

Special Ephpheta Newsletter

Hi everyone - welcome to our third special Ephpheta newsletter!

We hope that you are all going ok and staying safe and well. We are thinking of you all and miss you all!



As you know, the Ephpheta team is working hard to support the community. The Ephpheta Centre is still closed to the community but you can stay in touch by:

- Watching interpreted Mass from St Mary's Cathedral at 9am Friday morning and 10.30am Sunday morning.
You can find the links on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thecentrefordeaf) or contact David or Chrisso and they can SMS the links to you.
You can also visit the Ephpheta website by going to the Updates page (www.ephpheta.org.au/updates)
- We have been making regular daily posts on Facebook and on our Ephpheta website.
- We have been keeping in touch with the community through Facebook Messenger, Skype, Facetime, Zoom, email and SMS. We have set up small deaf community Zoom groups. Our Zoom groups include craft group, men's group and a prayer group.
See inside the newsletter for more information.

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 little thought from Pope Francis...

*"Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street.
When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party.*

*Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar,
the small talk, the photos close to each other.*

*We think about when it will be all a memory but normalcy will seem an
unexpected and beautiful gift.*

We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us.

Every second will be precious.

Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter.

We will go back to laughing together.

Strength and courage."

See you soon!

18 March 2020



A message from Liz & Dave!

Liz's report

The month of May is a special time for Catholics to honour the Blessed Mother Mary.

On earth. Mary lived a life of service and faithful devotion. This life included giving birth to Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem to standing by Jesus as he was crucified in Jerusalem.

Mary is a true example of humility, faith and service to God. How terrified this young girl must have been when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that she will have a baby Jesus through the Holy Spirit! Her response is however filled with faith "I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word". A short time later, Mary is filled with joy when visiting her cousin Elizabeth "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour".

Mary is an amazing example of faith and love to us. She lived a life full of grace. Pope Pius XII said "Whenever we speak of Mary or speak to her, let us not forget that she is really our Mother, for through her we received divine life. She gave us Jesus himself, the source of grace."



So in this month of Mary, spend some time in prayer with Mary. Ask her to pray for you the same as we ask our friends to pray for us in times of need.

Mother Mary, pray for us.

Until next time,
Liz



Dave's report

Hello everyone! I am amazed that many deaf seniors in the deaf community use Zoom for group/face to face video meetings. We have been busy Zooming with the Ephpheta community. This only makes our Pastoral Care "visits" possible. Thank you to the wonders of technology. The clever software engineers who developed wonderful software tools like Zoom for us to use every day. I am also amazed our Internet connection is holding up well. Yes, it is nothing is perfect as always. Remember to ask for support. There are many clever deaf people out there who can help!

The Ephpheta Centre is still closed. We will let you know once Ephpheta is open to the community. We will continue to have Zoom chats for Deaf Women's, Deaf Men's, Crafts, Prayer and Bible Study groups. I hope you also enjoy interpreted Mass services from St Mary Cathedral (SMC) on Friday and Sunday mornings. Thank you to our wonderful Auslan Interpreters!

I am glad many of you enjoyed our newsletters and our special cards. We want you all to feel connected and be part of the Ephpheta's deaf and hard of hearing community.

The Ephpheta team is available for video calls from 9.30am until 4.30pm workdays. We can use different platforms – Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp, SMS, FaceBook Messenger (text and video) and Skype. We will also send letters.

Happy Mother's Day to our mums. We thank them for their love and hard work. It is never easy being a mum especially for these working mums who must juggle work and take care of their young children. God's love. God is with us always. Peace be with you all.

Stay safe and stay well!

David.



Fr Michael's Reflection...

A mother gave her young deaf daughter a photo. It was from an ultrasound scan for pregnancy. The girl saw the baby in the black and white photo. She thought it might be a photo of herself from when she was little, but it wasn't. She thought it might be a photo from her grandmother, but it wasn't. Finally, when her mum counted "one baba" and pointed to the girl, then counted "two babas..." and pointed to her own womb, her daughter realized! She screamed with joyful excitement! Then, she had lots of questions.



We often see, but don't realise what we are looking at. In the time of Jesus, some people understood that God must be perfect truth and life. However, there was no way to know God, who is truth. There was no way to the life of God. When Jesus said, He was going to His Father, the Apostles knew He was speaking about God the Father. However, when Jesus said that

they knew "the way" to where He was going, St Thomas was not sure He understood. He was not sure he knew where Jesus was going, so how could he know the way?

Jesus revealed that the perfect truth and life of God was right there in Him. God the Son is equal with God the Father, and they are One God. God had come very close in Jesus, the Son of Mary. The apostles had seen Jesus, and so had seen God, but they didn't realise it! Jesus is God, "the truth and the life". To know Jesus and share in His life, is to know and live in God. Jesus is "the way" to Himself.

So, when Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied". Jesus responded that *to see Him was to see the Father!* We are like the apostles, and the girl with the photo. We see, but we don't realise. We don't realise how close God is to us.

The girl embraced her younger "baba" and her mother in one big hug. As we know and love Jesus Christ, we know and love God. We have lots of questions, and the life we will have with God in heaven is still hazy for us. We struggle to see God's life clearly in this life. However, like the girl who knew that she had become a big sister, we know that we are living in the kingdom of God, if we are living as Christians. And it is only a matter of time before all our questions are answered and we enjoy the perfect life of God.

Mother Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

God bless,
Fr Michael



Here is the link to the

YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/Up2ygpc1mck>



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
Friday 15th May	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 17th May	10am	St Patrick's 51-53 Mawson Street, Blacktown	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	Sydney Zoo	Combined Day Out
Friday 29th May	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 31st May	10am	St Patrick's Catholic Church 33 Gale Street, Northmead	Integrated Mass
Wednesday 3rd June	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 5th June	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 7th June	11am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Sunday Mass
Wednesday 10th June	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group

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We will continue to give updates as soon as we can. See below for more information...

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Date	Time	Where	Event
Friday 12th June	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Deaf Café
Friday 12th June	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 14th June	10.30am	St Mary's Catholic Church 6 Fingert Street, Manly	Sunday Mass
Wednesday 17th June	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 19th June	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 21st June	10am	St Mary's 41-51 A'whi Street, Blenheim	Sunday Mass
Wednesday 24th June	10am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Craft Group
Friday 26th June	10am	Erina Wood Court Erina Fair Shopping Centre	CC Deaf Cuppa
Friday 26th June	10.30am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Friday morning Mass
Sunday 28th June	11am	Ephpheta Centre 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl	Sunday 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-June with an update on our events.

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

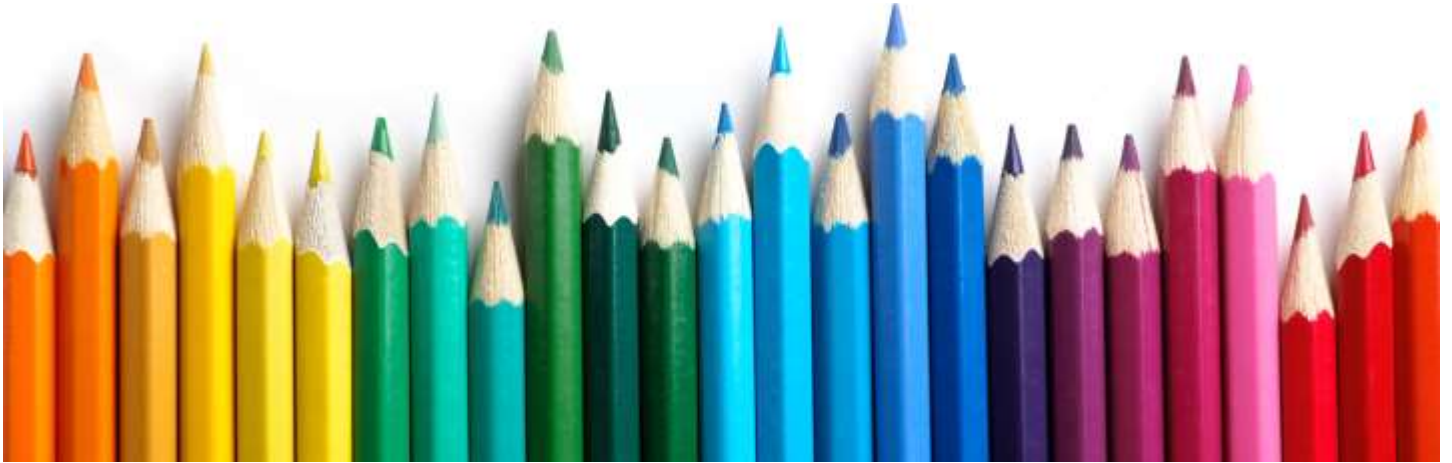
Mary Visited Elizabeth Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 15 things that are different.



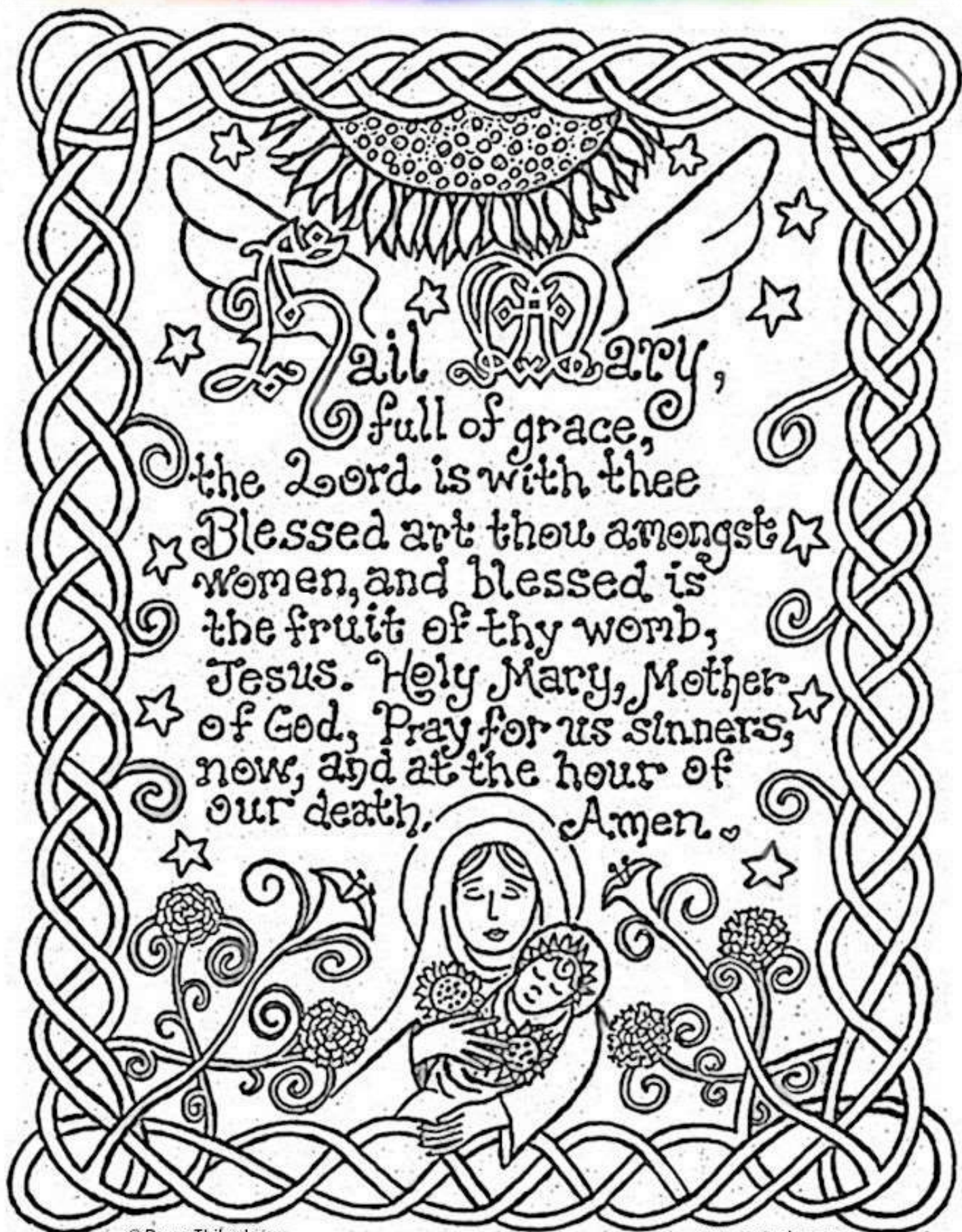
Research shows us that colouring in reduced stress, anxiety and helps us live happier lives!

Take some time and unleash your inner artist! Show us your creations when you've finished!



Research shows us that colouring in reduced stress, anxiety and helps us live happier lives!

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F I N D A W O R D



A	L	T	E	R	R	E	H	T	O	M	N	G	H
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PATIENT
JESUS
STRENGTH
MARY
WISDOM
FAITH
ADORE
GENTLE
QUEEN
GOD
LOVE
HEAVEN
MOTHER
ANGEL



The Hail Mary

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb Jesus,
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and at
the hour of our death.
Amen



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.

The Ephpheta team has set up some Zoom chat groups so that we can chat together online. We have a men's group, craft group and a prayer group. We need to keep the size of the groups small but all are welcome.

If you already have Zoom, please contact David and we will arrange to include you in a group. If you don't have Zoom, we can try to help you set up Zoom on your iPad, mobile phone or computer.



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 online. Keep an eye on the Ephpheta website and Facebook page where you can access interpreted masses.
3. Say a prayer. See the prayer to the right 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!



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 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Sunday 17 May

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Philip went to a town in Samaria and preached about Christ to the people there.

The people listened carefully to Philip, and they saw the miracles he worked; they all welcomed him.

Many people had evil spirits, but with loud screams the evil spirits came out of them.

Many weak and crippled people were cured.

Because of this many people in the town rejoiced.

The apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted the word of God, so they sent Peter and John.

When Peter and John arrived, they prayed for the people of Samaria to receive the Holy Spirit because they had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Peter and John put their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Psalm - SING WITH JOY TO GOD.

Everyone on earth sing with joy to God!

Praise God's name!

Say to God, "Your work is wonderful!"

Everyone on earth gives glory to the Lord.

Come and see the works of God.

The sea God changed into dry land.

Come and I will tell you all about how God saved me.

Praise God, because he always listens to my prayer and loves me.



A READING FROM ST PETER'S FIRST LETTER

In your hearts, always respect the Lord. If someone asks you, always be ready and quick to explain why you have hope in the Lord.

Explain to people in a gentle way, with respect and with a clear conscience.

So if people say bad things about you and accuse (blame) you because you live and follow Christ's way, these people will become ashamed of themselves.

If God allows you to suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than to suffer for doing wrong.

Look at Christ, he died for you.

He was not guilty, but he died once for our sins, died for guilty people like you and me so that He could lead us to God.

In the body he was condemned to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments. I will ask the Father and he will give you another 'Helper' to be with you for ever.

He is the Spirit of truth the world will never accept because the world does not know him. But you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you alone like children with no parents.

I will come back to you. Soon the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. You will live because I live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Any person that receives my commandments and follows them really loves me.

Any one that loves me, my Father will love also, and I will love them and show myself to them."



The Ascension of the Lord

Sunday 24 May

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

In my first book to you Theophilus, I wrote everything about the life of Jesus, the things Jesus did and taught. Jesus taught his apostles many things.

For forty (40) days after his death he (Jesus) appeared to his apostles many times to prove that he was alive and to tell them about the kingdom of God.

After Jesus sat at table with the apostles, he told them to wait and not to leave Jerusalem. He reminded them of God's promise.

He (Jesus) said, "Remember, John baptised people with water, but soon, you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

The apostles asked Jesus, "Lord, will you establish again the kingdom for the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "It is not important for you to know times or dates. Only God the Father knows. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes.

Then you will be my witnesses - you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and all over the world."

Then Jesus was lifted up into the sky. While the apostles watched, Jesus disappeared into a cloud. The apostles continued staring into the sky.

Suddenly two men in white appeared as angels and they said to the apostles, "Why are you still standing here looking up into the sky? You saw Jesus go into heaven; he will come back to you the same way."

Psalm - THE LORD GOES UP WITH JOY!

All peoples, clap your hands.

Shout with joy to God!

We respect the Lord, the Most High.

The Lord is king of all the earth.

God goes up with joy.

God is king of all the earth.

God is king of all the nations (peoples).

Sing praise to our king, our God.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit that will make you wise.

That spirit will reveal (show) God to you so that you will know him.

I pray that your minds be opened to see his light so that you will know the hope God wants us to have.

I pray that you will realise the wonderful and rich blessings God has promised to his people.

Because of our belief in God, we know his power is truly great.

You can tell the strength of God's power working through Christ.

God used this power to raise Christ from the dead and let him sit at his right side in heaven.

God made Christ more important than all Kings, Queens, Authorities, Powers and Rulers.

Christ's name is more important than all other names, now in the world or in the future.

God put everything under his control and put Christ as the ruler of everything God made.

Christ, the head (master) of the Church. We, the Church, are his body; and Christ makes everything in creation perfect.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

The eleven apostles went to Galilee. They went to the mountain Jesus had arranged to meet them.

There they saw Jesus, they worshipped him, but some hesitated.

Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. Go, and make all people in the world my disciples. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to follow all the commandments I gave you. Remember, I am with you always; yes, till the end of the world."



Pentecost Sunday

Sunday 31 May

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

On Pentecost day, all the apostles were sitting together in one room. Suddenly they heard a noise from heaven.

It sounded like a strong wind blowing and it filled the whole house. Something appeared like tongues of fire which spread and came over each apostle's head.

All the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak foreign languages because the Spirit gave them the gift of languages.

In Jerusalem there were devout (good religious holy) people; they came from every country in the world.

They heard this noise and gathered (came) together, and they were all bewildered (confused, puzzled) because each one heard the apostles speaking their own language.

They were amazed (surprised) and said, "These men are from Galilee, but we come from different places: Asia, Judaea, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Cyprus, Crete, as well as visitors from Rome, Jews, converts and Arabs.

We hear them speaking our own language about the marvels (wonders) of God."



Psalm - O LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT AND MAKE NEW THE WHOLE WORLD.

Praise the Lord!

Lord God, you are great!

The earth is full of your riches.

If you take away your spirit, everything dies.

But when you send your spirit, everything grows and the earth becomes alive.

The glory of the Lord continues for ever!

The Lord is happy with his works.

Let my thoughts please Him.

I rejoice with the Lord.

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

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' without the help of the Holy Spirit.

There are many different spiritual gifts but they are all from the same Holy Spirit. There are different ways of serving, but all serve the same Lord.

Different people work in different ways, but the same God works in all of them.

The way God gives the Spirit to each person is always for a special reason.

A human body has many different parts (hands, legs, eyes, feet, etc). All the parts together make one body.

The same with Christ - all of us were baptised in the one Spirit - some of us are Jews, some of us are Greeks, some of us are slaves and some of us are free people, but the same Spirit was given to all of us.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

On the first day of the week, in the evening the disciples gathered together in the room. The doors were closed, because they were afraid of the Jews.

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 when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. My Father sent me, so in the same way I send you."

After saying this, 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 remain (not forgiven)."



The Most Holy Trinity

Sunday 7 June

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF EXODUS

Early in the morning Moses carried the two flat stones and went up Mount Sinai as the Lord had told him.

Then the Lord came down in a cloud and Moses stood there with the Lord.

Moses said the name 'Lord'. The Lord passed Moses and said, "I, the Lord God, I am merciful and full of compassion.

I am slow to anger, my love is great, I am faithful."

Straight away Moses bowed to the ground and worshipped the Lord saying, "Lord, if you are really pleased (happy) with me, I ask you to come with us.

True, these people are stubborn, but forgive our evil ways and our sins, and accept us as your own people."

Psalm - GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU FOREVER.

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

Blest your glorious name.

You are blest in your temple.

You are blest in your kingdom.

You are blest that look down from heaven.

Blest your glorious name.



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

Brothers and sisters, we want you to be happy. Try to become perfect. Help one another. Stay together.

Live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Every time you meet people, give each other a holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings (they say 'hello' to you).

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship (friendship) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.

God gave his Son so that any person that believes in his Son would not be lost, but live forever.

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world through his Son.

Any person that believes in him (Jesus) will not be condemned. But any person that refuses to believe is condemned already. Why?

Because that person refused to believe in the name of God's only Son."





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Join us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/thecentrefordeaf>

*The Ephpheta Centre is supported
by the Charitable Works Fund.*



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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

david@ephpheta.org.au

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!