

Special Ephpheta Newsletter

Hello from the Ephpheta team!

Now is a very hard time with corona virus impacting people in NSW and throughout the world. There is a lot of uncertainty and many of us are not sure what to do. This is a very challenging time. We know that it is a time to be careful and continue to look after each other in an appropriate way. We need to continue to support people so that they do not feel more isolated. This is especially the case with people who are older or who have additional health challenges which means that they are at risk of becoming sick. We all need to stay in our homes as much as we can.

Ephpheta knows that it is very important to continue to support our community at this time with faith and love, whilst also keeping people safe. This means that we have to cancel or postpone some events, and look for other ways to support our community. We also know that at this time we need to ask God for his strength, guidance and protection.

So the extra things Ephpheta is doing include:

1. Making this special newsletter!
2. Having interpreted Sunday Masses online
3. Staying in touch with the community safely through Skype, FaceTime SMS/text and written letters
4. Staying in touch with the community through our Facebook page and Ephpheta website
5. Setting up a new webpage called 'Updates'. This has latest online resources related to Ephpheta religious services and the impact of corona virus. Please visit www.ephpheta.org.au/updates

The Ephpheta Centre is closed to the community and most of our staff are working from home.

Here is how we are holding our Ephpheta meetings on video:



If you need to contact any staff, our contact details are on page 24.

Fr Michael is still available for anointing of the sick and bringing communion to you at home.

So make a cup of tea, sit down comfortably in your home and enjoy reading this newsletter. We pray for God to look after every person in our deaf community and to give us the strength to help us to keep looking after each other during this time.

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

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Date	Time	Where	Event
Thursday 26th March	10am	Darlinghurst Gaol	Men's Day Out
Friday 27th March	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Friday 27th March	11.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Lenten Group
Wednesday 1st April	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 3rd April	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 5th April	11am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Palm Sunday
Wednesday 8th April	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Thursday 9th April	7pm	St Stephen's Catholic Church 250 High Street, Perth	Holy Thursday
Friday 10th April	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Deaf Café
Friday 10th April	3pm	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Good Friday
Sunday 12th April	10.30am	Our Lady of the Assumption 7 Underwood Road, Mickleham	Easter Sunday
Wednesday 15th April	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 17th April	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass

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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	Bundamba Greenacre	Women's Day Out
Friday 24th April	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Friday 24th April	10am	Fruit Fair Food Court Central Coast	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
Thursday 28th May	10am	Sydney Zoo	Combined Day Out

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-April
(after Easter) with an update on our events.

If you have any questions, please contact the Ephpheta team.

Our details are on page 24.

We have put together some fun activities
for you to do!

One more on page 23. Let's have some fun!



Spot the Difference - Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 11 things that are different.



LET'S HAVE
SOME FUN!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



JESUS FEEDS 5000

Pope Francis to those isolated because of the coronavirus: 'United to Christ, we are never alone'

Pope Francis is also praying for all people at this difficult time. He has stopped saying Masses to people in Italy due to corona virus,



But he has recently said the following things to all of us – let us be inspired by the recent words of Pope Francis:

“in the present situation, in which we find ourselves living more or less isolated, we are invited to rediscover and deepen the value of the communion that unites all the members of the church.”



“United to Christ, we are never alone, we form one body, of which he is the head.”

“it is a union that is nourished with prayer, and also with spiritual communion in the Eucharists, a practice that is much recommended when it is not possible to receive the sacrament. I say this to everyone, and especially to those living alone.”

“In the present situation, in which we find ourselves living more or less isolated, we are invited to rediscover and deepen the value of the communion that unites all the members of the church.”

I renew my closeness to all who are sick and to those who care for them.” “the many workers and volunteers that help the persons who cannot leave their homes, as well as to all those who reach out to the very poor and the homeless.”

He thanked all these people “for the effort that each of you make to help people in this hard moment.” He prayed, “May God bless you and Our Lady protect you.”



Source:

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/15/pope-francis-those-isolated-because-coronavirus-united-christ-we-are-never-alone>

Mass Cancelled

Following the announcement of the Prime Minister on 22 March, all public celebrations of Mass are currently suspended. **This means that we cannot hold Mass with the deaf community until further notice.** We know that this is very upsetting for many in our Catholic community but we need to keep the community safe and stop the corona virus from spreading. The safest way to do this is by staying at home.

Archbishop Anthony has said that we are all free of our obligation to attend Sunday Mass during this hard time. We can meet this Sunday obligation by doing the following:

1. Watching a live stream of the Mass. Ephpheta will make an interpreted Mass available via our Facebook page and as soon as possible on our website.
If you do not have access to the internet, please contact David via SMS to his mobile number (0408 669 672) and we will forward a DVD to you.
You can also watch an interpreted Mass called "Mass for You at Home" which is on Channel 10. Check your TV guide for the time when it is on (normally early Sunday morning).
You can also download it on your computer via <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>. You will need to sign it to watch it; or
2. Reading the Bible readings of the day.
In this newsletter we have included all of the readings for Mass up to Easter Sunday so that you can read them at home; or
3. Praying the prayer below.

Not being able to go to Mass feels very strange. Some ways to make it feel better are to set up a special place in your home. Get out your rosary beads and light a candle. Say a prayer to God for his wisdom and strength.

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 - 5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday 29 March

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

The Lord says this, "I will open your graves. I will raise you from your graves. I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, because I bring you out of your graves. I will put my spirit in you and you will become alive again. I will lead you back to your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I am the Lord, because I have done as I promised."

Psalm - THE LORD IS MERCIFUL; HE WILL SAVE US.

Lord, my prayer rises up to you.

From the depth of my heart I express my prayer;

Look! Listen to me!

Lord, if you punish us because of our guilt,

No one would continue to live.

But you, Lord, you forgive us.

Because of this, we respect you.

I wait for the Lord to help me.

I trust him.

I wait as (same) people wait for the sun to come up.

The Lord is merciful.

He will save us.

Israel, trust the Lord.

The Lord will forgive us all our sins.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

People interested only in things not spiritual can never make God happy. But you are not like them; you are interested in spiritual things because the Spirit of God lives in you. Any person without the Spirit of Christ inside them does not belong to God. Because of sin, your body feels as if it is dead, but if Christ is within you, then your spirit is alive, and Christ has justified you (made you right) with God. God raised Jesus from death, and this same Spirit of God lives in you, so God will give life to your bodies.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

A man named Lazarus lived in the village of Bethany with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Lazarus was ill. Mary was the same woman that had rubbed ointment on the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair.

Jesus arrived in Bethany and found that Lazarus had already been dead and in the tomb four days. Bethany is about two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews came to see Martha and Mary to comfort them because of their brother's death. Martha heard that Jesus had come, she went out to meet him. Mary stayed sitting at home. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask." Jesus said, "Your brother will rise to life." Martha said, "I know he will rise to life in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Any person that believes in me will have life after death. And the person that lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha said, "Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, yet come into the world."



Jesus saw Mary crying, and the Jews also crying; Jesus was upset and felt deep sorrow in his heart. Jesus said, "Where have you put Lazarus?" They said, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. The Jews said, "Look, Jesus truly loved Lazarus!" But others said, "He opened the eyes of the blind man and cured him. Why could he not stop Lazarus dying?" Still deeply upset, Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone covering it. Jesus said, "Move away the stone." Martha said, "Lord, Lazarus has been buried four days. The smell will be bad." Jesus said, "Remember what I told you, that if you believe you will see God's glory?" So, they moved away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I know that you always listen to me. But I say this for the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me."

After he had said this, he shouted in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came



out. His hands and his feet were tied with strips of cloth and a cloth covered his face. Jesus said to the people, "Remove (take off) the cloths and let him go free."

Many of the Jews that had come to visit Mary, saw what had happened and they believed in Jesus.

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

Sunday 5 April

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem. They stopped near Bethphage on the hill named Mount of Olives. Jesus said to two disciples, "Go into the village, you will find a donkey and a colt (young donkey), both will be tied. You untie them and bring them here. If anybody asks you why you are taking the donkeys, tell that person: 'The Master needs them. When he finishes, he will send them back here.'" This happened to follow a prophecy said a long time ago:



"Tell the city of Zion. Now your king comes to you.

He is humble and he rides on a donkey. He rides on a young donkey, born from a work animal."

So the disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do. They brought the mother donkey and the young donkey. They put their coats over the donkeys and Jesus sat on them. Many people spread their coats on the road. Other people cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Some people walked in front of Jesus. Others walked behind Jesus. All the people shouted:

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Bless him that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"

When Jesus went into Jerusalem, all the people were excited. They asked, "Who is this man?" Some people replied, "This man is Jesus, the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

The Lord has given me language. So, I will know what to say to those that are tired and worn-out.

Every morning the Lord wakes me and teaches me how to listen. The Lord opened my mind.

I did not object nor turn away.

I let people whip my back. I let people pull my beard. They swore and insulted me, but I did not turn away from them nor cover my face. They spat in my face.

The Lord helps me: people's insults (swearing/criticism) cannot hurt me.

I will be strong, firm.

I know I will not be ashamed of myself.

Isaiah 50:4-7

I gave my back to those who beat me.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Jesus Christ was holy. Jesus was God but he gave up his power as God to become the most humble of all people.

He became a slave. He became human the same as all people, and he lived as a man.

He became so humble that he accepted death, death on a cross.

But God raised him to the highest heaven. God gave him the name that is more important than all other names. So everybody, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, will kneel down and honour the name of Jesus.

All will praise God the Father and say that Jesus Christ is Lord.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus was brought to stand in front of Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate questioned him,

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "You say so."

Then the chief priests and the Jewish leaders accused him, but Jesus said nothing. Pilate said to Jesus,

"You hear all these people accusing you."

But again, Jesus said nothing. Pilate was amazed (surprised).



Every year at the Passover feast, the governor would free one prisoner chosen by the people. At that time there was a well-known wicked man in prison named Barabbas. Then the crowd came together and Pilate asked them,

"Which man do you want me to free: Barabbas, or Jesus named the Christ?"

Pilate knew that the Jewish leaders gave Jesus to him because they were jealous of Jesus. Pilate sat in the Judgement chair. His wife sent him a message, "Do nothing with that man. I have been upset by a bad dream I had about Jesus."

The chief priests and the Jewish leaders persuaded the crowd telling them it was better to free Barabbas and to condemn Jesus to death. Then Pilate asked the crowd, "Which of the men, Barabbas or Jesus, do you want me to free?"

They said, "Barabbas."

Pilate asked, "What should I do with Jesus named the Christ?"

They all said, "Crucify him!"

Pilate asked, "Why? He has done nothing wrong."

But all the people shouted louder, "Crucify him!"

Pilate realised it was no use trying to explain to the people. He became worried that the people would make trouble and rebel. So, he washed his hands in water in front of the crowd. Pilate said, "I have nothing to do with Jesus' blood. He is your responsibility."



Everybody in the crowd shouted together, "We will be responsible for his death, blame us and our children!"

Then Pilate freed Barabbas. He ordered Jesus to be whipped first before crucifixion. The soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium (square) of the Roman governor. All the soldiers came around Jesus. They tore off his clothes and put a red robe on him. They made thorns into a crown and put it on Jesus' head. They put a reed (stick) in his right hand. Then, they knelt in front of him, and mocked him, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

They spat at him. They took the reed (stick) and hit his head. When they had finished mocking him, they took off the red robe and gave back the old clothes. They led him away to crucify him.

On the way, the soldiers saw a man named Simon, from Cyrene. They forced him to help carry the cross for Jesus. Then they arrived at a place called Golgotha, that means, 'The Place of the Skull'. The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with gall. Jesus tasted it, but refused to drink. When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus, they gambled to see who could win Jesus' clothes. Then they sat there and watched Jesus. On top of the cross was written 'THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.' At the same time, two thieves were crucified with Jesus, one on the right, and one on the left.

People passing by shook their heads and mocked Jesus saying: "You said you would destroy the Temple and in three days build it again! Save yourself! If you are God's Son, come down from the cross!"

The chief priests, with the scribes (writers) and the Jewish leaders, also mocked Jesus, saying, "Jesus saved other people, but he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross and we will believe him. He trusted God. Now let God save Jesus, because he did say, 'I am the Son of God!'"

The robbers crucified with Jesus also mocked. At the 6th hour (12 noon) the whole land became dark for three hours. At about 9th hour, three o'clock, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, Lama sabachthani?" That means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon (leave) me?"



Some people standing there heard Jesus. They said, "He is shouting to Elijah!"

Someone quickly went to get a sponge. He dipped it in cheap vinegar wine and put it on a stick, gave it to Jesus to drink. The other people said, "Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him."

But Jesus, shouted again in a loud voice, gave up his spirit and died.

QUIET PRAYER

When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two, from top to bottom. There was an earthquake; the rocks cracked and split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men and women rose from the dead. After Jesus' resurrection, these bodies came out from their tombs and went into the Holy City, and many people saw them. The Roman officer and the other soldiers guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and all the things that happened. They were terrified and said, "Truly this man was a Son of God!"

Many women, near the cross, were watching. They were the women, followers of Jesus from Galilee and they had looked after him. These included Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of James and John, Zebedee's sons, were also there.



When it was evening, a rich man named Joseph from Arimathea, arrived. He himself was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate ordered the soldiers to give the body to Joseph. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean cloth and laid Jesus' body in his own tomb, a tomb recently cut out of a rock. Joseph rolled a large heavy stone to cover the tomb and went away. Mary of Magdala and the

other Mary sat there, watching near the tomb.

The next day, after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. They said,

"We remember that while Jesus was alive, he said, 'After three days I will rise again.' Tell your soldiers to guard the tomb, because Jesus' friends may come and steal the dead body and tell the people: 'Jesus has risen from the dead.' We are worried that this lie will be worse than what happened before."

Pilate said to them, "You can have the soldiers. Go and guard the tomb as best as you can."

So they went and guarded the tomb.



Thursday of the Last Supper (Holy Thursday)

Thursday 9 April

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

When Moses and Aaron were in Egypt, the Lord said to them, "You must tell all the people:

'This month will be the first month of the year for you. On the tenth day of this month, each man must take an animal, one for each family. If his family is too small to eat an animal, they must share with their neighbour. It must be a sheep or goat, one year old, male (boy) and healthy. You should keep the animal until the 14th day of the month. On that day, all the people of the community of Israel must kill it before night. You must take the same blood and put it on the doorposts and above the doors of your house.

That night, you must roast the meat over the fire and eat all of the meat. It must be eaten with unleavened bread (flat bread made without yeast) and bitter herbs. You must eat it quickly, with sandals on your feet, a staff in your hand, ready to travel. It is a passover in honour of the Lord.

That night I will go through Egypt and kill each first born boy and animal. I will punish all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood on the doorposts of your house will be a sign. When I see it I will pass over your house and I will not kill. You must remember this day forever and you will celebrate it as a feast to honour the Lord."

Psalm - THE CUP THAT WE BLESS IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

How can I thank the Lord?

God has been good to me.

I will offer him the cup of salvation.

I will pray to the Lord.

The death of good faithful people is special to the Lord.

I am your servant, Lord, you freed me.

I will give you a thanksgiving sacrifice.

I will pray to the Lord and

I will keep my promises always.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

I received this teaching from the Lord. Now, I give you this teaching: the night Jesus was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and thanked God. He broke the bread and said, "This is my body, for you. Do this to remember me."



In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant (promise) in my blood. Every time you drink this cup, remember me."

So, until the Lord comes again, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord Jesus.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The day before the feast of the Jewish Passover, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave the world and to go to his Father. Jesus had always loved his people in the world. Now Jesus wanted to show that his love was perfect.

Jesus and his disciples were having supper. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given everything to him, and that he himself came from God, and that he will return (go back) to God his Father. Jesus stood up and took off his robe. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel.



Jesus came to Simon Peter, and Peter said, "Lord, why wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "At the moment, you don't know what I'm doing, but later you will understand." Peter said, "Never! You will never wash my feet." Jesus replied, "If you do not let me wash you, then you cannot be my disciple." Simon Peter said, "Lord! Wash my feet, and wash my hands, and my head as well!" Jesus said, "When people have a bath, they have no need to wash again, they are clean. All of you are clean, but one of you is not." Jesus knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, "All of you are clean, but one of you is not clean."

When Jesus had finished washing their feet, he put on his robe and sat down at the table. He asked his disciples, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me 'Lord' and 'Teacher'. You are right, because I am your Lord and Teacher. But I have washed your feet, like a servant. So, you too should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example, so that you may copy what I have done to you."

Good Friday

Friday 10 April

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

The Lord said, "Look at my servant. He will be successful. He will be very important and highly honoured.



But many people will be shocked when they see him. He will look terrible, he will be so badly bruised that he will not look human. The crowds will be amazed (surprised), and kings will stand open-mouthed when they see something they've never heard or seen before. People will say, 'Who could believe what we have seen and heard, who could believe what the Lord has shown us?'

He grew up like a small plant, spreading roots in dry land. We saw him - no beauty, nothing special. Nothing good to our eyes. He looked terrible, we rejected him. He suffered, he is sad. People will not look at him, they will turn away and ignore him.

But he took away our sufferings, he took away our pain. He accepted the pain for us. But we thought he was punished by God. He was wounded (hurt) because of our faults, crushed because of our sins. His punishment brings peace. Through his sufferings, we are healed (made better). Each of us was like a sheep that is lost, each of us trying to find our way. But the Lord accepted the punishment, the punishment that we should have because of our sins. The Lord is patient and humble. He never opened his mouth. He is like a sheep that is taken to be killed, he never said a word.

The men arrested him by force and by law. No one cared about him. He was taken away from the living people. Because of our faults, he was condemned to death. He was buried with wicked and rich people, but he had done nothing wrong and he never told lies. The Lord let him suffer so that his death would be the sacrifice that brings us forgiveness. But my servant will see his people. He will have a long life. Through him, what the Lord wants will happen.

When his suffering is over (finished), he will see light and will be happy and peaceful. Through his sufferings, my servant will shoulder (carry on his shoulders) the faults (sins) of many people and free them from their sins.

Because he gave his life for us, because he has taken away our faults, because he prays for us sinners; I (the Lord) will honour him. I will make him a great man among his people."

PSALM - FATHER, MY SPIRIT I GIVE TO YOU.

Lord, you are my defence.

I will never be ashamed.

In your justice, save me.

I will give you my spirit.



When my enemies and my friends see me in the street, they turn away from me.

I am like a dead man, people forget me.

But I say: "You are my God, I trust you."

My life is in your hands.

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Jesus, the Son of God, is our great high priest. He has gone to heaven. We must never give up our faith. This high priest, Jesus, really understands and feels our weaknesses because he had temptations the same as us but he never sinned. So, let us have confidence.

We can approach God's throne, and we will receive mercy from God and find grace when we need help.

While Jesus was alive on earth, he prayed to God and asked for help. God had the power to save Jesus from death. Jesus prayed aloud, and also prayed with silent tears. And because Jesus was so humble, God heard his prayers. Jesus was God's Son but he learnt to obey through suffering. And when Jesus was made perfect, all that obey him receive eternal salvation.



THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus went through the valley of Kedron with his disciples and they went into the garden there. Judas knew the place well because Jesus met his disciples in the garden many times. Judas brought a group of soldiers and Temple guards sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees. They all had lamps and swords. Jesus knew that everything would happen to him, so Jesus approached them and said, "Who are you looking for?"

They answered, "We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth." Jesus said, "I am Jesus from Nazareth."

Judas stood with the group of men. When Jesus said, 'I am Jesus from Nazareth', the men were surprised, and moved back and fell to the ground. Jesus asked a second time, "Who are you looking for?" They said, "Jesus from Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I have already told you I am Jesus from Nazareth. If you want me, let my friends go free."

This happened exactly as Jesus had said when he prayed to his father, 'You gave me disciples and I have not lost one of them.'

Simon Peter had a sword, he took it out and hit the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put it back! Do you want to stop me drinking the cup of suffering that the Father has given me?"

The soldiers, the captain and the Jewish Temple guards arrested Jesus. They tied him and brought him, first to Annas, because Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the high priest that year. Caiaphas had already told the Jews, 'It is better for one man to die for the people.'



Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. This other disciple knew the high priest. This disciple went to the high priest's palace with Peter. But Peter waited outside the door. The other disciple, the one that knew the high priest, went out and spoke to the woman guarding the door and brought Peter into the yard. The woman guarding the door said to Peter, "Are you a disciple of Jesus?"

Peter answered, "I am not."

It was cold, so the servants and the guards made a fire. They were standing around the fire, keeping warm. Peter stood near the fire with the others.



The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus said, "I talked openly to everybody. I always taught in the Temple where the Jews meet. I have said nothing in secret. So why ask me? Ask the people, they heard me. They know what I said."

When Jesus said that, one of the guards slapped Jesus' face, saying "You should not talk to the chief priest like that!"

Jesus replied, "If there is something wrong with what I said, tell me. But if there is nothing wrong with what I said, why slap me?" Then Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest. Jesus was still tied.

Simon Peter still stood outside, trying to keep warm. Someone said to him, "Are you a disciple of Jesus?" Peter denied (said no) saying, "I am not."

One of the servants of the high priest was there. This servant was a relative of the other servant, the same person that Peter had cut the ear off. This servant said to Peter, "I saw you in the garden with Jesus?" Again Peter denied (said no), and straight away a cock crew (bird sang).

Early in the morning, the Jews brought Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. The Jews did not go into the Roman governor's palace because of their Jewish laws. They wanted to keep themselves clean to eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to see them and said, "What has this man, Jesus, done wrong?" The Jews answered, "Jesus is a bad person, a criminal (thief, trouble-maker), that is why we brought him here for you."

Pilate said, "You, Jews, take him yourselves. Judge him with your own law."

The Jews answered, "Because of your Roman law, we are not allowed to punish Jesus by death."

This happened exactly as Jesus had said about the way he would die.

Pilate went inside the Praetorium (Roman governor's palace) and Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Do you ask me this question because you yourself really want to know, or because other people have already told you?" Pilate said, "Am I a Jew? No! Your people, the Jews, brought you here. Why? What have you done?"



Jesus said, "My kingdom is not in this world. If my kingdom was in this world, my disciples would have fought and protected me to stop the Jewish leaders seizing (arresting) me. No, my kingdom does not belong to this world."

Pilate said, "So, are you a king then?"

Jesus replied, "As you said; yes, I am a king. I was born to be a king. I came into the world to give witness, to tell people about the truth. Any person that believes the truth will think carefully about what I said." Pilate said, "Truth? What is truth?"

Pilate went outside and said to the Jews, "I find nothing wrong with Jesus. But following your tradition, I will free one prisoner at the time of the Passover. So would you like me to free this man, Jesus, the king of the Jews?"

Everybody shouted, "No, not Jesus. Free Barabbas!" Barabbas was a thief.

Pilate told the soldiers to take Jesus and whip him. The soldiers made a crown from thorns and put it on Jesus' head. Then they put a purple robe on him. They slapped Jesus' face and mocked him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

Pilate went outside again and said to the Jews, "Look, I will bring Jesus here for you to see him, because I find nothing wrong with him." The soldiers brought Jesus outside with the crown of thorns and dressed in the purple robe. Pilate said, "Look at Jesus!"

When the chief priests and the Temple guards saw Jesus, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"



Pilate said, "You take Jesus and crucify him yourselves. I find nothing wrong with him."

The Jews said, "We have a Law. Our Jewish law says, that if any person says he is the Son of God, he should die." When Pilate heard what the Jews said, he became afraid. Pilate went back inside the palace and said to Jesus, "Where do you come from?"

But Jesus said nothing. So Pilate said to him, "Why are you refusing to speak to me? You know I have the power to free you and I also have the power to crucify you."

Jesus replied, "You have power over me only because God gave the power. That is why the person that betrayed me is more guilty."

Now Pilate really wanted to free Jesus, but the Jews shouted, "If any person makes himself a king, he is against Caesar. So if you let Jesus go free, you are not really a friend of Caesar!" When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus outside. Pilate sat on the chair of Judgement in the place called 'Stone Pavement' (in Jewish language, 'Gabbatha'). Now it was the Passover Preparation Day, almost the 6th hour (12 noon). Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king!"

The Jews shouted, "Take him away! Kill him! Crucify him!" Pilate said, "Do you want me to crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king, only Caesar."

So in the end, Pilate gave Jesus to the Jews to be crucified.



The soldiers took Jesus and gave him a cross to carry. Jesus carried the cross all the way out of the city to the place of the skull (in Jewish language, named 'Golgotha'). The soldiers crucified Jesus with two thieves, one on each side with Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a notice and put it at the top of the cross. The words said: 'JESUS FROM NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS.' Many Jews saw this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The writing was in three different languages: Jewish, Latin and Greek.

The Jewish leaders said to Pilate, "You should not write 'King of the Jews', but write 'This man said: I am the King of the Jews.'" Pilate replied, "What I have written, I will not change."

When the soldiers finished crucifying Jesus, they took his clothes. They divided his clothes between the four soldiers. But Jesus' tunic (clothes) was specially made in one piece. So the soldiers said to each other, "We should not tear this. We will throw dice to decide who will keep it."

This happened exactly as written in the scriptures (Bible): 'They shared my clothes and they threw dice for my clothes.' This is exactly what the soldiers did.

Near the cross, Jesus' mother stood with her sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple (John) that he loved. Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, this (John) is your son."

Then Jesus said to the disciple (John), "This is your mother."

After this, the disciple (John) took Jesus' mother to live in his home.

Now, Jesus knew that everything was finished. The scriptures (Bible) said that Jesus would be thirsty, so Jesus said, "I am thirsty." Near the cross there was a jar of vinegar (sour wine). So the soldiers put a sponge on a stick and gave it to Jesus. Jesus tasted the vinegar, then he said, "It is finished."

Jesus bowed his head and died.

SILENT REFLECTION

That day was Preparation Day. The next day was the Sabbath - a special holy day - and the Jewish laws did not allow bodies to be left on the cross. So the Jews asked Pilate to break the legs of the men on the cross and to bury the dead bodies. The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man, and then the second man, but when they came to Jesus, they realised he was already dead. The soldiers did not break his legs, but with a spear one soldier pierced Jesus' side. Straight away, blood and water flowed out. The disciple (John) saw this - he witnessed everything and he knows he tells the truth. He writes this so that you can believe also. This happened exactly as written in the scriptures (Bible):

'Not one of his bones will be broken.'

Also, 'People will look at the man with his side pierced.'

Later, a man named Joseph from Arimathaea came to Pilate. Joseph was a secret disciple of Jesus because he was afraid of the Jews. He asked Pilate to let him take the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. So Joseph took the body. Nicodemus came as well - the same person that went to see Jesus at night-and he brought a 100 lbs mixture of special oils and myrrh. The two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it with linen cloths and special oils to follow the Jewish way of burial. Near the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden, there was a new tomb not yet used. Because it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was near, they put Jesus' body there.



Easter Sunday

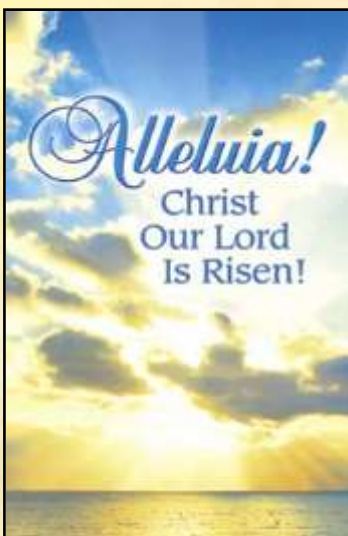
Sunday 12 April

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Peter spoke to the people, "You must have heard about what happened recently in Judaea, about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. Because God was with Jesus, he went everywhere, doing good and healing all that were under the power of the devil.

We are witnesses. We saw everything that Jesus did. We also saw people kill him on a tree, but three days later, God raised Jesus to life. Jesus appeared, not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God chose. We are the witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Jesus told us to proclaim to all people and tell them that God has appointed (chosen) Jesus to judge everyone, alive or dead. All the prophets spoke about Jesus, saying any person that believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through the power of his name.



Psalm - TODAY THE LORD IS RISEN. LET US REJOICE.

Alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good.

All the people of Israel say, 'His love will never end (finish).'

The Lord has won.

I shall not die, I shall live.

The work of the Lord is wonderful.

Alleluia!

Alleluia

*Christ
is
Risen!*

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

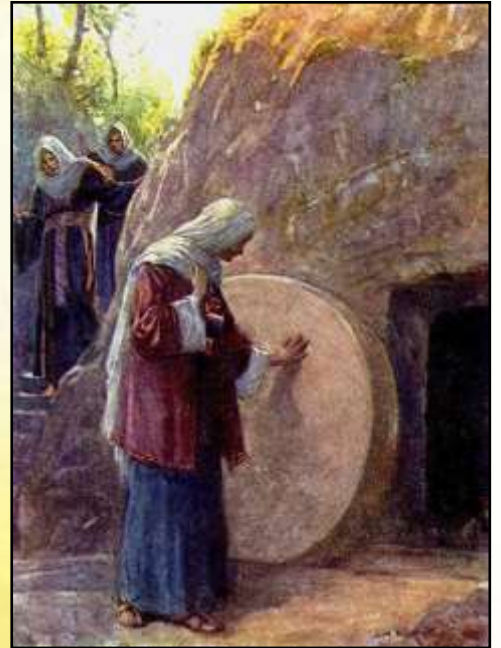
Because you received life again through Jesus Christ, you must look for the things of heaven, where Christ sits at the right hand of God. Think about the things of heaven, don't think about the things on earth. Your old life has died, your new life is now with Christ in God. Christ is your life. And when Christ comes, you will appear with him and share his glory!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Early on Sunday morning, when it was still dark, Mary Magdala went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb. Mary ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple (John), the one Jesus loved. Mary said to them, "They have taken Jesus' body from the tomb. We don't know where they have put his body."

So Peter went to the tomb with the other disciple. They ran together but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, arrived at the tomb first. He bent down and saw the cloths lying on the ground, but he did not go in. Simon Peter, running behind the other disciple (John), arrived later.

Peter went into the tomb. He saw the cloths lying on the ground. He also saw the cloth that had covered Jesus' head. This cloth was rolled up separate from the other cloths lying on the ground. Then the other disciple (John) that had reached the tomb first, also went in. He saw and he believed. Before that, they had not understood the teaching of the scriptures (Bible), that Jesus must rise from the dead.



CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Social Distancing

AVOID

- Group gatherings
- Visits to bars/restaurants
- Sleep overs
- Playdates
- Visiting the elderly with children
- Crowded retail stores
- Gyms
- Visitors to the home
- Non essential workers in the home

USE CAUTION

- Visits to supermarkets
- Visit to pharmacy
- Visit to GP
- Traveling
- Check on friends and family safely
- Public transport

SAFE TO DO

- Go for a walk
- Jogging
- Working in the home
- DIY in and around the home
- Reading
- Going for a drive
- Video calls
- Phone calls

Just some of those who are vulnerable that these measures could help:

Patients who are elderly, history of lung illness, cancer patients, immune suppressed patients, immune compromised and those with varying underlying conditions.

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

“

FIND A WORD

CARE JOSEPH
COMMUNITY LOVE
EPHPHETA MARY
FAITH MASS
GOD MERCY
GRACE PRAY
HOLYSPIRIT SUPPORT
JESUS

”

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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**).