



## Special Ephpheta Newsletter



**INTERNATIONAL WEEK  
OF THE DEAF**

The World Federation of the Deaf promoted 21 - 27 September 2020 as the International Week of Deaf people and this year's theme was "Reaffirming Deaf People's Human Rights".



Wednesday 23 September is the International Day of Sign Languages and this year's theme was "Sign Languages are for Everyone!"

The Ephpheta Centre celebrated these special events and we hope that you have seen our videos on our Facebook page and website. If not, please have a look and enjoy!

Thank you to Stephen, Robert, Mary P and Mary C for sharing their experiences of Auslan and their Catholic faith.



According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80% of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

Sign language is the natural language of deaf people.



Auslan was recognised by the Australian government as the preferred language of the Australian Deaf community in 1987.

So why is sign language important? With sign language, deaf people can do anything! Education, work, family, faith and friends – with sign language, barriers to communication and access disappear. Sign language is so important to



**INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF SIGN LANGUAGES**

deaf people and all people if we want everyone to be included.



So to all our deaf friends - we hope you had a wonderful International Week of the Deaf!!

# A message from Liz & Dave!

## Liz's report

Hi – Hope you are all going ok during these hard times. A special hello to our brothers and sisters in Melbourne in lockdown. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

On 23 September we celebrated International Day of Sign Languages .The theme for this year is “Sign Languages are for Everyone”. This made me think about my almost 12 years working at Ephpheta. When I started, I knew nothing about Auslan, deaf people or deaf culture. I was a hearing person with no deaf family or friends. What a lot I had to learn! I couldn't communicate and communication breakdowns happened every day!

BUT – through the goodness and patience of the deaf community in Sydney this started to change. And I changed with it. Deaf people are very patient with me – yes we laugh about my signing mistakes that I make every day. I try to improve my Auslan skills all the time and I really enjoy chatting with deaf people every day in Auslan. The deaf community has been so patient and kind in sharing their language and culture with me. I am grateful for this each day.

So to my deaf colleagues and friends – thank you for the gift of sharing your beautiful language Auslan with me. I pray that God continues to bless His precious deaf community today and always.

Until next time,  
Liz



## Dave's report

Hello everyone. I hope you are doing all right lately. COVID-19 is still here around the world. We still need to be careful and stay safe with masks.



Scams are also happening in the deaf community through Facebook and text messages (WhatsApp, SMS and Messenger for example). Please be careful when someone is texting you to ask for your home address and your contact details. If you are in doubt, please check with Ephpheta Centre. Professional organisations will NEVER ask you for your contact details online and ask you to donate money.

The International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September every year. This year, the theme is “Sign Languages are for everyone!” The World Federation of the Deaf said there are about 72 million deaf people in the world today. There are more than 300 different sign languages! The Ephpheta Centre follows this special event every year and we hope you enjoyed our videos we made for 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

I am a proud Auslan user and everyone at the Ephpheta Centre uses Auslan every day. We use Auslan interpreters weekly. We produce many videos in Auslan weekly. We care deeply for our resources to be made Auslan friendly.

As always, please let us know of any ideas and feedback so we can keep on connecting with the Catholic Deaf Community and the wider community. We are available between 9am and 5pm during the week for online chats. Our Zoom groups – the prayer group, the deaf men's group and the craft group continue to be busy with many Auslan hands!

Stay safe! 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.

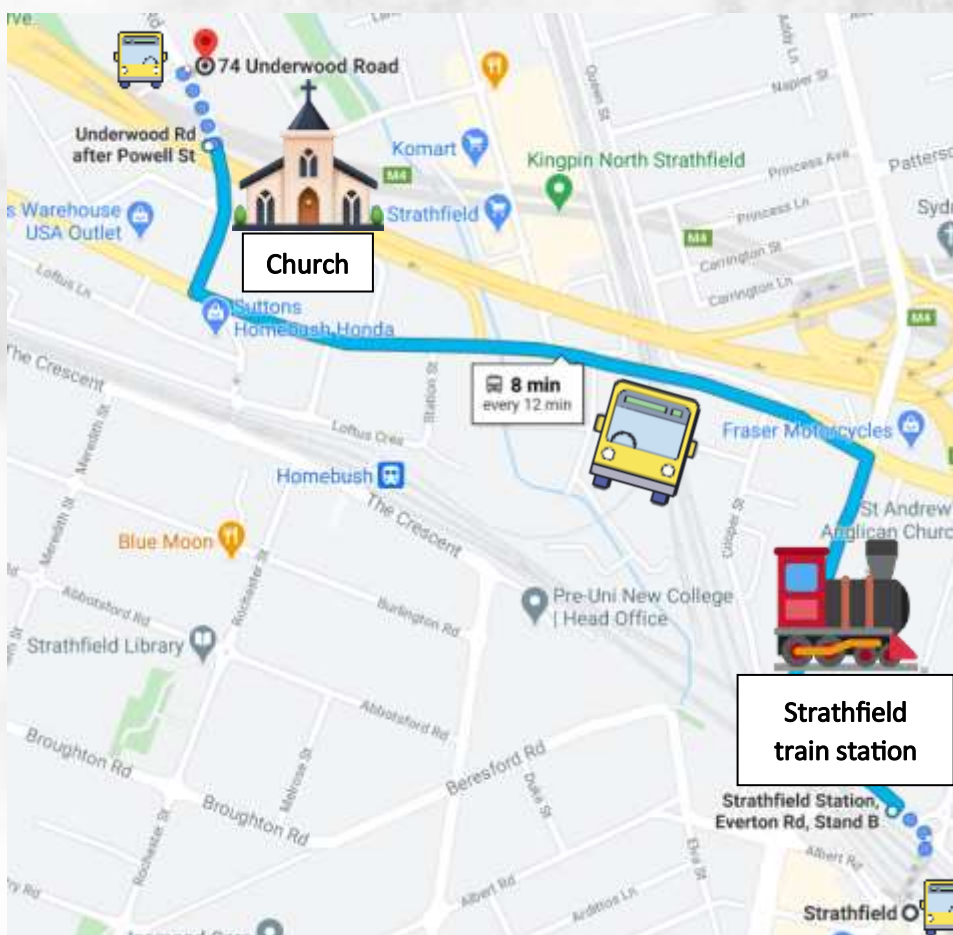


## Travel information to Homebush Mass

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

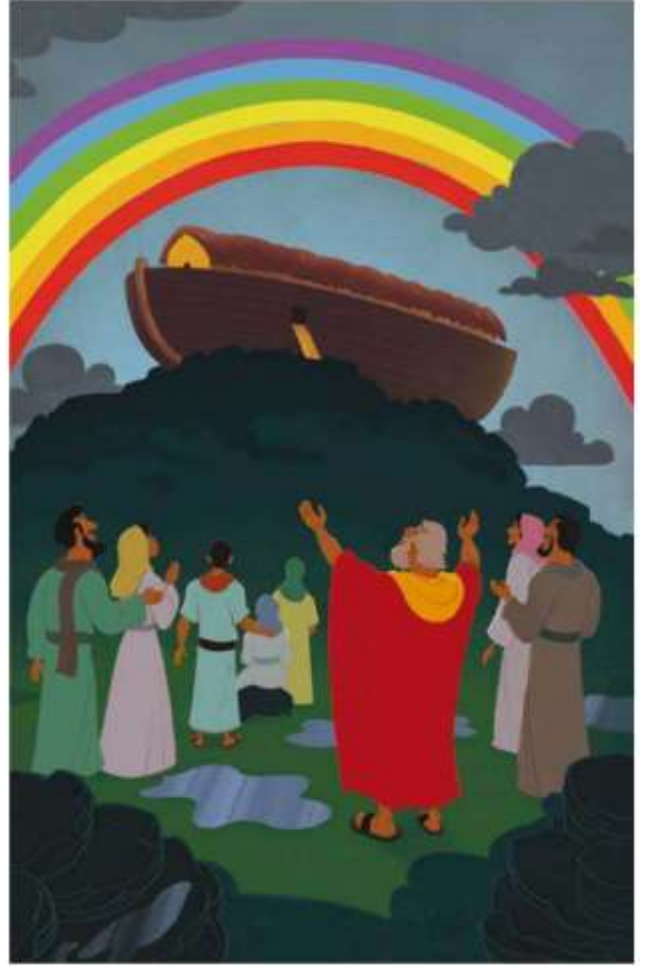
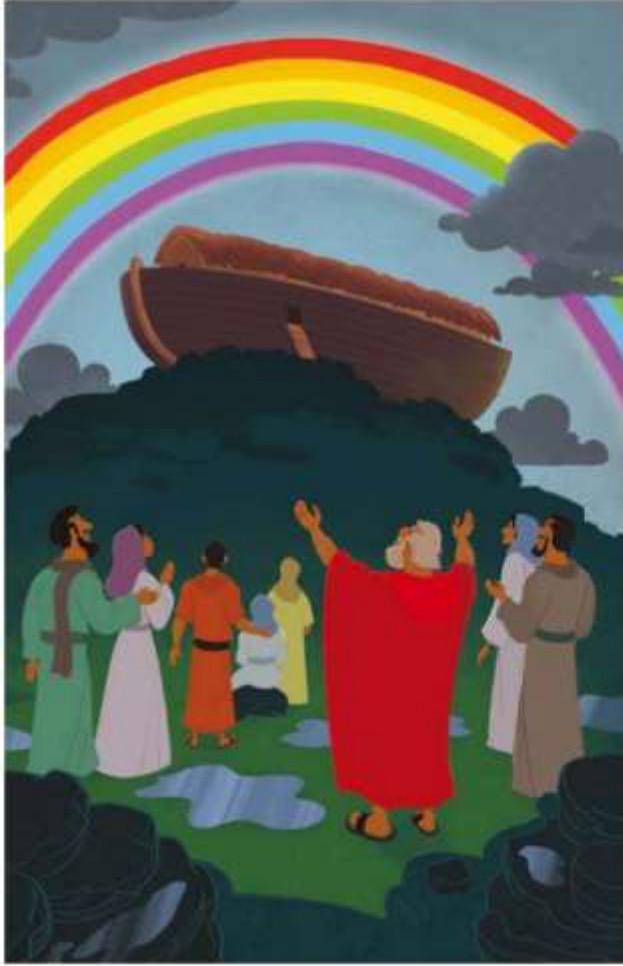
Time	Bus Number
10:19am	525
10:34am	525
10:38am	526
10:49am	525
Return to Strathfield	
12:06pm	525
12:19pm	526
12:34pm	526
12:39pm	525

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

Any questions, please contact Ephpheta staff.

## God Made a Promise to Noah

Compare the picture on the left with the picture on the right. Circle 11 things that are different.



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

## INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF



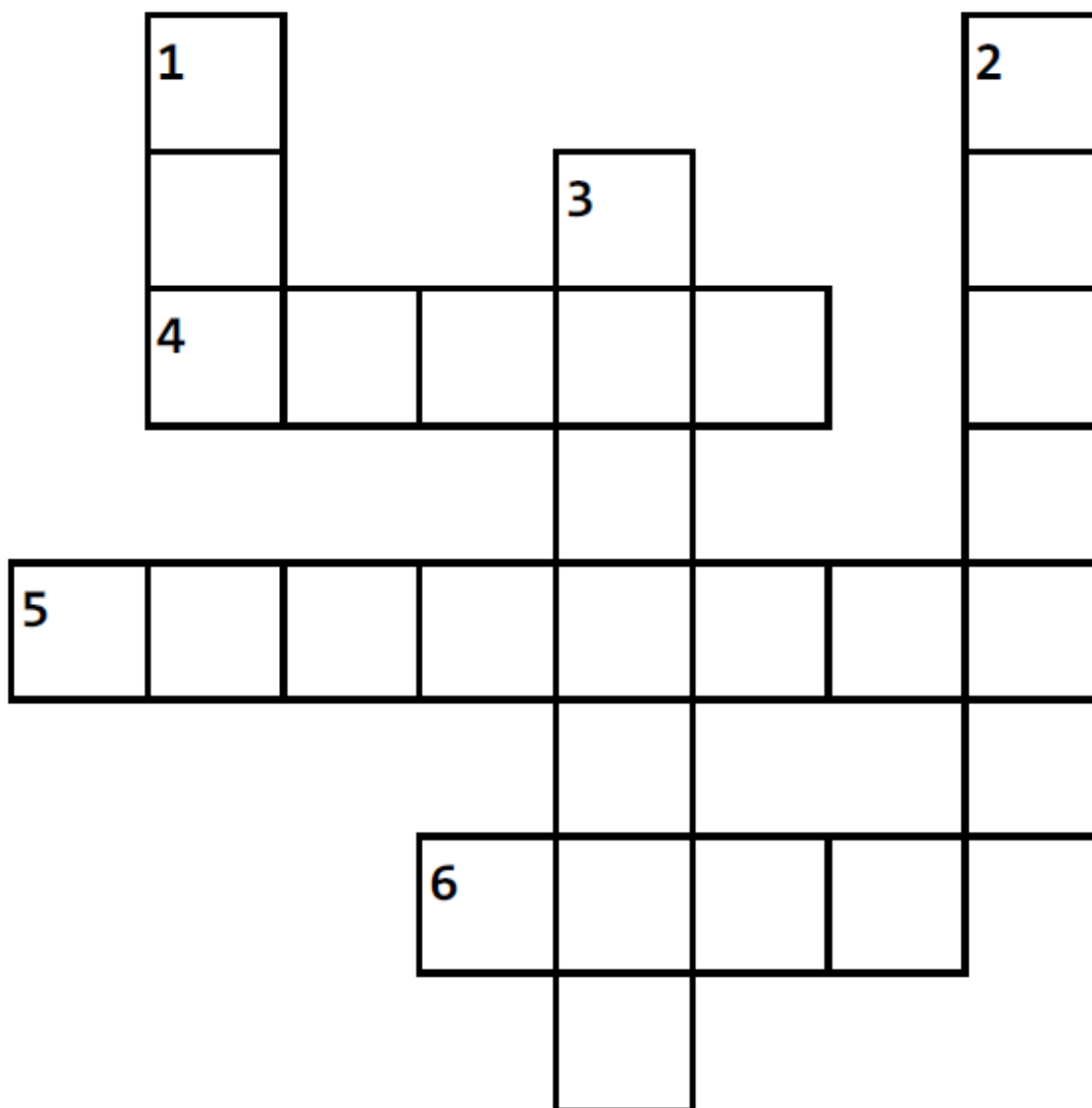
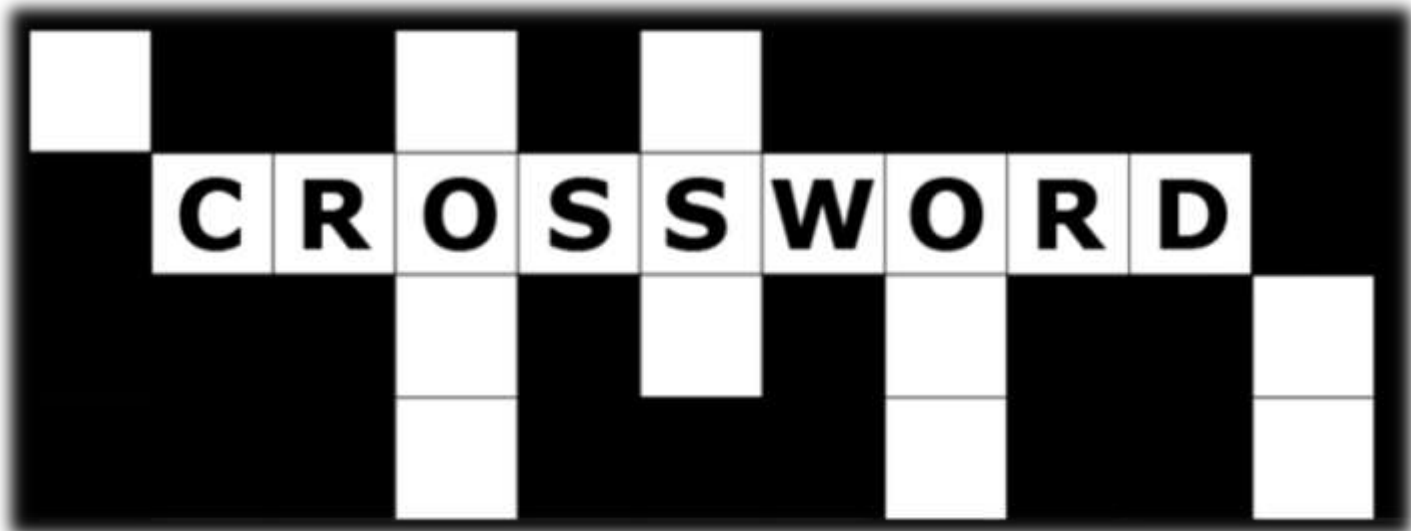
F<sub>4</sub> I<sub>1</sub> N<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>

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W<sub>4</sub> O<sub>3</sub> R<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>

COMMUNI TY  
 SI GNI NG  
 LANGUAGE  
 AUSLAN

SUPPORT  
 ACCESS  
 CULTURE  
 DEAF



**Across**

- 4. First name of Manager of Community at the Ephpheta Centre
- 5. Catholic Centre for deaf people in Punchbowl
- 6. A person who cannot hear

**Down**

- 1. Initials of the World Federation of the Deaf
- 2. Language of Australian deaf people
- 3. First name of the Ephpheta Centre chaplain





**Carer's Week in Australia is celebrated on 11 – 17 October 2020.**

This is to acknowledge the love and care shown by millions of Australians who provide care and support to family and friends in need.

We know many people in our deaf community volunteer much of their time to care for their family and friends in need.

So we say thank you to you all for your love and offer this blessing to you:

## BLESSED BE THESE HANDS:

Blessed be these hands that have touched life.

Blessed be these hands that have felt pain and tiredness.

Blessed be these hands that have lovingly embraced others with compassion.

Blessed be these hands that have been clenched in anger, or been withdrawn in fear.

Blessed be these hands that have drawn blood and administered medicine, written policies, protected patients, made progress notes and cut through red tape.

Blessed be these hands that have cleaned bodies and beds and disposed of wastes.

Blessed be these hands that have anointed the sick and suffering, offered blessings and prayers

Blessed be these hands, some still smooth with youth - some that have grown stiffer with age.

Blessed be these hands that have comforted the dying and held the dead.

Blessed be these hands and all the creativity they engage.

Blessed be these hands, for with them we hold the future.

Blessed be our hands, for they are the work of your hands, O Holy One.



## 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.



*Men's catch up on 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!



*Prayer group on Zoom!*



*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.





# Readings for Mass - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 4 October

## A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

Now I will sing to my friend. This song is about my friend and his love for his vineyard (grape-field).

My friend had a vineyard (grape-field) in a rich field on a hill. He dug the soil, threw away the stones, and planted the best grapevines.

In the middle of the field, he built a winepress and a watchtower. He waited for the field to grow good grapes but only sour grapes grew.

You people of Jerusalem, you people of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me.

Is there anything I failed to do?

Why did the vineyard grow sour grapes and not good grapes as I expected?

Well, I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will take away the hedge around the vineyard, I will knock down the wall, I will let wild animals come in and trample on it.

I will not prune the vines, I will not dig the ground, it will become a wasteland. Weeds and thorns will overgrow. I will tell the clouds not to rain on it.

Yes, this vineyard is the same as the House of Israel.

The grapevines are the same as the people of Judah. I, the Lord, expected people to do good but people continue to fight and kill. I, the Lord, expected justice but I hear cries of suffering.

## Psalm - GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE. HE CHOSE THEM.

Lord, you brought a vine, your people, out of Egypt.

You planted the vine in the promised land.

Why did you pull down the walls that protected the vine?

People came and destroyed the vineyard.

Turn to us again, Almighty God, we beg you.

Look down from heaven and protect us, we are your vine.

We will never leave you again.

Show us your mercy and we will be saved.





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

Don't worry about anything. If you need anything, pray and ask God. Every time you pray, always thank God.

God's peace, which really is so great that we cannot understand it, will keep your minds and hearts in Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters, fill your minds with all the things that are good and true. Fill your minds with all the things that are right, pure (clean), beautiful, honourable, and worthy of praise.

Continue to do the things that you learnt from me. Remember all the things that I taught you, and remember all the things you saw me do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to the chief priests and the Jewish leaders,

"I tell you another parable. There was a landowner, a rich man, that had his own field.

He grew grapes in his field. He built a fence

around his field. He dug a hole for a winepress and he built a tower. Then the rich man

hired some workers to look after it and work the vineyard and he went abroad. Later the grapes were fully grown and ready, the rich man asked some of his servants to collect the grapes.

But the workers grabbed the servants, beat one servant, threw stones at another servant and killed another servant. The rich man sent more servants, but the workers did

the same again, they beat and killed the servants. So in the end the rich man decided to

send his son. He said, 'They will respect my son.' But the workers saw the son, and they

said to each other, 'This is the son of the landowner, the rich man, if we kill him, the field will be ours!' So the workers grabbed the son, threw him out of the field, and killed him."

Jesus asked, "When the master comes, what will he do to the workers?"

The chief priests and the Jewish leaders said,

"The master will surely punish those evil workers and they will die. The master will give the job to other people that will work in the field and make sure the grapes are given to the master at the right time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you read in the scriptures (Bible): 'The stone that the builders threw away, became the important corner stone. The Lord did this and it is wonderful for us to see.' I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you, and given to the people that will do all the things God wants."



# 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 11 October

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

On this mountain, the Lord Almighty will prepare a banquet of rich food and good wines for all peoples.

On this mountain he will take away sadness from all the people in the land. The Lord will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away tears from their faces and he will take away their shame. This will happen because the Lord said it would.

On that day, people will say, 'The Lord is our God. We trusted him and we hoped that he would save us. We rejoice because he has saved us. The hand of the Lord protects this mountain.'

### Psalm - I WILL LIVE IN THE LORD'S HOUSE FOR EVER AND EVER.

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 LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich. From my experience I've learnt to be patient.

Now I am ready to go anywhere and I will accept if I'm hungry or full. I will accept if I'm poor or have plenty of things.

I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength. When I was in difficulties and poor, you were good to me and you helped me.

So I now thank you by asking God to give you all the things that you need. He will be generous to you through Jesus Christ.

Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to the chief priests and Jewish leaders, "The kingdom of heaven is like a king preparing a wedding feast for his son. The king sent his

servants to bring all the people that were invited to the wedding. But the people would not come. So the king sent some more servants.

The king said to his servants, 'Tell all the people I have invited. My feast is ready. I killed my best bulls and calves. Everything is ready. Come to the wedding celebration.' The servants went and told the people to come, but they were not interested. One person went to his farm, another person went to his business, and others grabbed the servants, tortured (fight/beat) them and killed them. The king was furious. He sent his soldiers to kill those murderers and burn their town.. Then the king said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready. I invited those people but they were not worthy to come to my feast. So now you go into the streets and invite anyone you see.'

So the servants went out and brought many people, both good and bad. The wedding hall was full of people. Later the king went to see all the people that came to the feast, he saw one man there not wearing the right clothes for the wedding.

The king said to him, 'My friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?'

The man said nothing. Then the king said to his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the dark. There in the dark he will suffer and cry.'"

Jesus said, "Many people are invited, but few are chosen."





# 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 18 October

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

The Lord said to Cyrus, his anointed king,

“I took your right hand, I sent you to conquer countries and to take power from the other kings, and force open the gates of their cities.

I appoint you to help my servant Jacob and my chosen people of Israel. I call you, Cyrus, by name.

You do not know me but I give you a title. I am the Lord God, there is no other god.

You do not know me but I give you the strength that you need, so that people all over the world will know that I am the Lord, and that there is no other god.”

### Psalm - GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND POWER.

Sing to the Lord!

Tell all people about his glory.

The Lord is great and wonderful.

He made the heavens.

Families and peoples,  
give glory and power to the Lord.

Worship the Lord in his temple.

Tell everyone: God is King.

He will be fair to all people.



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

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the Church people in Thessalonica. You are in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We wish you grace and peace.

We always pray to God, remembering you in our prayers and we thank God for you all. We always remember that you have shown your faith and that you worked for love.

We thank God for your strong faith and that you continued with patience and with hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters, we know that God loves you. He has chosen you.

When we brought the Good News to you, we did not bring words only, but the power, the truth, and the Holy Spirit.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

The Pharisees went away to make plans about how to trap Jesus saying something wrong. The Pharisees sent some of their men with some members of Herod's group to meet Jesus.



They asked him, "Master, we know that you are an honest man. You teach about God in the right way. You are not afraid of any person, and people that are very important, highly promoted, mean nothing to you. Tell us what you think: Should we pay taxes to Caesar? Yes or no?"

Jesus knew their evil plan and said to them, "You hypocrites (two faced)! Why are you trying to trap me and make me say something wrong? You pay the tax with money - let me see the coin."

They gave him the coin. Jesus looked at the coin and said, "Whose face? Whose name?"

They answered, "Caesar's, the Roman Emperor."

Jesus said to them, "Well, pay Caesar the money that belongs to him. And give to God all the things that belong to God."

# 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 25 October

### A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF EXODUS

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel:

'You must not oppress or hurt a foreigner, because remember, long ago you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

You must not be too hard with the widow, or with children without parents. If you are too hard with them, they will cry out to me, and I will hear their suffering.

I will be angry and I will kill you with the sword. Your wives will become widows and your children will have no parents.

If one of my people is poor, and you lend money, you must not charge, or demand interest.

If you take another person's coat as a promise, you must give the coat back before evening.

Because without the coat, they will become cold during the night and will have nothing to keep warm.

If that person has no coat and cries to me, I will listen, because I am full of pity."

### Psalm - LORD, I LOVE YOU. YOU GIVE ME STRENGTH.

I love the Lord.

He is my rock, my saviour.

He protects me like a shield; He helps me.

He saves me from my enemies; praise the Lord!

The Lord will live for ever.

Praise to God because he saves me.

He gives me victories over my enemies.

He has shown his love for his anointed king.





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

When we were with you, you saw how we lived. We wanted to show you the right way of living. You copied us and you followed the Lord.

You suffered from persecution but with the joy of the Holy Spirit you accepted the gospel. You gave a good example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

The Lord's teaching spread from you, not only to the people in Macedonia and Achaia but to other places. News of your faith in God spread everywhere.

We do not need to tell other people about it, they tell us about the work that we started with you; they tell us that you stopped worshipping false gods, that you changed and now serve the real, living God, and that you are now waiting for Jesus Christ, God's Son risen from the dead, to come from heaven and save us from God's judgement and punishment that will happen on the last day.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

The Pharisees heard that Jesus had said things that made the Sadducees quiet, so they met together. One of the Pharisees asked Jesus a question to try and make him confused.

He said, "Master, which commandment in the Law is the most important?"

Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and most important commandment.

The second commandment is:

You must love your neighbour the same as you love yourself. The full Law of Moses and the teachings of the Prophets come from these two commandments."





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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](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!