory and honour.

You have not seen Jesus but you love him; and without seeing Jesus Christ, you still believe and you have great joy - no words can explain this.

You are confident of what will happen in the end, because your faith helps you look forward to the salvation of your souls.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the disciples were together in the room, and the doors were closed and locked, because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and his side.



The disciples were filled with joy because they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. The Father sent me, so I too send you."

Jesus breathed on them and said,

"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, their sins are not forgiven."



One of the twelve apostles, Thomas, was not there. Later the disciples told him, "We saw the Lord."

Thomas answered, "I refuse to believe until I see the holes in his hands and touch them. I will not believe until I see the hole in his side and touch it."

Eight days later, the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood among them.

He said, "Peace be with you." Then Jesus spoke to Thomas, "Look! Touch my hands. Put your hand in my side and feel it. Doubt no more, but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him,

"You believe because you can see me. But the people that have not seen me and still believe, they are truly blessed."



Jesus did many other miracles and the disciples saw them. But all these other miracles are not written in this book.

All the miracles included in this book are to help you to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that because you believe you can have life through his name.

3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday 26 April

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

On Pentecost day, Peter stood up with the eleven apostles and began to speak in a loud voice to all the people.

He said, "People of Israel, listen to what I now tell you.

Jesus of Nazareth was a man God gave to you. You know because of the signs and miracles that God worked through Jesus Christ when Jesus was on earth with you.

God already knew that you would arrest Jesus, and allow people that did not respect the Law, to crucify him on the cross.

You killed him, but God raised Jesus to life, freeing him from the pains of Hades (hell). It was impossible for death to have power over Jesus. Because as David said:

'I saw the Lord with me always. He is at my right side and I will always be safe. My heart is glad.

My lips shout with joy. My body will rest in hope because you will not let my soul go to Hades (hell).

You will not let the body of the holy one (person) decay (rot). You have taught me the way of life. Through your presence you give me joy.'

Brothers and sisters, I can tell you that David is truly dead; his tomb is here.

David was a prophet, and he knew that God promised him that one of his descendants (future family) would become a king.

David believed in God's promise about the resurrection of Christ; this is why he said:

'He (Christ) would not be left in the place of the dead. His body would not decay (rot).'

God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. By God's right hand, Jesus was lifted up to heaven. Jesus received the Holy Spirit from God as promised.

You now see and hear God's gift given to all of us."

Psalm - LORD, SHOW US THE WAY OF YOUR LIFE.

You protect me Lord and I trust you.

All the good things I have come from you.

I will bless (praise) the Lord because he guides me.

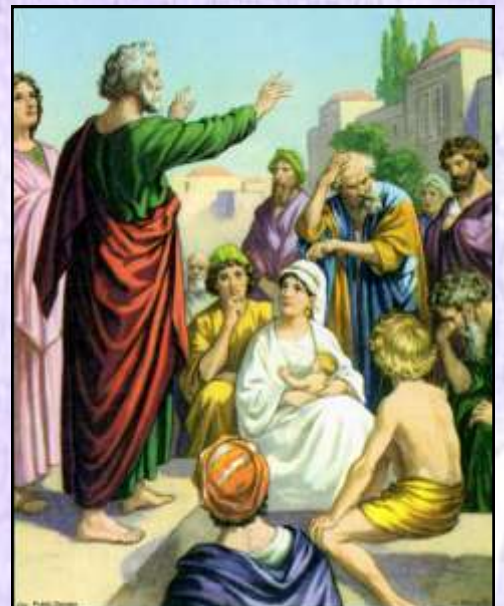
At night he protects my heart.

My heart rejoices, my soul is glad.

You will not let my soul go to Hades (hell).

Lord, you show me your way of life.

I will always be happy with you.



A READING FROM ST PETER'S LETTER

You believe God the Father has no favourites and that He judges each one depending on the things each person has done; then during your time away from home, you must live with reverence for God. You know that in the past your way of life was not good, it was the same bad way your people lived long ago.

But now, your life is saved not by things like silver and gold, they can easily be spoiled; your life is saved by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is like the sacrifice of a lamb that is pure and perfect. God chose Jesus Christ before the creation of the world, but God showed Christ to the world recently for you.

Through Christ you now have faith in God. God raised Christ from the dead and gave him glory, and this helps you to have faith and hope in God.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Two disciples walked to a village named Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. They were both talking about what had happened recently. While they were talking, Jesus himself came and walked with them. They saw him but they did not recognise that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about?" The two disciples stopped, their faces looked very sad.

One of the two disciples, named Cleopas, said to Jesus, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem not knowing the things that happened there in the last few days." Jesus asked, "What things?" They said to him, "All about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a great prophet. He did wonderful work and said wonderful things about God.

But our high priests and our Jewish leaders condemned Jesus to death by crucifying him. We hoped that Jesus would be the one to free Israel. But there's more news: two days ago Jesus was killed; and now we are surprised because some women told us that they went to the tomb early this morning. They could not find the body of Jesus and they came back to tell us that they saw angels. The angels told the women Jesus is alive! Some of our friends went to the tomb, and everything the women had said was true: the body was not in the tomb, they didn't see Jesus.

Then Jesus said to the two disciples, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the message of the prophets. Remember, the prophets said Jesus must suffer before he received glory." So Jesus began to explain the story about Moses and the different prophets, and that all the things written in the scriptures (Bible) were really about Jesus himself.

Then they came near the village, Jesus wanted to continue walking, but the two disciples persuaded him to stay with them. They said, "The day is nearly finished, and it is becoming dark." So Jesus went in to stay with them. They sat down to eat: Jesus took the bread and said the prayer of blessing. He broke the bread and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognised Jesus, but he disappeared. The two disciples said to each other, "While Jesus talked to us along the road explaining the scriptures (Bible), our hearts burned inside us."



The two disciples left Emmaus and quickly walked back to Jerusalem. They found the eleven apostles there together with their friends. The apostles told the two disciples, "Yes, it is true. The Lord has truly risen. He appeared to Simon Peter." So the two disciples told them the story of what had happened along the road, and that they only recognised that the man was Jesus when he broke the bread.

4th Sunday of Easter

Sunday 3 May

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

On Pentecost day Peter stood up with the eleven apostles and began to speak in a loud voice to all the people.

He said, "People of Israel, you should know that you crucified Jesus but God has made him as your Lord and Christ."

When the people heard this, they felt very sad in their hearts. They asked Peter and the apostles, "What should we do?"



Peter answered, "You must repent (be sorry). Each one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ and your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. God's promise is for you and your children, for people living far away, and for all those that the Lord our God will chose for himself."

Peter spoke to the people for a long time, using many different ways to explain. He warned them, "You must save yourselves from evil people today."

The people believed, they accepted everything that he said and they were baptised. That day, about three thousand people joined the disciples and believed in the Lord.

Psalm - THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE GIVES ME EVERYTHING I NEED.

The Lord is my shepherd.

He gives me everything I need.

He lets me rest in green fields.

He leads me to calm pools of fresh water to give me strength.

He guides me along the right way.

He is faithful.

If I walk in the dark, I should not be afraid.

Because the Lord, with his shepherd's crook (stick), will protect me.

The Lord prepared a banquet (feast) for me.

Lord, you anointed my head with oil; my cup is full.

Goodness and kindness will be with me always.

I will live in the Lord's house for ever and ever.



A READING FROM ST PETER'S FIRST LETTER

If you do something wrong, it would be right for you to be punished. But if you are punished for doing something good and you suffer, but remain patient because this would make God happy.

This is what God expects you to do. Christ suffered for you, he gave you an example for you to follow.

He did nothing wrong, no one heard a lie from his mouth. People insulted him but he never revenged.

People tortured him, he did not fight back. He trusted God to judge rightly.

Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross, so that we would stop sinning and live with holiness.

Through his wounds, you are healed. You were like sheep that lost their way, but you came back to the shepherd, and the shepherd will always protect your souls.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to the Jews, "I tell you the truth, any one that wants to enter the sheep pen (special place for sheep) should go through the gate. If a person goes in another way, that person is a thief. One person goes through the gate: the shepherd. The person guarding the gate lets the shepherd in. The sheep listen to the shepherd's voice. The shepherd calls the sheep by name and leads them out. When the shepherd has gathered the sheep, the shepherd starts to walk in front of them, and the sheep follow



because they know the shepherd's voice. The sheep never follow a stranger, they run away because they don't know the stranger's voice."

Jesus told this parable to the people, but they did not understand what it meant.

So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All others that have come are thieves. The sheep refuse to listen to them. I am the gate. Anyone that comes through me will be safe. That person can come in and go out freely and will find green fields. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came so that all will have life and I give full life to all."

5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday 10 May

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

More and more people began to believe in Jesus and the number of disciples increased. About this time, the Hellenists, Greek-speaking people, began to argue with the Jewish people.

The Hellenists (Greek-speaking people) said that when the Jewish people gave food and things to other people, they forgot or ignored the Hellenists (Greek-speaking) widows.

The twelve apostles had a big meeting with all the disciples. They said to them, "We can't stop teaching the Word of God so that we can have more time to give out food.

It is not right to stop preaching the Word of God. So you must choose seven wise men with good names and full of the Holy Spirit. We will give them this responsibility of giving food and looking after people.

Then we will have more time for prayer and preaching." Everybody at the meeting agreed.

They chose seven men: Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus from Antioch, himself a convert to the Jewish faith.

The people brought these seven men to the apostles. The apostles prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased. A large group of Jewish priests accepted the faith.



Psalm - LORD, LET YOUR LOVE BE WITH US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU.

Rejoice in the Lord, all you good people!
Use the harp and sing praise to the Lord.
The word of the Lord is always true.
We trust in his works.

The Lord loves justice and right.
The Lord fills the earth with his love.
The Lord looks on those people that respect him.
He saves their souls from death.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST LETTER

Come to Jesus, the living stone, rejected by people but chosen by God and valued by God.

As living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The scriptures (Bible) say:

‘See, I chose a precious cornerstone and I put this stone in Zion. Any person that believes in this will not be disappointed.’

This stone is valuable to those people that believe. But for those that do not believe, this stone rejected by the builders, became the important corner stone, a stone that makes people fall.

People fall over this stone because they do not believe in God. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a nation (people) blessed by God, God's own people chosen to proclaim his mighty power.

Because from the dark God brought you into his wonderful light.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust God, and trust me (Jesus).”

There are many rooms in my Father's house. I would not tell you this if there were no rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And after I have gone and prepared a place for you, I will come back and take you myself, so that you will always be with me. You know the way to the place I am going.”

Thomas said, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father but only through me. If you know me, you also know my Father. Now you know him and you have seen him.”

Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.”

Jesus said to him, “Philip, I have been with you for a long time and still you don't know me? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. So why do you say, ‘Let us see the Father?’ Do you really believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I spoke to you, they are not my words. These words are from the Father. He lives in me and He is working through me. You must believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If you can't believe, then try and believe because of the things I did. I tell you the truth, any person that believes in me will do the same work as myself. Yes, that person will do greater (better) works, because I am going to the Father.”





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EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS

Have you seen our website recently?

Our website is now being updated regularly
so it is always full of current information.

Please keep checking it!

If you have any ideas or feedback for our
website please contact David at

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www.ephpheta.org.au

Please send your news, stories,
information and requests to Liz or David to
be considered for the next newsletter!



What does "Ephpheta" mean?

The name Ephpheta of our Centre came from the
bible - a story about Jesus meeting a deaf man,
he says "Ephpheta" which means "Be open".

We are always open to you all!