

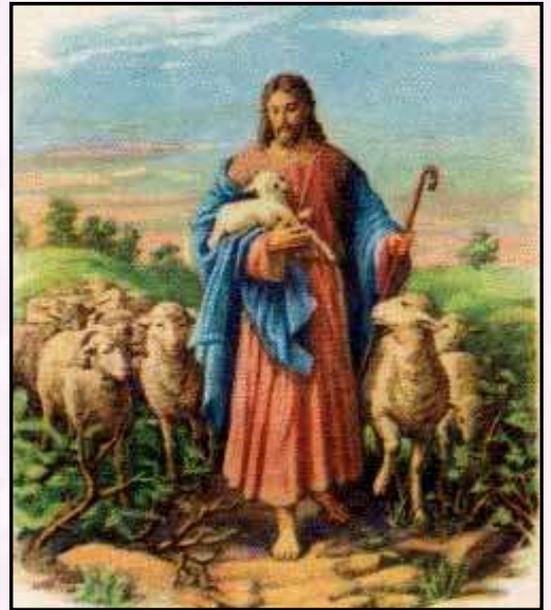


be open

Deaf Catholic News Ephpheta

Special Edition - July 2020

Special Ephpheta Newsletter



Pope Francis says a special prayer for each month.

In June 2020, this was Pope Francis' prayer for the world for compassion - let us pray it with him:

Many people suffer due to the great difficulties in their lives.

We can help them by being with them in their journey full of compassion which transforms people's lives.

It brings them closer to the Heart of Christ, which welcomes all of us into His wonderful tenderness.

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

Amen

Adapted version from: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-06/pope-francis-prayer-intention-june-2020-compassion.html>



A message from Liz & Dave!

Liz's report

Hi everyone – hope that you are all going ok and staying warm as the weather gets colder. Through the recent lockdowns, I have been thinking a lot about friends and family. Thinking about how much we have all missed seeing each other and that – in some ways – we take the people who we love in our lives for granted. And then – when we cannot see them – how much we miss them.



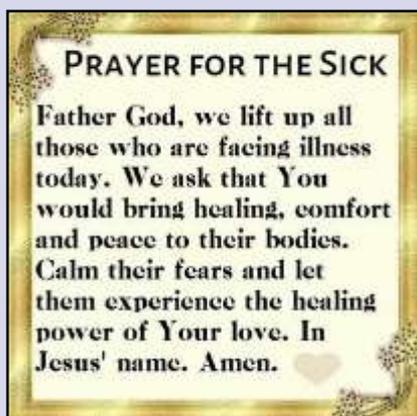
Now that in NSW as the lockdown restrictions have started to ease up, I recently saw an old friend who I had not seen for many years as she has moved to a different state. It was so wonderful to see her again as we caught up on what had been happening in our lives. The months and years just slipped away as we sat and chatted with my dog on her lap!

Friendship and community are such amazing gifts which God has given to us. To have people in our lives who care for us. To have people who we can care for and love. How much we actually need other people – and how good it will be when we can shake hands and hug each other again. So this month – spend some time to catch up with your family and friends. If you cannot see them in person, organise a video call, send them a text or write them a letter. Thank you God for the gift of friends and family.

Until next time,
Liz

Dave's report

Its July 2020. 7 months into the year 2020 now. Wow. The coronavirus pandemic is still here. We still have to be careful. We still need to practice 1.5m physical distancing. We need to wash our hands for 20 seconds and best to use soap.



Dealing with a very sick person is never easy, and it can often leave those family members and friends with the suffering person feeling helpless. In times like these, one of few things you can do, is offer a special prayer and pray with this sick person.

For this month of July, we have decided to still close Ephpheta Centre. We will not have Mass services, Deaf Café events, Women's Craft and other events at Ephpheta for July 2020. We want our Deaf Ephpheta community to remain safe. We care about our community. We will still continue with our very successful Zoom meetings and one to one online video calls via Messenger, FaceTime and Skype for example.

May God provide us support and love. Peace be with you all.

Stay safe! Stay warm.

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.

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

When: 11am each Sunday

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

Mass only. No morning tea or lunch.

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.



Ephpheta Sunday Celebrations

As you know, every year in our Ephpheta 40 year history, we have celebrated Ephpheta Sunday on the first Sunday of August.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions we cannot have a community celebration this year.



We will have normal 11am Mass from Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Underwood Rd Homebush. But we cannot have any morning tea or lunch to celebrate.

If you are well, you are welcome to join us for Mass.

We will also be livestreaming the Mass on our Ephpheta Facebook page and will have the Mass available afterwards on our Ephpheta website.

PLUS we are preparing some special videos which we will share with you on Facebook and via the website. Please keep an eye out for these!

We know it is disappointing that we cannot celebrate Ephpheta Sunday in the normal way. But – when the pandemic has passed – we will be able to celebrate together and see each other again!

Any questions, please contact David Parker.



The people in the Church loved one another

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



There are 10 differences to be found. Can you spot them?!



RULES

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

The rules of Sudoku are simple!

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

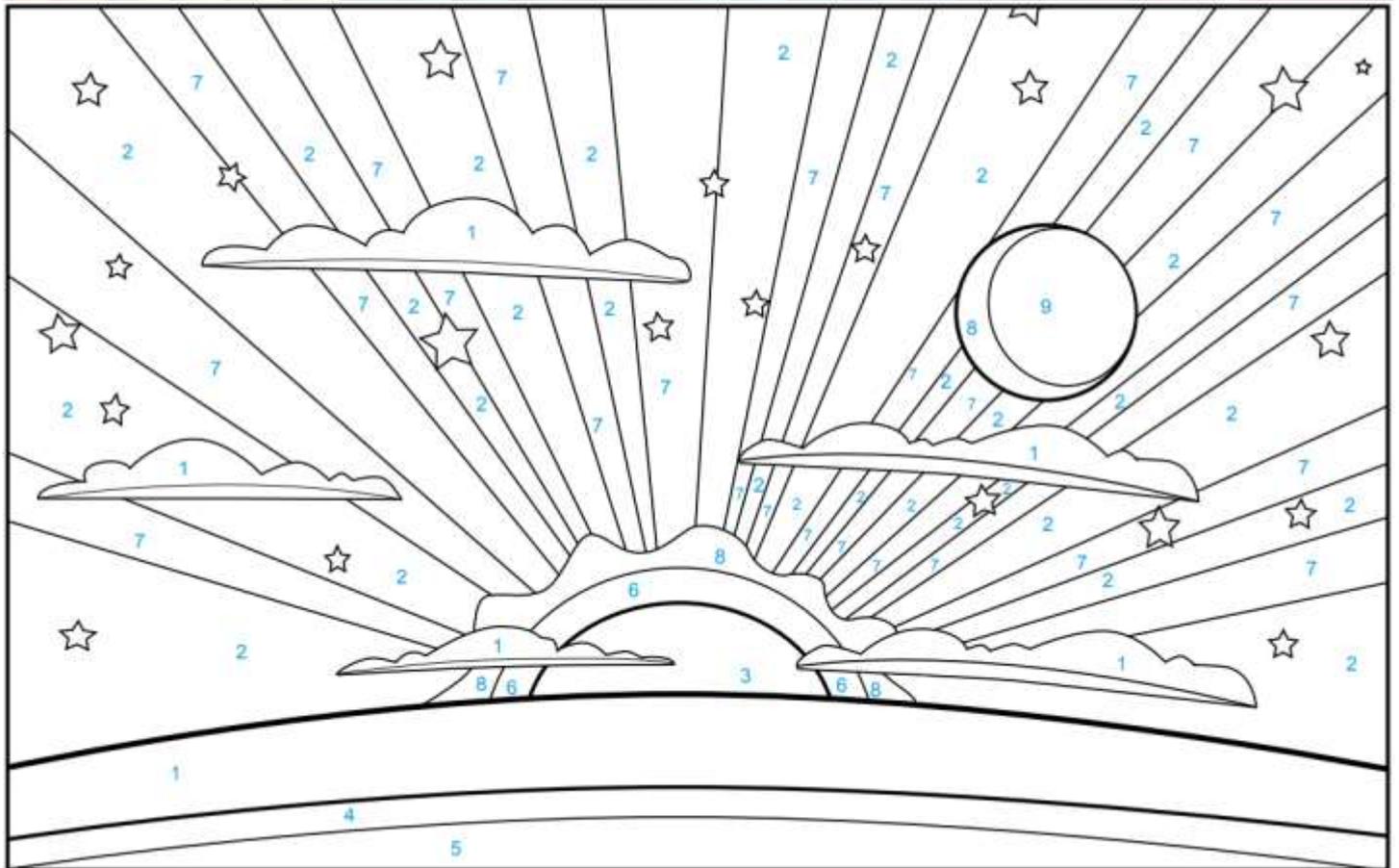
Every puzzle has just one right answer. Good luck!

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

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

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!



God Made the World - Colour in/paint by number

Colour in or paint each sections by the colours listed below.

If you don't have all of the colours listed, make your best colour choice.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Light blue | 4. Medium blue | 7. Dark purple |
| 2. Light purple | 5. Dark blue | 8. Light yellow |
| 3. Bright yellow | 6. Orange | 9. Grey |

Stars and clouds can be either yellow or white - your choice.

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!



Ephpheta staff meetings on Zoom!



Prayer group on Zoom!

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.



Readings for Mass - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 12 July

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

The Lord says, “The rain and the snow come down from the sky and the water covers the earth, and the water lets crops grow to produce (make) seeds that are used for both sowing and for making bread to eat.

Yes, it is the same with my ‘word’; I send my ‘word’ to do what I want and my ‘word’ will not fail. My ‘word’ will succeed and do all the things I planned to do.

Psalm - SOME SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL.

IT GREW AND GAVE A GOOD CROP (HARVEST)

You look after the earth.

You give water and many beautiful things grow.

Crops grow and you bless its growth.

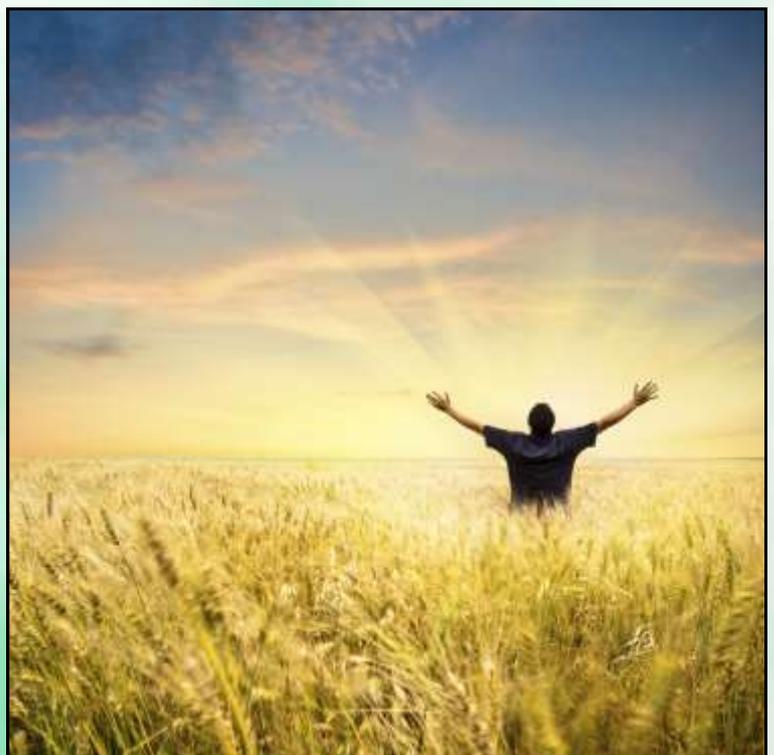
Every year you give plenty of good things.

Joy in the hills, plenty of good grass.

Joy in the fields, full of sheep.

Joy in the valleys, full of wheat.

Yes! Everything shouts with joy,
everything sings.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

I think that our sufferings in this life can never be compared to the glory not yet revealed (shown) to us. All creation waits with eager longing (desire) for God to show his children to the world.

It was not the fault of creation that it failed, that was planned by God. But there is the hope that creation itself will one day be freed from ruin and slavery and share the freedom and glory that belong to the children of God.

We know that everything in creation has been waiting in pain, like a woman ready to give birth. We have the gifts of the Spirit but we wait.

And not only creation waits, we also wait with inner pain for our bodies to be freed and receive redemption.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus left the house and sat near the lake. Large crowds came around Jesus, so Jesus got into a boat and sat down.

The people stood on the beach, and Jesus began to teach them many things in parables.



Jesus said, "Imagine a farmer going out to sow. While the farmer was sowing, some seeds fell on the edge of the path. Birds came and ate all the seeds.

Some seeds fell on rocky ground, there was little soil. The seeds grew very quickly, but the sun burnt the plants, and because the plants did not have enough roots, they died.

Some seeds fell in thorn bushes, and the thorn bushes grew and choked the seeds. Some seeds fell on good rich soil, these seeds grew and gave crops.

Some plants made a hundred grains, some sixty, and some thirty. If you want to understand, listen, think carefully about my message."

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 19 July

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF WISDOM

Lord, all things are under your care, and there is no other god, only you are God. You do not have to prove that you judge fairly. Your justice is strong.

You show mercy to all people because you are Lord of all. When people doubt and question that your power is perfect, you show them your strength.

Those that are proud and think they know everything, you punish them. You have great power but you judge us with great mercy.

You could judge against us, but instead, you rule us with great patience. Your way teaches us that a good person must be kind to other people.

You have given your people great hope by forgiving them their sins.

Psalm - LORD, YOU ARE GOOD AND FORGIVING.

Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love, you help all that pray to you.

You, Lord, listen to us all.

All people come to adore you,
they glorify your name.

Lord, you are kind and merciful,
slow to anger,
full of love and truth.

Lord, turn and have pity on me.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

When we are weak, the Spirit comes to help us. When we cannot pray, or don't know how to pray, the Spirit prays to God for us.

The Spirit prays without using words, and God knows perfectly what the Spirit means.

God knows everything in our hearts. The Spirit prays for all people to obey what God wants.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus told a parable to the crowds of people, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man that sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep, the enemy came and sowed weeds in the field, and then the enemy went away.

Later, when the new wheat grew, the weeds appeared also. The servant went to the man and said, “You sowed good seeds in the field? Where did the weeds come from?”

The man answered, “An enemy must have come and planted weeds.”

The servant said, “Do you want me to go and pull out the weeds?”

The man answered, “No, because when you pull out the weeds, you might also pull out the good wheat. Better let wheat and weeds grow together.

Then when the wheat is ready, I will tell the workers to harvest. I will tell them: first collect the weeds and burn them, then gather the wheat and save it in my barn.”

Jesus told another parable to the people, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. Of all seeds, the mustard seed is the smallest.

A man sows a mustard seed in his field. When the seed grows, it becomes the biggest tree of all. The birds from the air come and make nests in the tree.”

Jesus told another parable to the people, “The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast that a woman mixes into a big bowl of flour to make bread. The yeast makes the dough (bread) rise.”

Jesus told many parables to the crowds of people. Jesus would not teach people without using parables. This proved that what the prophet said long ago came true.

The prophet said: ‘I will teach you using parables. I will explain things that no one knew since the beginning of the world.’

Jesus left the people and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us about the parable of the weeds in the field.”

Jesus explained, “The person that sowed good seeds in the field is the same as the Son of God. The field is the same as the world. The good seeds are the same as all the good people in the kingdom. The weeds are the same as evil people. The enemy that sowed the weeds is the same as the devil. The harvest is the same as the end of the world. The workers are the same as the angels. So when the weeds are pulled out and burnt, it will be the same at the end of the world. The Son of God will send his angels, and his angels will find all evil people in the world, and throw them into a place of fire. In the fire they will scream and suffer. The good people will shine like the sun. They will be in the kingdom with their Father. If you want to understand, think carefully!”



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 26 July

A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL OF KINGS

In Gibeon, Solomon was asleep dreaming. In Solomon's dream, the Lord appeared. God said, "What would you like me to give you?"

Solomon replied, "Lord, you have made me king to follow my father, David. But I am a very young man, and I don't know how to rule as a good leader. I am your servant, and I'm here with the people that you chose.

There are so many people, impossible to count. Give me the wisdom so that I will know how to judge between good and evil. Without your wisdom, it will be impossible to rule your people."

The Lord was pleased with Solomon, and said to him, "You did not ask for long life for yourself. You did not ask for riches for yourself or to beat your enemies.

But you asked for wisdom to make the right decisions. So now I give you the wisdom that you asked for.

No one in the past has had this wisdom and understanding like you, and in the future no one will have wisdom the same as you."

Psalm - LORD, I LOVE YOUR LAW!

Lord, I have decided to obey your word.

Your law means more to me than silver or gold.

Your love comforts me.

Your love helps me to live.

I love your laws more than gold.

I hate false ways.

Your laws are wonderful, that is why I follow you.

Your word gives me wisdom.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

We know in everything God works for the good of all that love him. God chose those people because that was his plan.

God chose those people long ago, before he created the world.

And God decided that those people would become true images of his Son, so that his Son would be the eldest of many brothers in God's family.

God was just and fair with the people that he chose, and he shared his glory with them.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field.

Someone finds the treasure, hides it and covers it up in the field. That person is happy, sells everything and buys the field.

Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a salesman looking for precious pearls.

One day the salesman found a precious pearl, he went and sold everything he had, and he bought the pearl.

Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown in the sea. The net catches many different types of fish. When the net is full, the fishermen pull the net to the shore.

The fishermen sit down and begin to collect all the good fish in a basket. All the rubbish and bad fish the fishermen throw away. It will be the same at the end of the world.

The angels will appear and separate evil people from good people. The angels will throw evil people into the fire. In the fire they will scream, cry and suffer."

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do you understand?" They said, "Yes."

Then Jesus said, "Each scribe (writer) that becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house. The owner takes new and old things from his storeroom."



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 2 August

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

The Lord says:

“All you thirsty people come, drink water! If you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat.

Come, drink wine and milk - it will cost you nothing! Why spend money on something that is not food? Why waste money on something that will not satisfy you?

Listen to me, and you will have good things. You will enjoy eating good food. Listen carefully to me! Come to me and your soul will live.

I made a covenant (promise) with David; now I make a covenant (promise) forever with you.”

Psalm - LORD, YOU GIVE US ALL GOOD THINGS.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, quick to love.

All living things look to you.

And you give them their food.

The Lord is just and loving.

All his ways are good.

The Lord is very near to those that need his help.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

What can separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing! If we have trouble, or worries, or if people persecute (attack) us, or when we are short of food or clothes, or if we are in danger, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Through these difficult times, we have complete (full) victory through the power of Jesus because he loved us.

I am sure nothing can separate us from God's love: not death, not life, not angels, not other rulers or powers, nothing that lives now, nothing in the future, nothing above us, nothing below us, or anything in the whole world, nothing can separate us from God's love.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

When Jesus heard the news about the death of John the Baptist, he left in a boat, and went to a quiet place. He wanted to be alone, but people knew where Jesus had gone.

They left the towns and walked looking for Jesus. Then Jesus arrived at the shore, he saw a large crowd. He felt pity for them and he healed the sick people.

It was getting dark, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "This is a quiet place and it's very late. Tell the people to go to the villages, there they can buy some food for themselves."

Jesus replied, "The people don't have to go. You give them some food to eat." The disciples said, "But we only have five loaves and two fish."

Jesus said, "Bring the bread and the fish to me." Then Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He broke the bread and gave the bread to his disciples. The disciples gave the bread to the people.

All the people ate and they were full.

There was plenty of bread left over. They collected the scraps and filled twelve baskets. There were about 5,000 men, not including women and children.



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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!