

## Special Ephpheta Newsletter

What a strange Ephpheta Sunday we recently had!  
Because of coronavirus, we could not have our regular community Mass and lunch gathering. But we managed to celebrate in a different way!

We did have a lovely Mass at Homebush with Fr Michael and we were able to give our Ephpheta appreciation award to Robert Beath!

Congratulations to Robert for your many wonderful years of support and service to the Ephpheta community and to the team. Robert, you show us all that is good in our deaf community. Congratulations!

The Ephpheta team worked hard in the lead up to Ephpheta Sunday preparing special videos and prayers which we shared on our Facebook and website. We also contacted some lovely priests who work with the deaf community throughout the world and shared with the community some of their messages.

Stay well, stay safe. The deaf community has always had amazing strength.  
We will make it through this together xo



# A message from Liz & Dave!

## Liz's report

Hi – hope you are keeping well and staying safe.

It is hard to believe that we are almost in September – what a crazy year this has been. No one could have predicted how coronavirus could have such had an impact on all of us. On us as individuals, as a community, on our state and nation, on all the world. No one knows when we can go back to our old way of living – or if this will even be possible.

But through this crazy year, many of the things that are really important to us have not changed. And maybe - just maybe - we will come out of this stronger and better.

How wonderful it is now to catch up with friends and family, even if it is on a screen. How wonderful to look out the window and see the birds and the trees and the flowers. Before coronavirus we were maybe too busy to appreciate these things or the people in our lives.

Coronavirus has made us all slow down. We are spending more time at home and we cannot do a lot of the things we did before. Maybe we can use this time to focus on the beauty of little things – by appreciating the good things in our lives and thanking God for all the wonderful things He has given us.

Until next time,  
Liz



## Dave's report

Flowers are coming out of the ground at last! Beautiful sunny days at last. I have been taking my new dog, a senior Maltese cross for a walk lately and it is wonderful to stop and look and smell the flowers. We are blessed with beautiful nature, which is God's amazing work.



One of my favourite saints is St Francis of Assisi. I am sure some of you have been to beautiful Assisi in Italy. He lived simply and helped people in need. St. Francis of Assisi could be thought as a nature advocate. Not only did he care for poor and sick people, but he preached multiple sermons on animals, and wanted all humans and creatures on earth to be treated as equals under God.

It is hard to believe it is nearly September 2020. We are very pleased the Ephpheta Zoom chats for the crafts group, Deaf men's group, prayer group are all working well for the deaf community. We have new video projects coming up. Many different videos in Auslan will come soon!

Ephpheta is still closed from the deaf community. We want to protect the community as much as we can. We will let you know when. We rather be safe and wait for a long time until we are sure we can open the doors to the deaf community. Of course, we are still around for Zoom, Skype and Messenger chats. Just give us a ring

Peace be with you all!

David





The Ephpheta Centre is still closed to the community. We need everyone to stay safe and well. We will let you know when this changes.

If you are well and would like to come to Mass, we have interpreted Sunday Mass each Sunday.

Please contact David Parker to let us know if you are coming.

**Mass only.** No morning tea or lunch.

**Where:** Our Lady of the Assumption, 74 Underwood Road, Homebush.

**When:** 11am each Sunday

If you are over 70 or not well or are worried about coming, please do not come. You do not have to come to Mass.

You can watch this Mass live streamed on our Ephpheta Facebook page (look for 'Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People') or we can SMS you the video link.

You can also watch it later on our Ephpheta website.

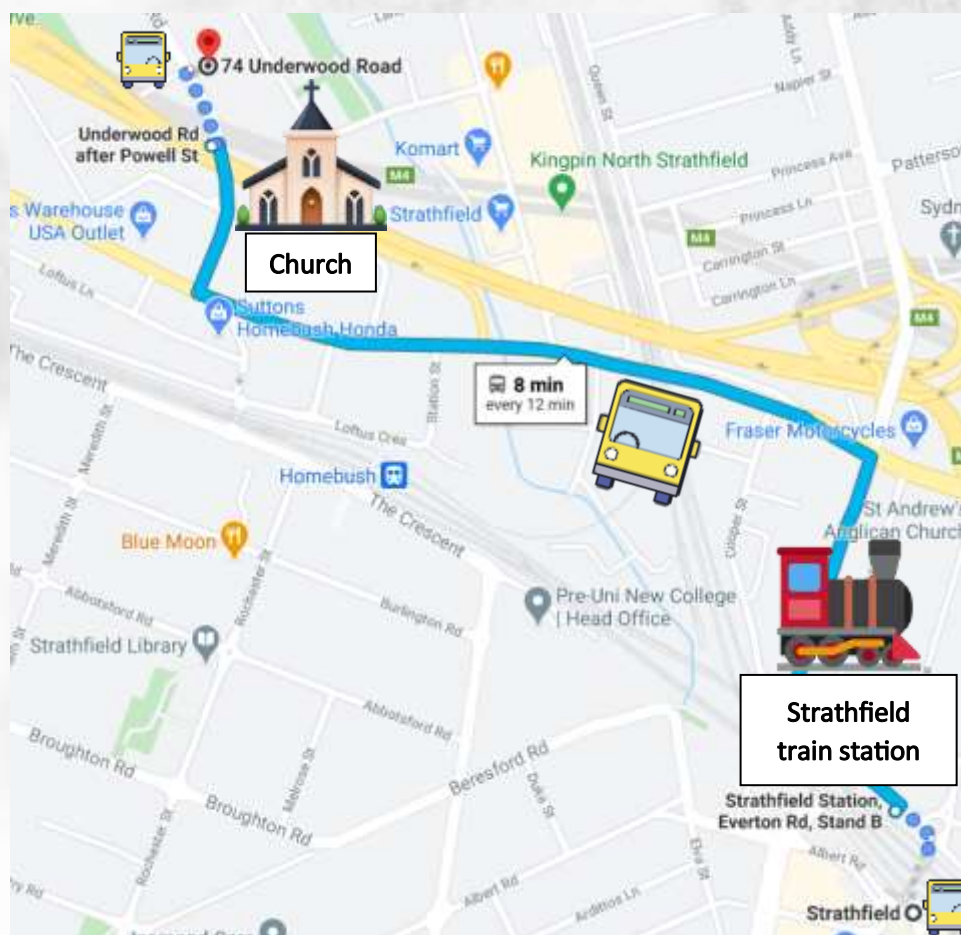


## Travel information to Homebush Mass

If you'd like to join us on Sunday for Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption, there is a simple way to arrive by public transport!

Catch the train to **Strathfield Station**. Walk to the bus stop on Everton Road.

Then bus number 526 or 525 to Underwood Road - off bus at stop after Powell Street.



### Bus Timetable

Time	Bus Number
10:19am	525
10:34am	525
10:38am	526
10:49am	525
Return to Strathfield	
12:06pm	525
12:19pm	526
12:34pm	526
12:39pm	525

When Mass is finished, catch the bus back to Strathfield train station.

Any questions, please contact Ephpheta staff.

# Ephpheta Sunday

## Messages from around the world!

**Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people** ...  
August 1 at 4:00 PM · 🌐

In the lead up to Ephpheta Sunday, we give thanks to God for the many people who have helped to support the Ephpheta Centre over the years. 🌟  
From all at the Ephpheta Centre - thank you. ❤️

Video:  
<https://youtu.be/ryZNp9qNic...> See More



YOUTUBE.COM  
Thank you from the Ephpheta Centre - Ephpheta Sunday 2020

“

... we give thanks to God for the many people who have helped to support the Ephpheta Centre ...

So many wonderful people and organisations who have shared with us and supported us to make the Ephpheta community what it is today ...

God - please continue to bless the Ephpheta Centre. Help to make Ephpheta and our deaf community strong and full of love. Holy Spirit, guide us so that Ephpheta will always serve the deaf community with love and welcome.

The Ephpheta Centre Team

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“

Now, at a time when the COVID crisis has made life for our community harder than ever, it gives me great joy to see you still gathering and supporting each other ...

Make of yourself a daily spiritual sacrifice to be joined with Christ's one sacrifice in the Mass ...

I thank you for your example to us, to me. Thank you for your example of Godly service and healing love.

Let us all listen with our hearts to Christ's call today, with hearts loving boldly and rightly: that we may all be opened!

Happy Ephpheta Sunday!

**Archbishop Anthony Fisher**

*Archbishop, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney*

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**Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people** ...  
July 31 at 4:00 PM · 🌐

Hi everyone - today we have a special greeting from Archbishop Anthony Fisher to the Ephpheta deaf community for Ephpheta Sunday. We recently recorded this in Cathedral House in Sydney (next to St Mary's Cathedral) - thanks to David, Donovan and Liz who helped to make this happen.

Our special thanks to Archbishop Anthony for his beautiful message - Archbishop Anthony is a huge supporter of the work of the Ephpheta Centre and we worked closely with him and his team for the ... See More



YOUTUBE.COM  
Archbishop Anthony Fisher's Message - Ephpheta Sunday 2020



# Ephpheta Sunday

## Messages from around the world!

“

Happy Ephpheta Sunday.

Remember - Jesus loves you. I love you!


I am always a friend to you.

**Fr Fernando Montano**

*Parish priest - St Bernadette's Catholic Church*

*Baulkham Hills*

”

 Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people ...  
July 29 at 2:00 PM · 🌐


Hi everyone! Today we have a greeting to the deaf community from Fr Fernando Montano from the Parramatta Diocese.

Fr Fernando is a good friend to the Ephpheta deaf community. He worked for many years with the deaf community in Hong Kong and Macau and is friends with Fr Cyril Axelrod. Fr Fernando is currently parish priest at St Bernadette's Catholic Church at Baulkham Hills.

Thanks Fr Fernando!  
Enjoy! 🙌❤️

Video:  
<https://youtu.be/ywWOod56MI0>

Transcript:  
Hi to all my deaf friends!  
My name is Fernando. Happy Ephpheta Sunday.  
Remember - Jesus loves you. I love you! I am always a friend to you.  
Hope to see you very soon. Stay safe. God bless you. I love you! 🙌



YOUTUBE.COM  
**Fr Fernando Montano's Message - Ephpheta Sunday 2020**  
Transcript: Hi to all my deaf friends! My name is Fernando. Happy E...

“

I'd like to wish all people in the deaf community

a happy Ephpheta Sunday!

God bless you all.

Hope to see you again.

**Fr Shinto Francis**

*Assistant priest - St Bernadette's Catholic Church*

*Baulkham Hills*

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 Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people ...  
August 1 at 12:00 PM · 🌐

Hi everyone - here is a lovely greeting from Fr Shinto Francis to the community for Ephpheta Sunday.

Fr Shinto is a priest in the Parramatta diocese and is currently assistant priest at St Bernadette's Catholic Church at Baulkham Hills.

When he was in the seminary training to become a priest, Fr Shinto undertook his pastoral placement at the Ephpheta Centre with the community. He was with us for a number of years and invited the Ephpheta team to his ordinations at St Patrick's Cathedral when he became a deacon and then priest. We all loved working with Fr Shinto who has a very kind and gentle nature.

Hope you enjoy this greeting from Fr Shinto.  
From the Ephpheta team 🙌❤️

Video:  
<https://youtu.be/-Bdsw4kMkvc>

Transcript:  
Hi everyone! My name is Fr Shinto. This is my sign name.  
I'd like to wish all people in the deaf community a happy Ephpheta Sunday!  
God bless you all. Hope to see you again. Take care. Stay safe.  
Bye!



YOUTUBE.COM  
**Fr Shinto Francis' Message - Ephpheta Sunday 2020**

# Ephpheta Sunday

## Messages from around the world!

**Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people** ...  
July 29 at 4:30 PM · 🌐

Hi everyone! Today we have a greeting to the deaf community from Fr Cyril Axelrod who is a deaf-blind priest of the Redemptorist Order from London in England.

Fr Cyril is well known to the Ephpheta deaf community. He worked for many years with the deaf and deafblind people around the world especially in South Africa, China and the United Kingdom.

Fr Cyril wrote a book, "And the journey begins".... [See More](#)



YOUTUBE.COM  
**Fr Cyril Axelrod's Message - Ephpheta Sunday 2020**  
Transcript: Hello everyone! To my friends and the Deaf Catholic co...

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... please try and open your mind and think of your friends who are close to your heart, mind and love ...

Open your mind, Open your hearts.

Embrace your friends. Love your friends and pray about your friends.

I wish you a very happy Ephpheta. Open ears. Open mind. Ephpheta means be open!

**Fr Cyril Axelrod**

*Redemptorist priest - London*

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“

... Ephpheta Sunday is a time we remember the Deaf Community ... This weekend at Mass also I light a candle given to me from Australia. It links our communities together.

We pray this weekend.

Jesus Christ light in our darkness. Jesus bring us joy, peace and love ...

**Fr Martin Kershaw**

*Parish priest and Chaplain to the Deaf - Liverpool England*

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**Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people** ...  
July 30 at 4:30 PM · 🌐

Hi everyone - today we have a special greeting from Fr Martin Kershaw from Liverpool England for Ephpheta Sunday

Fr Martin is a good friend to the Ephpheta deaf community. He is the parish priest at St Austins and St Helens in Liverpool England. He has been involved in ministry to the deaf community for many years and works closely with the deaf community in preparing Catholic resources in BSL.

Fr Martin is a frequent visitor to the Ephpheta Centre in Sydney and we have rea... [See More](#)



YOUTUBE.COM  
**Fr Martin Kershaw's Message - Ephpheta Sunday 2020**  
Transcript: Hi my name is Fr Martin from Liverpool England. Ephph...



# Ephpheta Sunday

## Messages from around the world!

“

... Australian deaf people. I love you.  
Fellow Australians. I pray for you all.  
I have my big heart out to you all.  
God bless you.  
Love you and congratulations once  
again ...

**Fr Min Seo Park**

*Deaf priest - South Korea*

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Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people ...

August 1 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

Hi everyone! Today we have a greeting to the deaf community from Fr Benedict Park Min Seo, a deaf priest from South Korea. Fr Park is a good friend to the Ephpheta deaf community.

He went to USA to train to become a priest. He returned to Seoul, South Korea where he continued his studies at the seminary and was ordained a deacon in July of 2006.

Now, he celebrates Mass with deaf parishioners at the Ephphatha Deaf Parish every day except Mondays in South Korea.... See More



YOUTUBE.COM

**Fr Min Seo Park's Message - Ephpheta Sunday 2020**

Transcript: Hi My name is Min Seo Park. This is my sign name. I am f...



Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people ...

August 1 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

Hi everyone – here is a special greeting to our Ephpheta community in Australia from Fr Michael Depcik for Ephpheta Sunday.

Fr Michael is a deaf Catholic priest in America. He is a good friend of the Ephpheta Centre – he has visited us in Australia a few times (he was with us in Sydney for WYD 2009).

Thank you Fr Michael for your lovely greeting. We hope you enjoy it.  
From the Ephpheta team 🙏❤️

Video:

<https://youtu.be/hTGTnll-OMI>

Transcript:

Hello to all my friends!

I hope you remember me? I am Fr Mike Depcik here in America.

Happy Ephpheta!

I hope to come to Australia again. May God bless you!



YOUTUBE.COM

**Fr Michael Depcik's Message - Ephpheta Sunday 2020**

Transcript: Hello to all my friends! I hope you remember me? I am F...

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Happy Ephpheta!

I hope to come to Australia again.

May God bless you!

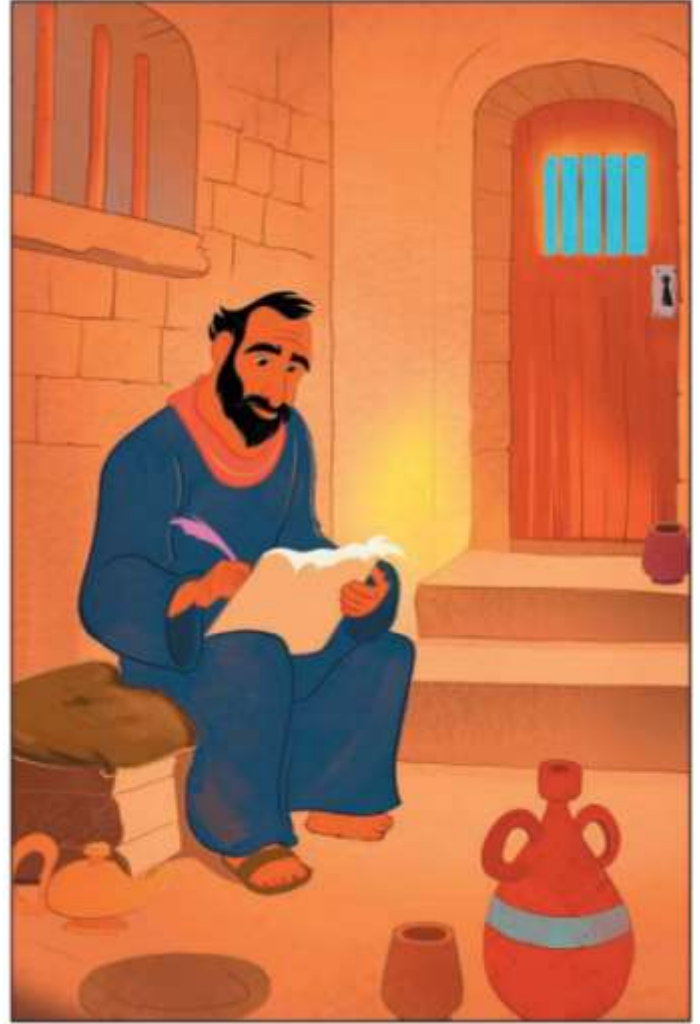
**Fr Michael Depcik**

*Deaf priest - USA*

”

## Paul's Letter to Timothy

Compare the picture on the left with the picture on the right. Circle 12 things that are different.



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



F<sub>4</sub> I<sub>1</sub> N<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>

W<sub>4</sub> O<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>

LAUGHTER  
FATHER  
GROW  
SON  
DAUGHTER  
SHARE  
LOVE

FUN  
PROTECT  
CARE  
KIND  
FAITH  
PATIENT  
GOD





A huge thank you and “well done” to our Ephpheta craft group for making beanies and scarves for the Cancer Council’s “Knit for Cancer” project. These will be used to support cancer patients as they go through their treatments.

Such wonderful knitted and crocheted items which were made with love. The beanies and scarves are really beautiful. Thank you to everyone involved including Pat and Chrisso who made this project happen.

If you are not a part of our regular Zoom craft group but would like information about future craft projects, please contact Chrisso or Pat.







## CatholicCare wants to help during this challenging time

We hope you in the Ephpheta community are keeping safe and well, as the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for many. At CatholicCare, the Archdiocese of Sydney's social services agency, our Home Care team is working hard to provide practical support tailored to the needs of seniors. As such, we are particularly mindful of seniors in the Ephpheta community right now.

"We also want to continue to assist you in staying in your own home and to be healthy, happy and to enjoy life, as we navigate the challenges ahead together," said Kerry Tutt, General Manager, Home Care, CatholicCare.

We have proudly worked with your Ephpheta team to roll out targeted education for our Call Centre and Intake team, Home Care Specialists and Care Staff, to assist us to be a deaf friendly aged care service. "We know that this can be an isolating time and so I really encourage you to get in touch as our Home Care Specialists are here for you at this time."

With the support of the Ephpheta Centre, CatholicCare's Home Care team will work in partnership with you to provide practical assistance and help you navigate the challenges of these complex systems and meet your individual needs during COVID-19, so that you can remain independent and feel supported.

Ms Tutt added that as our community begins to venture back to normal life, she wants to assure you that CatholicCare seniors services will not be relaxing any of our standards.

"Our Home Care staff and clinical care team remain vigilant about their infection control and will take any precautions necessary to protect the health and safety of both staff and client when visiting your home."

**An Ephpheta Centre team member can help you to arrange for a CatholicCare Home Care Specialist to come and visit you in your home, or you can contact CatholicCare directly via email - [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org).**

Interpreter services are also available and can be arranged upon request.

☎ 13 18 19  
✉ [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)  
🌐 [catholiccare.org](http://catholiccare.org)

 be open  
**Ephpheta**  
Project supported by the Ephpheta Centre

 **CatholicCare**



## Zoom with the Ephpheta Centre

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

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.

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! Please contact any Ephpheta staff for more information.



*BINGO!!!  
Craft catch up on Zoom!*



## 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.



Heavenly Father, you entrusted your  
Son Jesus,  
the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph,  
an earthly father.  
Bless all fathers as they care for their families.  
Give them strength and wisdom,  
tenderness and patience;  
support them in the work they have to do,  
protecting those who look to them,  
as we look to You for love and salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender,  
in union with the Holy Spirit, one God  
forever and ever.  
St Joseph, Pray for all our Fathers,  
Amen

# Readings for Mass - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 6 September

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF EZEKIEL

The Lord said to me, "Son of man, I appoint you as a guard for the family of Israel. If you hear a warning from me, you must tell the people in my name.

If I say that evil people will die but you do not warn them to change their ways so that they can save their lives, then as sinners they will die, but you will be responsible for their death.

If you do warn evil people, telling them to repent, and they do not stop sinning, as sinners they will die, but you will not be responsible and you will save your own life."

**Psalm - TODAY WE WILL LISTEN TO GOD. WE WILL NOT LET OUR HEARTS BECOME HARD.**

Come, let us praise and thank the Lord!

Let us sing with joy because God saves us.

Come, let us bow and worship him.

Because he is our God, he created us,  
and we are his people.

Listen to God.

Do not let your hearts become hard or  
stubborn,

Not like the people of long ago in the desert,

they saw God's work, but they refused to believe in him.





## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Try not to owe anything to anyone. The only thing that you will always owe is love. If you love people, you have followed the law.

All the commandments: You must not commit (do) the sin of adultery, you must not kill, you must not steal, you must not covet (want the things that belong to other people), and other laws altogether - the Ten Commandments - are really the same as one law: 'You must love other people the same as you love yourself.'

Love can not hurt your neighbour. This means that, if you love people, you are following the ten commandments.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to his disciples, "If your brother does something wrong to you, go and tell him in private.

If he listens to you, you have saved your brother's soul.

If he does not listen, bring one or two people with you - two or three

witnesses will be able to tell what happened. If your brother refuses to listen to these people, report it to the community.

If your brother refuses to listen to the community, then treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

I tell you the truth. Anything you agree on earth shall be (same) agreed in heaven. Anything you prohibit on earth shall be (same) prohibited in heaven.

I tell you again, if on earth two of you agree to ask anything and pray for it, my Father in heaven will give it to you.

This is because if two or three people meet in my name (Jesus), I will be there with them."



# 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 13 September

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ECCLESIASTICUS

Anger and resentment are terrible things; sinners have both. The Lord knows your sins, and if you punish someone, the Lord will punish you.

If someone hurts you but you forgive them, your sins will be forgiven when you pray. If you are angry with another person, why do you expect compassion from the Lord?

You yourself are a sinner, but if you show no pity for another sinner, why do you expect the Lord to show pity to you.

Do not forget you are human, if you hold anger or resentment, you have no hope of forgiveness. Think about it!

One day you will die, and your body will become like dust. So better stop hating, and follow the commandments.

Remember God's covenant (promise) and do not hold a grudge (resent) or get upset about people's faults.

### **Psalm - THE LORD IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND LOVE, SLOW TO ANGER, QUICK TO FORGIVE.**

My soul, thank the Lord!

Bless his holy name.

I will never forget all his blessings.

He always forgives us.

The Lord heals us.

He saves our life from the grave.

He will not be angry for ever.

He loves us.

He will take away all our sins.





## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS**

Our lives and death can influence people. If we live, we live for the Lord. If we die, we die for the Lord.

So, alive or dead, we all belong to the Lord.

This explains why Christ died and rose to life. Christ did this so that He could be Lord over all people, alive or dead.

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, every time my brother sins against me, how many times must I forgive him? Seven times?"



Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but more: seventy seven times."

"The kingdom of heaven is like a king that decided to collect the money that his servants owed him. The king asked his servants to come and see him.

The first servant owed the king ten thousand coins, but he could not pay back, he had no money. So the king said that the servant should sell his house, his things, his wife and children, to pay off the bill.

But the servant fell on his knees and begged, 'Give me time, and I will pay back the money.' The king felt pity for the servant, so he let him go free and cancelled the bill.

This servant went out and he met another servant that owed him one hundred coins. The first servant grabbed the other servant at the throat and choked him.

He said, 'Give me the money that you owe me.' But the other servant fell on his knees and begged him, 'Give me time, and I will pay back the money.'

But the first servant refused to wait, and he threw him into prison. The other servants saw this and they were upset. So they went and reported everything to the king.

Then the king called the first servant and said to him, 'You wicked servant, you begged me to forgive you, and I cancelled your bill.

You should have done the same to the other servant and forgiven him, the same as I forgave you.'

The king was angry. He sent the servant to prison to be punished till he could pay back all the money he owed to the king."

Then Jesus said, "My father in heaven will do the same as the king, so each of you must truly forgive your brother."

# 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 20 September

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

Search (look) for the Lord before it is too late.

Pray to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked people give up their ways, and change their evil thoughts.

Let them turn back to the Lord, and the Lord will have pity on them; our God is full of mercy.

The Lord says, "My thoughts and my ways are not the same as your thoughts and your ways.

The heavens are so high above the earth. In the same way, my thoughts are so high above your thoughts, my ways are so high above your ways."

### Psalm - THE LORD IS NEAR TO THOSE THAT PRAY TO HIM.

I will praise you and your name for ever.

No one can measure your great love.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion.

Slow to anger, quick to love.

The Lord is good.

He is compassionate to all his people.

The Lord's way is good and fair.

He is very near to those that really need his help.





## A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

My deep wish and hope is that in my duty I will not fail Christ, and that always, especially now, I will be full of courage so that through my body I can give glory to Christ, either by my life or by my death.

To me, it does not matter if I live or die, to me the most important thing is Christ.

If by living in this body, I will be able to work for the Lord, I will accept.

But I wish I could die so that I could be with Christ. It is difficult to choose which is better.

But I know you need me, so it is better for me to stay alive here with you.

The most important thing in your daily life is that you follow the gospel of Christ.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner, a rich man, that went out very early in the morning looking for workers for his vineyard (grape field).

The man agreed to pay one silver coin to each worker for one day. He sent them to work in his vineyard (grape field).

At nine o'clock in the morning the rich man went out again.

He saw some people in the market place standing idle, doing nothing. He said to them, 'You go and work in my vineyard (grape field), and I will pay you a fair wage.'

So they went. Then at twelve o'clock, midday, and again at three o'clock in the afternoon, the rich man went out and asked more men to work in his vineyard (grape field).

At about five o'clock, the man went out again and found more people standing. He said to them, 'Why are you standing here, doing nothing.'

They said to him, 'Because no one gave us a job.' So the rich man said to them, 'You go and work in my vineyard (grape field).'

In the evening, the rich man said to his manager, 'Tell the workers to come. Pay them their wages. First, pay those that started to work late in the afternoon. Then the workers that began work early in the morning, pay them last.'

So the workers that started to work late afternoon came, and they received one silver coin each. Then the workers that began to work early in the morning came, and they expected to receive more money.

But they also received one silver coin each. They grumbled, and said to the rich man, 'Those that started late in the afternoon only worked for one hour. You paid them one silver coin each. We worked hard all day in the hot sun, but you pay us, one silver coin each, the same as them!'

The rich man answered one of them, 'My friend, you remember this morning we both agreed that I would pay you one silver coin? I am being fair. Take your money and go. I can decide how much I want to pay workers. It is my decision, my money. Why are you jealous because I am generous?'

So the people that are last will be first, and the people that want to be first will be last."



# 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 27 September

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF EZEKIEL

The Lord said, “You object and you say ‘The Lord is not fair.’ Now I tell you, family of Israel, listen to me: You are the people that do not live the right way.

When good people change, start doing evil and then they die, they die because of the evil they have done.

When people stop sinning and live the right way, their lives will be saved. If they stop sinning, they will certainly live, they will not die.”

### Psalm - LORD, REMEMBER YOUR MERCY.

Lord, teach me your ways.

Help me to live with the truth.

Because you God, you are my Saviour.

Do not remember my sins,

but give me your love.

The Lord is truly good.

He shows the right way to sinners.

He leads humble people the right way.

He teaches his way to the poor.





## **A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS**

I ask you: what does our life in Christ mean to you? Does love mean anything to you? Do we share the same Spirit? Do you have kindness and mercy for other people?

Are these things important to you? If you believe this, you will make me very happy. I want you all to have the same thoughts that we have.

I want you to be together with the same love in your hearts that we have. Agree with each other, do not get involved in competition.

Everybody must not boast (proud) but be humble. Always think other people are better than yourselves. Don't be selfish, don't think about yourself, but think about helping other people.

You must have the same attitude as Jesus Christ: 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.

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the Jewish leaders, "Tell me what you think: a man had two sons.

He went and said to the first, 'My son, go and work in the vineyard (grape field) today.' The son answered, 'I will not go,' but later he thought about it and changed his mind.

He went to work. The man went to the second son and asked him to work. This son answered, 'Yes, I will go,' but he never went to work.

Which of the two sons obeyed his father?" The chief priests and the Jewish leaders said, "The first son."

Jesus said to them, "Yes, I tell you the truth, tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God before you.

Because John the Baptist came showing you the right way. He was a good man, but you did not believe him.

The tax collectors and prostitutes were sinners, but they believed him (John the Baptist). You knew that, but you refused to change your minds and believe in John the Baptist."





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*The Ephpheta Centre is  
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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](mailto:david@ephpheta.org.au)

[www.ephpheta.org.au](http://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!