



Special Ephpheta Newsletter

In the Catholic Church we have a tradition of saying the Rosary – the special prayers we say to Mary. The Rosary is a very old series of prayers – we pray and reflect on the birth of Jesus, his life, his crucifixion and his resurrection. In these prayers we ask for the help of our Mother Mary in heaven and we ask God to help us live our faith.



It is a beautiful tradition to say the rosary prayer often in our life. These prayers are very powerful – they allow us to slow down and focus on the life of Jesus, the faith of Mary and the love of God.

Some of us learned these prayers as children, other of us only learn these prayers as adults. Really it doesn't matter if we don't know how to use our rosary beads or if we don't know exactly how to sign or say some of the prayers. All that God ask of us is that we try and pray to Him in the best way that we know. With an open and loving heart, and that we are willing to be open to God and what God wants of each of us.

Ephpheta has started an online Zoom rosary group and we would love for you to join us wherever you are. Please try and join our group if you can. You don't need to bring anything with you or know anything before – just bring an open and loving heart and a will to know more about God and Mary our Mother in Heaven.

Rosary Prayer Group on Zoom

When: Starting Tuesday 27 October - 2pm
Where: Your home! Using Zoom
How often: Every two weeks

If you have any questions or would like more information - please contact Brett Beath or David Parker:

Brett: brettb@ephpheta.org.au 0407 064 872 (SMS)

David: david@ephpheta.org.au 0408 669 672 (SMS)



A message from Liz & Dave!

Liz's report

Hi everyone – hope you are going well and staying ok.

It is funny how quickly our lives pass. My youngest son is sitting his HSC now. I can't believe that he is almost at the end of his time at school. It seems like only yesterday that he was a little boy starting kindy!

Change can be hard. This year all our plans had to change because of coronavirus – all over the world, and also in our individual lives. In our Ephpheta community we had to cancel so many plans - our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Ephpheta Sunday and Christmas celebrations, deaf café, weekly Ephpheta Mass to name a few.

But during coronavirus, some things have actually changed for the better. We have all slowed down. We have time to think- and time to pray. We can focus on what is really important in our lives. And what are those things – our family, our friends, our community. Our health – both physical and mental. We have all spent more time in our homes – and maybe this has made us appreciate what a blessing it is to have a safe roof over our heads. And of course – we have had time to focus on God, the love of Jesus and Mary. That in this ever-changing world, God's love is never changing. God's love and peace are with us always. We only have to ask Him and we will receive.

Until next time,
Liz



Dave's report

It is nearly November! We are still going through the COVID-19 situation which is still very hard for so many people here in Australia and all over the world. Australia is doing very well compared to other countries. We are lucky to have a strong government with this excellent health care system. We still need to be careful - wash our hands thoroughly, cover our faces with masks, stay 1.5m away from each other. The COVID-19 is still not over. We still can enjoy life here in Sydney. Go for a walk! Go for a bike ride!

Members of the Ephpheta community are still welcome to Our Lady of the Assumption Church at Homebush. Be mindful of 1.5m physical distancing and please wear a mask. Keeping our community safe is our number one priority.

I am very excited at how our Prayer groups are going each Friday led by our own Brett Beath. He has been leading Prayer groups on Zoom for deaf and hard of hearing people for a few months. Let Brett or me know if you wish to join.

We will keep the community updated with what is happening with Mass for the rest of 2020 especially around Christmas time.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ...

—Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)

Stay safe. Stay well. 1.5metres away from each other please.

Peace. David.



Fr Michael's Reflection...

The priest they called "the Father of the Deaf"

In September we celebrated International Day of Sign Language. I did some research and found some interesting information about Father Charles-Michel de l'Épée. He is the priest who is called "the Father of the Deaf".



Charles was born in France in 1712. His family were quite rich and he received a good education. He wanted to be a priest. However, a wrong belief called "Jansenism" was popular in France at that time. There were big arguments about it. The Archbishop of Paris wanted Charles to sign a document against Jansenism. However, Charles refused. So, the Archbishop refused to ordain him. Charles became a lawyer instead.

Charles still wanted to be a priest. Eventually, he found a Bishop to ordain him. However, the Bishop died only a little while later. It seems that Father Charles could not find another Bishop who would accept him, so he went back to Paris.



One day, Fr Charles met 2 deaf girls and he started to teach them. Fr Charles quickly realised that the girls and other deaf people were communicating with each other, but Fr Charles could not understand. He realized that he needed to learn their language, if he wanted to teach them.

Fr Charles developed the first formal Deaf alphabet, bridging the gap between the signs of Deaf people and spoken French. Fr Charles set up a school for the Deaf.

Fr Charles said that the education of deaf people, *"must teach them through the eye what other people acquire through the ear"*.

He also said that every deaf person coming to his school... *"already has a language,... He is thoroughly in the habit of using it, and understands others who do. With it he expresses his needs, desires, doubts, pains, and so on, and makes no mistakes when others express themselves likewise."*

Fr Charles' plan was to use a system of signs to teach the French language. His work inspired many other people. The French Sign Language that developed through his work led to the development of ASL and many more schools for the Deaf. Fr Charles spent all his money on the education of Deaf people. He had been born into quite a rich family, but he died a poor man.

Two years after his death in 1789, Fr Charles was named by the French Assembly "Benefactor of Mankind" and a bronze statue of him was made. The Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II had once visited his school, and King Louis XVI and others had made big donations. However, perhaps the most powerful praise came from the Deaf students he had taught:

"Students reported that he went without heat in his own quarters (room) so that they might have a fire in theirs (their room)."

God Bless, Fr Michael.

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.

All Soul's Day - 2 November

URGENT

On Monday 2 November we celebrate All Soul's Day.

This is an important event in the Catholic Church. On this day, we pray that for all people who have died. We pray that all people who have died – especially the people we love - will rest in peace with God in heaven.

Normally we have a white remembrance board set up in the chapel at the Ephpheta Centre. Because of COVID we will do something different this year.

Ephpheta will prepare a video (posted on Facebook and on our website) listing all the names of the people who our community would like to remember and pray for on All Soul's Day.

If you would like a name added to the list, please SMS 0408 669 672 (David Parker) or 0405 749 488 (Chrisso Quartararo) with the person's name before 1pm on **Friday 30 October**.

We will do our best to add that person's name into our video.

Any questions, please contact David Parker.



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.



BINGO!!! Craft catch up on Zoom!

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.



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.

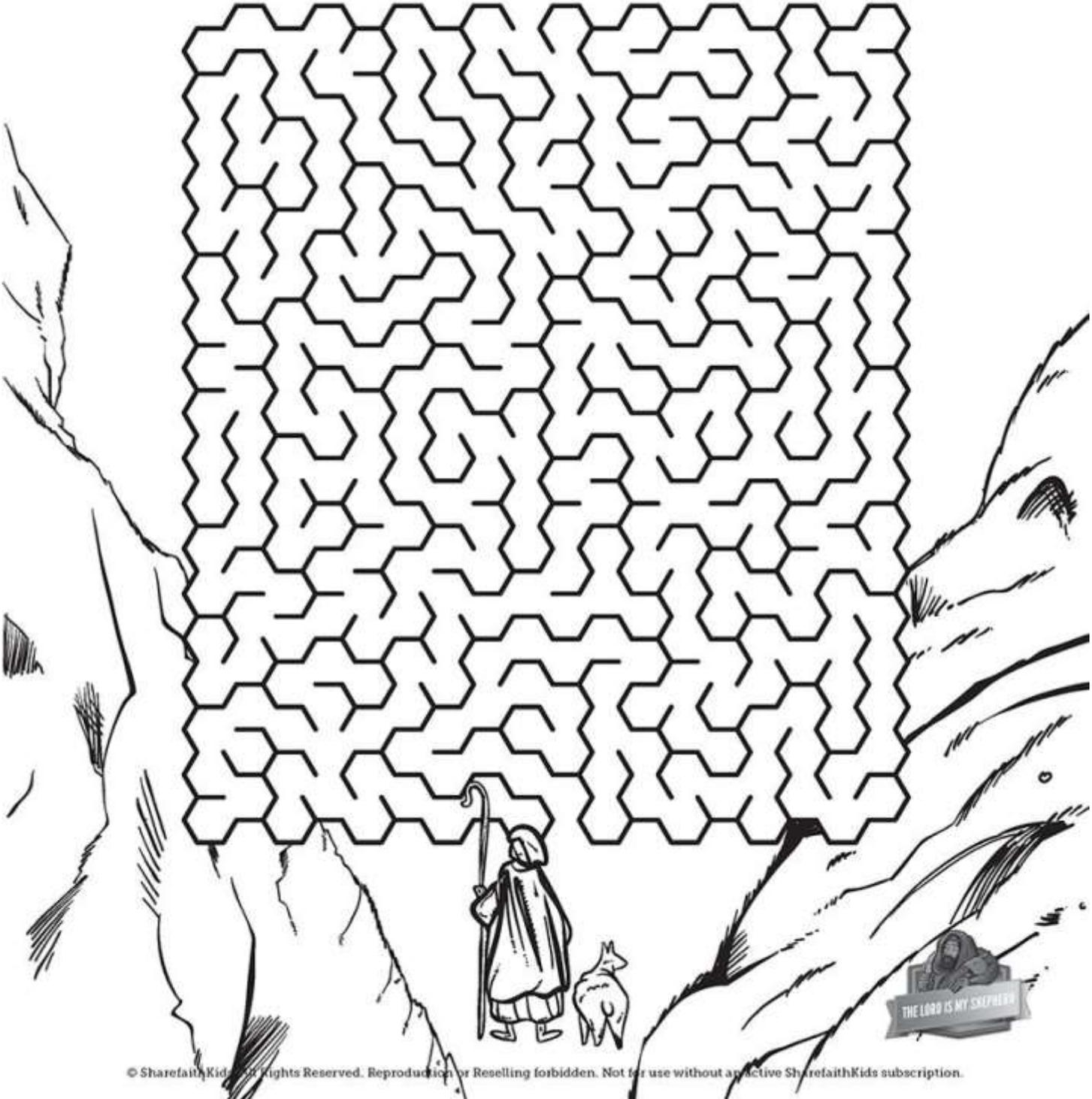


FIND THE WAY!

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Help the shepherd guide his lamb.

FINISH





TARGET MASTER



How many words of four letters or more can you make from these nine letters?

Each letter may be used only once. The centre letter must be included.

We have given you two answers to get you started.

Good luck!

1

Game ONE target:

Good - 30 words Very Good - 38 words Excellent - 45+ words

I	W	N
D	G	R
A	E	N

AGED					
DRAG					

2

Game TWO target:

Good - 13 words Very Good - 20 words Excellent - 30+ words

E	D	U
A	V	T
N	E	R

EVER					
VENT					



All answers revealed in the next newsletter!



CatholicCare Home Care Services - Michelle's Story

Practical help and emotional support in the home are vital to people's physical health and well-being as they age.

Staff at CatholicCare Sydney's Seniors' services are passionate about ensuring people continue living independently in their homes for as long as possible.

Michelle, aged 63, says the process of getting support at home is not easy.



"The Aged Care System for me was like being thrown into a cyclone and not knowing what direction to go, what help is available to me and how to access it," Michelle said. "It was really confusing and stressful."

Thanks to some guidance from a friend, Michelle called CatholicCare Sydney. She says it was the best decision she ever made.

Only a few short years before, Michelle had been working full-time as a midwife. The idea of slowing down didn't even enter her mind. Then, with the sudden loss of her husband, Michelle experienced significant stress and knew that she needed to take a break. It was during this break, that an incident changed her life.

One day when out shopping, Michelle tripped on a bit of concrete and fell flat on her face. "I didn't break my glasses or chip a bone, but after a few weeks, I noticed that my sight in one eye was deteriorating.

"The doctor confirmed that the bruising from the incident had permanently damaged my eye."

Michelle started getting bad back pain, felt tired and constantly lacked energy. She was diagnosed with progressive osteoarthritis and Small Vessel Disease which was affecting the arteries of her heart.

Soon she required an assisted walker and crutches to get around and previously simple tasks became difficult. She knew it was time to get some support at home, but didn't know where to start.

"Everyone thinks because you've been a midwife or you've worked in the medical industry that you know a lot about aged care," Michelle said, "but I didn't know where to start to get help."

She reached out to a friend who helped her complete the online application forms and spoke to My Aged Care on her behalf.

When she was assigned a Home Care package, her friend suggested that she call CatholicCare to visit her home and go through everything with her.

"I didn't know anything about My Aged Care and it's a difficult system to navigate," she said.

"CatholicCare has been amazing. Every question was answered and everything I didn't know was explained clearly to me."

Now with her support services in place Michelle lives her life to the full.

"My care worker is amazing," she said. "The first thing she does is get me a cup of coffee in the morning. Then she gives me a shower, gets me dressed and helps me make the bed.

"She does my washing for me, takes me to appointments, gets groceries, helps me prepare meals and makes sure I take my medication.



"She'll also ring me every second night to check on me. It's just nice to know that someone cares."

If you need support at home you can call CatholicCare on 13 18 19 to arrange a home visit from a specialist who really cares and knows the My Aged Care System.

They'll support you through every step of the process.



Are there seniors in your community who need help at home?



Our local Home Care team help seniors to live independently at home.



Make an appointment

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

 13 18 19

 connect@catholiccare.org

 catholiccare.org



Project supported by the Ephpheta Centre



Christmas Eve Vigil Mass – 24th December

Ephpheta will have a different Christmas Celebration this year.

Because of COVID we cannot have our community Christmas lunch on the 1st Sunday of December. We cannot have Mass at Punchbowl. There is no Mass on Christmas Day (25 Dec).

CHRISTMAS EVE



So this year we will have **Christmas Vigil Mass on Thursday 24 December at 5pm** at Fr Michael's parish at Homebush (not Punchbowl). No supper or afternoon tea together.

Please remember – if you are sick or older or feel scared to come to Mass, Archbishop Fisher has said that it is ok to stay home. You can still enjoy Mass online with us.

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

When: Thursday, 24 December - 5pm

RSVP: Chrisso (0405 749 488 SMS) **before** Wednesday 23 December

Numbers are very limited due to the physical distancing which we need to have in the church so please reply early to Chrisso.

Readings for Mass - All Saints Sunday 1 November

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF REVELATION

I, John, saw another angel coming up from the east with the seal of the living God. God had given four angels power to destroy the earth and the sea.

The angel shouted out in a powerful voice to the four angels, "Do not damage the earth, the sea, or the trees, until we mark the servants of God with a seal on their foreheads."

And I heard the number of those sealed: 144,000. They were from the twelve tribes of Israel.

Then I looked, and there were many people - so many, no one could count all the people! They were from every nation (country), race, family, and language.

They stood in front of the throne, in front of the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

They shouted: "Victory to our God sitting on the throne and to the Lamb!"

All the angels stood round the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. Then they all bowed down in front of the throne and worshipped God.

They said, "Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power, and might (wonders) belong to our God for ever and ever! Amen!"

One of the elders asked me, "Who are these people in white robes? Where do they come from?"

I answered, "I don't know. You tell me."

He said to me, "These are the people that suffered terribly; they endured (patiently went through) the persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb."

Psalm - THE SAINTS ARE THE PEOPLE THAT FOLLOW GOD.

Everything in the world belongs to God.

The sea is created by the Lord.

Who can climb the mountain of the Lord?

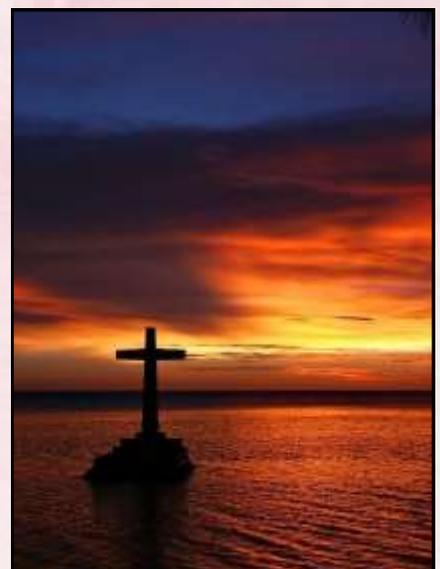
Who can stand in his holy Temple?

Who can climb the mountain of the Lord?

The person with a clean heart.

The person that does not want false gods.

A good person trying to follow God will receive blessings from the Lord.



A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

God the Father loves us so much, he lovingly created us his children. We really are God's children!

The world refused to believe God, and so the world does not understand that we are God's children.

Dear friends, now we are children of God; but we do not know yet what we shall become in the future.

We know that when Christ comes again, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he really is.

Any person that really believes in Christ will try to stay pure because Christ is pure.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the hill and sat down. His disciples sat around him. Jesus began to teach the people:

“The people that are poor in spirit, they will be happy, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.



The people that are gentle, they will be happy, because they will receive everything from the Lord.

The people that mourn (cry), they will be happy, because God will comfort them.

The people that want justice, they will be happy, because God will satisfy them.

The people that are merciful, they will be happy, because God will be merciful to them.

The people that are pure in heart, they will be happy, because they will see God.

The people that want to make peace, they will be happy, because they will become children of God.

The people that want to do good things but suffer, they will be happy, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

If you suffer because other people persecute you, hurt you and criticise you because you follow my name, you will be happy.

Rejoice with me (Jesus), because I will give you a great reward in heaven.”

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 8 November

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF WISDOM

Wisdom shines bright and never becomes dim (dark). Those that love wisdom and want to look for her, easily find her.

For those that want her, wisdom is quick to show herself to them. If you get up early in the morning, to find wisdom you will have no problem, you will find her sitting at your gate.

If you focus on wisdom, you will have perfect understanding. If you look for wisdom you will have peace of mind.

Wisdom herself walks about looking for those worthy of her, she will show herself to you.

Wisdom is kind and she will be with you in all your thoughts.

Psalm - O GOD, MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR YOU, MY GOD.

You are my God, I need you.

My body is like (same) a dry land without water,

My soul thirsts for you.

Let me see you; see your strength and your glory.

Your love is better than life.

I will praise you God.

All my life I will pray and raise my hands.

My soul will be satisfied because you help and protect me.



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

Brothers and sisters, we want you to know the truth about people that have died, so that you will not be very sad, like those people that think there is no hope.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again.

We believe it will be the same for those that have died: if they believed in Jesus, God will bring them to be with him.

We can tell you now because the Lord Jesus himself taught us. When the Lord comes on the last day, if we are still alive, it will not mean we have a better chance than those that have already died.

The archangel will blow the trumpet and give a loud shout, the Lord himself will then come down from heaven.

Those that have died believing in Jesus Christ will be the first to rise.

And we that are still living then, will be taken up in the clouds, together with all the dead now risen, to meet the Lord Jesus in the air.

We will stay with the Lord for ever. So every time we think about this, we should encourage and comfort each other.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus told this parable to his disciples:

“The kingdom of heaven will be like the ten bridesmaids that took their lamps and went to wait for the bridegroom. Five bridesmaids were foolish, they took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The other five bridesmaids were wise, they took their lamps and also flasks of oil. The bridegroom was late, and all ten bridesmaids became tired and they fell asleep. At midnight someone shouted, ‘The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.’ All the bridesmaids woke up and they checked their lamps. The foolish bridesmaids said to the wise bridesmaids, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out!’

The five wise bridesmaids replied, ‘There is not enough oil for all of us. So you must go and buy some more oil for yourselves.’

The foolish bridesmaids went out to buy some more oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom arrived. The five wise bridesmaids were ready, they went with the bridegroom into the wedding hall and the door was closed.

Later the five foolish bridesmaids arrived; they said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us.’ But the bridegroom replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’”

Then Jesus said, “So stay awake, because you do not know the day or the hour when the Lord will come.”



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 15 November

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF PROVERBS

It is very difficult to find a perfect wife. She is worth more than jewels! Her husband has confidence in her, and she will make him rich. All her life she will do good things for her husband; she will not hurt him or bring him trouble.

She is always busy making wool and cloth. She makes her own thread and weaves her own cloth. She gives to poor people; she supports those that need help. Charm and beauty can fool you, but we should praise a wise woman.

It is right to openly praise and reward her because she has done good things.

Psalm - BLESSED ARE THEY THAT RESPECT THE LORD.

Blessed are the people that show respect to the Lord.

Blessed are they that walk God's way.

Because you work hard you will eat.

You will enjoy good things.

Your wife will be like a vine, full of good fruit.

Your children around your table will be strong like olive trees.

The Lord will bless you,
everyday of your life!



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

Brothers and sisters, we don't have to write to tell you about when the Lord will come again. You yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come suddenly, like a thief that comes at night.

People will say, "Everything is quiet and safe," then suddenly something bad will happen; like a pregnant woman that experiences sudden labour pains. When the Day of the Lord comes, no one can escape.

But you, my brothers and sisters, you are not living in the dark. You should not be surprised if that Day of the Lord comes like a thief. Why? Because you are sons and daughters of light. You belong to the day. We do not belong to the night (dark) or to evil things.

So we should not be sleeping like other people sleep, but we should stay awake and sober (not drunk).

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a master that decided to go abroad.

Before he left, he told his servants to look after his house and his land. Because each servant had different skills, the master gave five gold coins to the first servant, two gold coins to the second servant, and one gold coin to the third servant. Then the master went away. The first servant that received five gold coins immediately went and used the money well, selling and buying, and made a profit of five more gold coins.

The second servant with two gold coins also made a profit of two more gold coins. But the third servant with the one gold coin went and dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money. After a long time, the master came home. The master asked each servant what they had done with his money. The first servant said, ‘Master, you gave me five gold coins. I made a profit of five more gold coins for you.’

The master said, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You did well with small things, so now I will trust you with bigger things. Come and share with me my happiness.’

The second servant said, ‘Master, you gave me two gold coins. I made a profit of two more gold coins for you.’

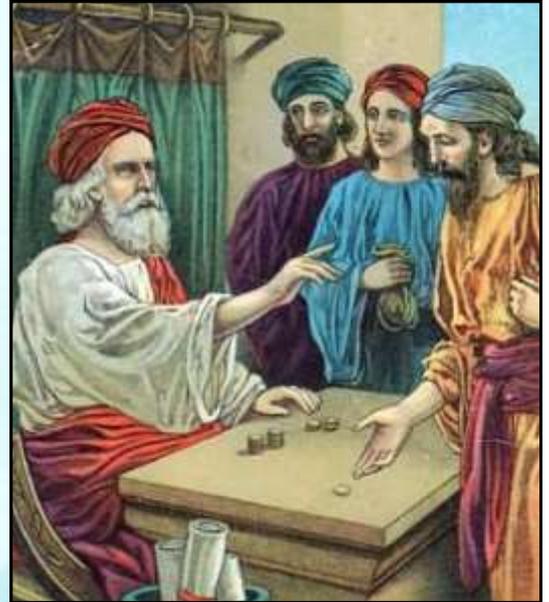
The master said, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You did well with small things, so now I will trust you with bigger things. Come and share with me my happiness.’

Then the third servant with the one gold coin said, ‘Master, I know that you are a hard man. You harvested crops that you yourself did not sow. I was afraid, so I went and hid your money in the ground. Here is the gold coin you gave me, now I give it back to you.’

But the master said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You knew I harvested crops that I myself did not sow. You should have put the money in the bank so that after I came back I could have got more money from the interest.’

Then the master said, ‘Take the money from him and give it to the servant that has five gold coins because any person that uses things well, will receive more. But any person that does not use things well, all the things they have will be taken away.’

Then the master said, ‘This lazy servant, throw him out in the dark! There, in the dark, he will suffer and cry.’”



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Sunday 22 November

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF EZEKIEL

The Lord says: "I, myself, will look after my sheep. I will watch over them the same way a shepherd looks after his sheep. A shepherd stands in the middle to make sure he can see all his sheep.

I will do the same. The sheep that are lost in the mist (fog) and darkness, I will bring them back safely. I myself will feed my sheep in the fields. I will show them where to rest.

I, the Lord, said this. I will look for the lost sheep and bring it back. I will bandage the wounded (hurt) and make the weak strong.

I will watch over the fat and healthy. I will be a true shepherd to them.

I, the Lord, tell you: I will judge each of you and separate the good and the bad. I will separate the sheep from the goats."

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

The Lord is my shepherd.

He gives me everything I need.

He lets me rest in green fields.

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

He guides me along the right way.

He is faithful.

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

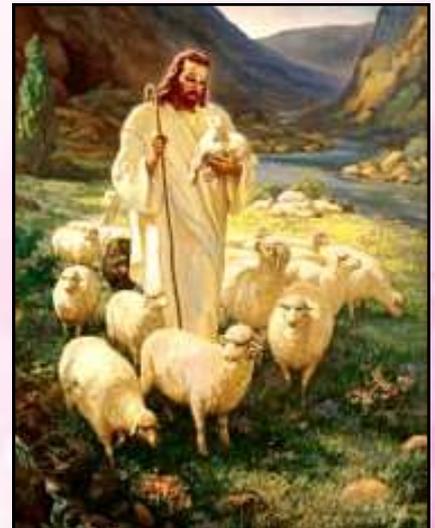
Because the Lord, with his shepherd's crook (stick), will protect me.

The Lord prepared a banquet (feast) for me.

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

Goodness and kindness will be with me always.

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



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

Christ has been raised from death, the first person of all that have died and the first of all people that will be raised from death.

Death happened because of one man - Adam. In the same way, the resurrection from the dead will happen to people because of one man - Christ.

In Adam, all of us die. In Christ, all of us will be raised to life. First, Christ was raised from the dead; then after Christ comes again, all those believers that belong to him will be raised.

After that, the end will happen: Christ will destroy all rulers, authorities and powers, then Christ will give the kingdom to God the Father.

Christ must rule as king until he puts all his enemies under him. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. God will put all things under Christ's control.

And after all things have been put under Christ's control, then he himself, the Son, will put himself under God's control. Then God will rule completely over all.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes again in great glory, all the angels will be with him. He will sit on his royal throne. All the people of the world will come in front of him, and he will separate the people into two groups, as a shepherd that separates sheep from goats. The Son of Man, now King, will put the sheep (good people) on his right and the goats (bad people) on his left.



The King will say to those good people on his right, 'Come. My Father has blessed you. Come and receive the kingdom that God had promised at the beginning of the world. Because I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked without clothes and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me.'

The good people will answer, 'Lord, you said you were hungry and we gave you food; when did we give you food? You said you were thirsty and we gave you drink; when did we give you drink? You said you were a stranger and we welcomed you; when did we welcome you? You said you were naked without clothes and we gave you clothes; when did we give you clothes? You said you were sick or in prison and we came to visit you; when did we visit you?'

The King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did to help the poorest of my people, you did the same to me.'

Then the King will say to those people on his left, 'Go away you wicked people! Go into the fire prepared for the devil and his angels, the fire that will never stop burning. Because I was hungry and you never gave me food. I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you never welcomed me. I was naked without clothes and you never gave me anything to wear. I was sick and in prison and you never came to visit me.'

Then they will say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you a stranger or naked without clothes? When did we see you sick or in prison? When did we see you and not come to help you? The King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the poorest of my people, you also refused to help me.'

Then those people will go away to eternal punishment, and the good people will receive eternal life."

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 29 November

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

Lord, you are our Father. 'Redeemer' is your name from long ago. Lord, why did you allow us to lose our way? Why did you allow our hearts to become hard against you?

Come back to us Lord; we are your servants. Come back to us because we belong to you. Rip open the sky and come down to earth, and the mountains will tremble (shake) at your presence.

People never listened to you. People have never seen a God like you. You work for those that trust you. Sincere (honest) people that do good, you guide them. Those good people remember your ways.

But we sinned and you were angry. We rebelled (turned) against you. We became a people corrupted; our goodness gone. We were like people with dirty clothes. We became like leaves, dead and blown away.

Because of our sins, the wind blew us away. No one turned to you in prayer. No one asked for your help. You hid your face from us, you left us in our sins. But, you Lord, you are our Father. We are like clay in your hands, and you are the potter; Your hands created us.

Psalm - LORD, SHOW US YOUR FACE AND SAVE US.

Lord, shepherd of Israel, look at us.

Show your strength, come and help us.

Turn to us, O God!

Look down from heaven and protect your vine.

You have chosen your son.

Give him strength.

We will never leave you again.

Give us life and we will praise your name.



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

Let God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces that he gave you through Jesus Christ. I thank God that he gave you many good things through your teachers and preachers.

You have become strong witnesses to Christ. God will give you the gifts of the Spirit. While you are still waiting for the last day, the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit will make you strong and without fault.

God chose you and he wants you to share life with his Son, Jesus Christ. God will remember because God is faithful.

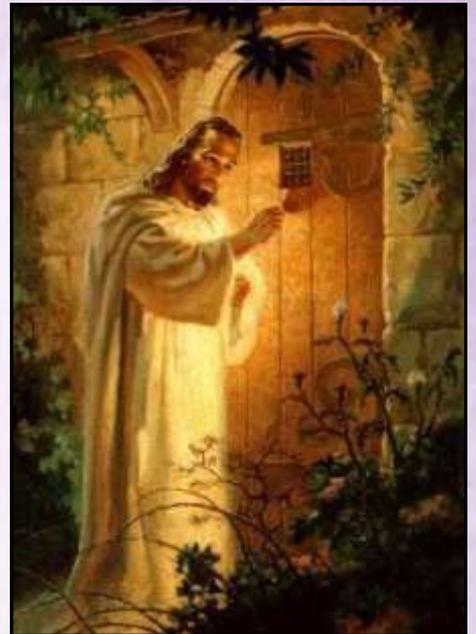
A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Jesus said to his disciples: "Stay awake, always be ready, because you never know when the time will come.

It is like a man that goes abroad. He leaves his house, giving responsibility to the servants to look after the house, and telling the person guarding the door to stay awake.

So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, early in the morning, or as the sun rises. If he comes suddenly, you must not be caught asleep.

What I (Jesus) tell to you, and I tell everyone: Stay awake!"





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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!