



be open

Deaf Catholic News Ephpheta

Special Edition - July 2021

Special Ephpheta Newsletter

SYDNEY COVID LOCKDOWN—JULY 2021

Hi—hope you are all well and staying safe!

As we are preparing this newsletter, Sydney is in lockdown because of COVID. Lots of plans we had made for the community are now cancelled or postponed. Our Ephpheta Sunday has been postponed and mini deaf cafés are cancelled. It is hard to make plans for events for the community as we do not know when this lockdown will end.



In Sydney, we were starting to feel like we were slowly getting back to normal after 2020. But now, in Sydney we are not able to leave our homes, only for a few limited reasons. This can be very hard on all of us.

So.... the Ephpheta team thought you might like to receive an extra newsletter which has lots of interesting articles, fun games and copies of the readings for Mass while we are in lockdown. Make a cuppa, settle back and enjoy this special newsletter!



*Loving God—even though we are scared of what is happening in our world,
let us choose love.*

*During this time when we cannot be physically together,
help us to find ways to show God's love to others. Amen*

A message from Liz & Dave!

Liz's report

Hi everyone – hope that you are all going ok and staying warm. It is freezing cold in Sydney at the moment.

As I am writing this, Sydney is in the middle of a bad COVID outbreak. We are in lockdown. Each day at 11am we hear the government's update on the latest numbers and which areas are worst affected. It is such a hard time now for so many people—worries about health, work, money and family. All of this can be so hard.



So how do we manage through these hard times? Sometimes it is hard to see but we have many blessings in our lives. The support of family, friends and community. The support of a government who is trying to make good decisions to get through this pandemic. A health system which is working so hard to keep us all well and safe.

And through all of this and at all times, we have the love of God which never ends. Sometimes it is in the hard times that we struggle to see where God is and how all this can happen. And this is the time when we need to be closest to God. To open our hearts and minds to God and seek his support and love. With God's love, we can do anything.

Until next time, Liz

Dave's report

What a year 2021 has been so far. It has been cold too! We all had to use our heaters a lot. The Ephpheta Centre is a homely place, but it can get really cold in Winter. Many times, we think inside the Centre is colder than outside!

The Covid19 pandemic has come back in Greater Sydney and we are all working together to beat this. We need to stay indoors as much as we can and do our essential shopping only. We still need to stay 1.5 metres apart. We are sorry we have had to cancel Ephpheta Sunday and a few of our day outings ..

We will make more newsletters and we will have more Zoom chats as usual. Let us know if you need help with setting up your Zoom app on your computer, tablet or iPad for example. It is better to have Zoom on a computer with a monitor as you can see more of people rather than on the smaller screens of iPads or smartphones.

I am sad to report that one of Ephpheta Centre's beloved community members, Jim O'Connor has passed away peacefully. He was 84 years of age. Murreall and Jim were married for 56 years. A beautiful long marriage. Jim was very loyal and loved coming to the Ephpheta Centre. Fly free Jim!

How can we find peace today? One idea is to be grateful. Be grateful for your health. Be grateful that you have a roof over your head. Gratitude is a step that leads to the peace of God. Peace be with you all.

Please stay safe. Wear a mask. Clean your hands regularly. Keep well!

Until the next newsletter. David.



Live streamed Accessible Mass



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

At the moment, we also cannot have people come to Mass. We are still filming and live-streaming Mass at 11am each Sunday with an interpreter from Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church.

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—POSTPONED

In our last newsletter we invited the community to celebrate Ephpheta Sunday on 1 August 2021 with Mass and lunch at the Wentworth Hotel.

DUE TO COVID THIS EVENT ON 1 AUGUST 2021 IS NOW POSTPONED UNTIL 5 DECEMBER

This means that our community Christmas Mass and lunch will be held on **Sunday 5 December 2021**. Lunch will be held at the Wentworth Hotel at Homebush West.

We will give you more information about our event on **5 December 2021** in our next newsletter.

If you have already paid you can EITHER:

1. Contact Ephpheta and ask for your money back;

OR

2. We will hold your money and use this for lunch on Sunday 5 December.

We are making 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 or Liz.



Remembering Jim O'Connor



It is with great sadness that we let you know of the passing of a very dear friend of the Ephpheta community **James ('Jim') O'Connor**.

Jim was a deeply religious man who loved and lived his Catholic faith. Jim loved learning about new things and loved to talk to people, finding about their lives. He was funny, wise and was a very valued and loved member of our Ephpheta community.



Jim meets Helen Keller

For many years he was involved in many Catholic deaf committees and associations. He made a very valuable contribution to the deaf community in Sydney.

Jim loved coming to deaf Mass. He always supported our Auslan interpreters and knew so much about Mass and his faith.

At this sad time, our prayers are with Murreall, his loved and loving wife of 56 years. Eternal rest grant to Jim, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Rest in peace, our good friend Jim.



Welcome Baby Michael!



On 16 June we welcomed our newest Ephpheta team member little Michael Thomas Quartararo. Weighing 3.3 kgs and 51 cm long, baby Michael is the first child of our lovely Chrisso and her husband Max.

Chrisso would like to thank the community for all the kind messages of support she has received. Chrisso will be on leave until February 2022 enjoying life with her precious little boy.

Congratulations and welcome beautiful little Michael!!!



A Reflection from Fr Michael

There is a group of religious people in the Church - called the Camillans—who take an extra vow to serve the sick, even with danger to one's own life."



The order was named after **St Camillus de Lellis**. His mother was almost 50 when he was born in 1550. His father was a soldier. Camillus's mother worried about her son a lot. He was a handful. She had a dream before he was born seeing him with a cross on his chest leading other men with the same mark. The mark reminded her of the mark put on criminals who were going to be hanged. She was afraid that her son might become a leader of criminals.

Camillus was only 13 when his mother died. He had no one to care for him so he became a soldier. He was badly wounded in his leg in battle when he was 17—this never healed for all his life. Camillus also had a terrible problem with gambling. One winter, when he was 24, he lost everything, even down to his shirt.

Camillus went to serve a group of monks called the Capuchins. There he met a monk who convinced him to change his life. Camillus repented of his sins with all his heart. Camillus went to a hospital for sick people who could not be cured. He started caring for those people. The conditions were very bad. So, Camillus gathered people around him who wanted to look after people for love.

With the encouragement of a friend St Philip Neri, Camillus was ordained as a priest aged 34. He started religious order to serve the sick. His group cared for prisoners, went onto battlefields to heal the wounded and built and worked in hospitals. In times of plague, the Camillans went to ships, cities and houses to look after the sick and the dying. They went in wearing a red cross on the front of their clothing.

People today have a better understanding of diseases, and how to fight them effectively. But this only makes the example of Camillus and his brothers more impressive. They faced much more dangerous things than most of us ever will. Very often they gave their lives for love of others. How did they do it?

The life of Camillus reminds us of Jesus' words "I was sick and you visited me". Camillus said, "The poor and the sick are the heart of God. In serving them, we serve Jesus the Christ. We want to assist the sick with the same love that a mother has for her only sick child." In this way, God led Camillus through suffering to love like Jesus, and took Camillus from poverty to true riches.

Mother Mary, and St Camillus de Lellis, pray for us, and for all the sick and those who care for them.

God bless, Fr Michael.



Combined Day Out—Sydney Zoo 20 May

We had a perfect winter day for our Combined Day Out at the Sydney Zoo. It was great to see animals up close and an open environment where some animals roam freely.

It is a well-designed zoo. It is a very accessible and easy to navigate walking around the zoo. There were many great animal exhibits. We saw animals from Africa, Asia and Australia.



We also had some talks about the apes, dingos and tigers which were informative with 2 Auslan interpreters. There were reptiles and an aquarium where you can see crocodiles up close. Emus and wallabies roam freely along the path where you walk.



Overall, it was a great experience, and everyone had a wonderful day!

Deaf Women's Day Out— Mosaic Workshop 17 June

This was our first event for Women's Day Out after all the cancellations with COVID.

We were excited to learn mosaics at Bankstown Bunnings workshop area. We had two groups (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) and the 2 groups met together for lunch at McDonalds nearby.



We drew our own designs in pencil on a wooden board then picked the colours we wanted and the tile pattern. We then were shown how to break the tiles into pieces and glue the tiles onto the board. The lady from Bunnings gave instructions with our lovely Auslan Interpreter, Renee.

At the end of the workshop we were able to take our mosaics home to finish.

We had a wonderful time! Thank you Bunnings!



St Gabriel's School will celebrate 100 years next year (2022). Two examples of many interesting stories about some ex-pupils in the school days are:

James O'Dea (1936-1937)

James O'Dea was born in New Zealand in 1927. He went to board at St Gabriel's Deaf School, Castle Hill in 1936. As he came from New Zealand he had not gone home for 2 years and stayed at St Gabriel's during the school holidays. One day in 1937, when James was 10 years old, he was sent home by Brother Henry Esmonde who took him to Pymont wharf and met the steamer captain who promised to look after James on the voyage home to New Zealand.

Four days later his parents waited for him at the wharf in Christchurch, could not find him and asked the captain "Where is James O'Dea". The captain replied that he didn't know where James was. The telegram was sent to Brother Esmonde who reported James to the police as missing. Police found him wandering in Sydney streets for a few days and tried to find his name. Brother Esmonde went to the police station and said "This is James O'Dea". One week later James was sent back to the boat for New Zealand where he was now in the safe hands of his relieved parents.

Source: Bernard Jopson's story ('Memories of St Gabriel's' book by Brian Johnston, 2000).

Ross Bradley (1960-1961)

Ross (not his real name) Bradley was born in 1955 and has one brother and one stepsister. His mother married twice - second husband was Stephen Bradley (Ross' stepfather). In February 1960, Ross went to board at St Gabriel's at 4 years old and went home in Clontarf, northern Sydney at weekends.

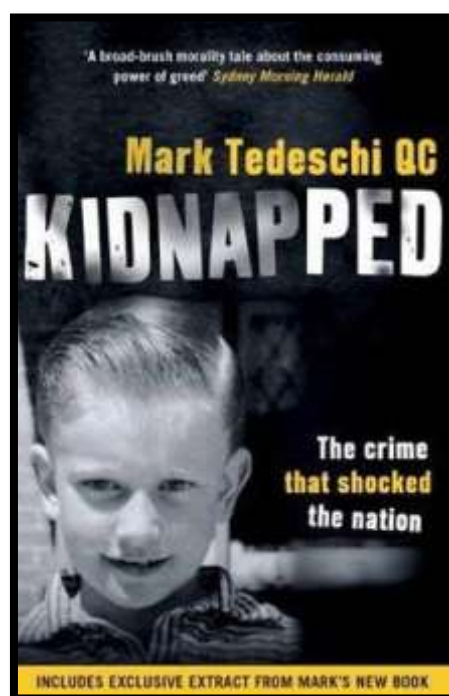
On 23 September 1960 the stepfather withdrew Ross from St Gabriel's, telling the principal, Brother John Regan that the family was relocating to Brisbane. Brother Regan kindly gave him the name of a similar school in Brisbane and a letter of introduction to the principal.

However, 3 days later, the family sailed from Sydney to London on the ship Himalaya. Two weeks later Stephen Bradley was arrested abroad the ship in Colombo, Sri Lanka and was later extradited back to Australia to face murder trial. The family continued on to England and Ross attended the Deaf school in London.

In December 1960 Stephen Bradley was tried for kidnapping/ murdering 8 years old Graeme Thorne (hearing) in July 1960 (after failing to get 25,000 pounds ransom from Thorne family following their big lottery win), given a life sentence - Australia's most sensational kidnapping case. In March 1961 the family flew from London to Sydney. Poor Ross, now 6, once again boarded at St Gabriel's but 3 months later (July) Ross and his mother sailed for London.

Source: 'Kidnapped' book by Mark Tedeschi, 2015

Brian writes "I don't remember Ross at St Gabriel's in 1960-1961 (when I was 10) but I can remember seeing police arriving at the school to interview Brother Regan and that Regan told me that he briefly gave evidence at the murder trial.



WORD SEARCH

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

- BLESSING
- CARE
- CHRIST
- COMMUNITY
- COVID
- CRAFT
- DEAF
- EPHPHETA
- FAITH
- GOD
- HEAL
- HEAVEN
- HOME
- HOPE
- LORD
- PEACE
- PRAY
- SAFE
- SPIRIT
- STRENGTH



Spring Spot the Difference

There are six differences in the pictures below, can you find them?

S U D O K U

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	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	

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

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.



Ephpheta staff meetings 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.

Craft catch up on Zoom!



Birthday Wishes to Mary!

With so many wonderful people in our community, we do not often post birthday wishes.

But we had to make an exception to our dear friend Mary Dunne who recently celebrated her **95TH** Birthday!!!

Happy birthday Mary, hope you had a wonderful day!



THE TAPS PRAYER— Thanks, Ask, Praise, Sorry)

Many people find it difficult to pray to God. We do not know what to say to Him

One way we can do that is by praying the TAPS prayer. It is a simple way of praying which we can do anytime and anywhere. A prayer where we can **thank** God for all the things He has given us. We **ask** God to help us in our lives or other people we care about. We **praise** God by telling Him how wonderful he is. We say **sorry** to God for the things we have done wrong.



When we want to pray, try TAPS. It helps us grow in our relationship with God. God is always waiting for us to come to Him.

TAPS	What?	Example
T: Thanks	Thanking God for all the things he has given us	God, I thank you for my family and for my friends.
A: Ask	Ask God to help us and to help the people we care about	God, please help me to be more patient with others. God, please help my friend who has cancer.
P: Praise	Telling God how wonderful he is	God, you are our loving father who loves us.
S: Sorry	Saying sorry to God for the things that we have done wrong.	God, I am sorry for lying to my friend.

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 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 25 July

A READING FROM THE SECOND SCROLL OF KINGS

A man came from Baal-shalishah. He brought bread made from the first harvest to Elisha, the man of God. He also brought Elisha twenty (20) barley loaves and some fresh grains of corn.

Elisha told his servant, "Feed the people." But Elisha's servant replied, "What? How can I give this bread to a hundred (100) men?"

Elisha repeated (said again), "Give it to the people to eat because the Lord said, *'They will eat and will have plenty left over.'*" Elisha's servant gave the food to the people. All the people ate and had plenty left over, as the Lord had said.

PSALM

LORD, YOU ARE GENEROUS. YOU GIVE US EVERYTHING WE NEED.

All your people will thank you, Lord.
They will remember your glory.
All people and all animals look to you.
And you give them their food.

The Lord is generous,
The Lord gives to those that have needs.
The Lord is just (fair) and loving.
The Lord is very near to those that ask for his help.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

I, Paul, am a prisoner of the Lord because I follow the Lord. I ask you to live the way God wants. Always be kind, humble, gentle and patient.

Share your love with each other. Do everything you can to keep together in peace with the help of the Spirit. There is one Body, one Spirit. God wants you all to have hope.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. God is the Father of all people; the Father that rules over all, and the Father that is in all.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Many people followed him. They followed because they were impressed with the miracles Jesus did by curing the sick. Jesus went up the hill and sat down with his disciples. It was just before the Jewish feast of the Passover.

Jesus looked round and saw many people coming to him. He asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough bread for these people to eat?" Jesus only asked to test Philip; he himself (Jesus) knew what he would do. Philip answered, "We would need two hundred denarii to buy enough to give them each a small piece of bread!"

Another disciple, Andrew (Simon Peter's brother), said, "Here is a boy with five loaves (bread) and two fish. But that is not enough for so many people!" Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down." There was plenty of grass there and five thousand men sat down.

Jesus took the loaves (bread), he thanked God and gave the loaves to the people. He did the same with the fish. Jesus gave the people as much as they wanted. When they were all full, Jesus said to his disciples, "Collect the pieces left over. Let us waste nothing."

So they collected all the pieces left over from the five loaves (bread) and filled twelve baskets. The people saw the miracle and they said, "This man (Jesus) is really the prophet that we were waiting for."

Jesus knew that they wanted to force him to become king, so he escaped to the hills by himself.



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 1 August

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

All the people of Israel in the desert began to complain. They said to Moses and Aaron, "Why did you bring us here? It would have been better if the Lord had killed us in Egypt. There in Egypt we could sit down and eat plenty of meat and bread, but here in the desert we are starving and we will die!" The Lord told Moses "I will send bread from heaven. Each day the people must go out and collect enough for one day. I want to see if the people will obey my law."

The Lord said to Moses "I have heard the people of Israel complaining. You must tell them that before the sun goes down they will have meat to eat, and in the morning, they will have plenty of bread to eat. They will realise that I am their God."

So it happened, that same evening many quails (birds) came. The people caught these small birds to eat. And in the morning, dew was all over the ground. As the sun went up, the dew evaporated (melted) and changed into white powder flakes. It looked like frost.

When the Jews saw the white powder flakes, they asked, "What's that?" Moses told them, "That is the bread God sent you to eat."

Psalm - The Lord gave them bread from Heaven.

The things we heard and understood, the things our fathers told us,
we will tell our future children. We will tell them the wonderful things God did for us.

God sent manna (bread) from heaven. The people ate the bread of angels.

God sent plenty of food. God brought the people to his holy land.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

In the Lord's name, I warn you: do not continue to live like those people that do not believe. That was not what you learnt from Christ!

You heard about Christ and you know that the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life. Your old life, spoilt and corrupted (destroyed) by sin, must be changed. Your mind must become new again in spirit.

Your life, created in God's way, must become good, holy, and full of truth.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

When the people saw that Jesus and his disciples were not there, they got into boats and went to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they arrived on the other side of the sea, they found Jesus. They said to him, "Rabbi (Teacher), when did you arrive here?"

Jesus answered: Why are you searching for me? I know you are looking for me, not because you saw the miracles, but because I gave you plenty of bread to eat. You must not work for food that will decay (rot). You must look for the bread that will give eternal life.

This is the food that the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has chosen him (Jesus) to give life."

So they asked Jesus, "What should we do? How can we work for God?"

Jesus answered, "God wants you to believe in the One (Jesus) that God sent."

So the people asked, "Can you work (do) a miracle to prove that God sent you? If you work (do) a miracle and we see it, then we will believe you. Our fathers, a long time ago, ate the manna (bread) in the desert. The scripture (Bible) says, 'They received bread from heaven to eat'"

Jesus answered: "I tell you the truth: It was not Moses that gave the people bread to eat in the desert. It was my Father that gave them bread from heaven. The same Father gives you the true bread; The bread of God comes down from heaven, and this bread gives life to the world."

The people said, "Lord, give us that bread always."

Jesus replied: "I am the bread of life. Any person that comes to me will never be hungry. Any person that believes in me will never be thirsty."



SOLEMNITY OF St Mary of the Cross

Sunday 8 August

A READING FROM THE FIRST SCROLL OF KINGS

The Lord said to Elijah, "Go to Zarephath in Sidon and stay there. There is a widow there that will give you food." So Elijah went to Sidon. He went to the town gate and saw a woman there gathering sticks for a fire. She was a widow.

Elijah said to her, "Would you bring me a small cup of water to drink?" As she was going to get the water, Elijah said, "Bring me a piece of bread too, please." The woman answered, "I promise you, before the Lord your God, that I have nothing but a handful of flour in a jar and a little bit of oil in a jug.

I came here to gather a few pieces of sticks for a fire to cook our last meal. My son and I will eat it and then die from hunger. "Elijah said to the woman, "Do not worry. Go home and make your food as you said. But first make me a little scone and bring it to me.

Then make some for yourself and your son. The Lord, the God of Israel, says, "That jar of flour will never be empty and the jug will always have oil in it. This will continue until the day the Lord sends rain to the land."

So the woman went home and did what Elijah told her to do. And Elijah, the woman, and her son had enough food for a long time. The jar of flour and the jug of oil were never empty. This happened just as the Lord said through Elijah

Psalm - MY SOUL IS CLOSE TO YOU. YOU HOLD ME WITH YOUR POWERFUL ARM.

You are my God. I am searching for you. My Body and soul I thirst for you in this dry and weary land without water.

I have seen you in your Temple. I have seen your strength and glory.

Your faithful love is better than life, my lips praise you. My life blesses you.

In your name, I lift my hands in prayer. My soul satisfies my hunger,
My lips praise you with joy!

I remember you while lying on my bed. I think about you through the night.

You are the one who helps me. Under your protection, I am happy!

My soul stays close to you, and you hold me with your powerful arm.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. Your new life should be like this: Show mercy to others. Be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Do not be angry with each other but forgive each other. If you feel someone has wronged you, forgive them. Forgive others because the Lord forgave you.

With all these things, the most important part of your new life is to love each other. Love is what holds everything together in perfect unity. Let the peace that Christ gives us fill our hearts, because you were chosen to be together in one body. Give thanks to God always.

Let the Word of Christ live inside you. Use all wisdom to teach and support each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Give thanks with all your heart to God. Everything you say and everything you do should be done in the name of Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to his disciples "I am telling you, do not worry about your life—what you will eat, drink, or wear. Life is more important than food, and the body is more important than what you put on it. Look at the birds. They do not plant, harvest, or save food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them.

Don't you know you are worth much more than they are? You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it. "And why do you worry about clothes? Look at the wildflowers in the field. See how they grow. They do not work or make clothes for themselves.

But I tell you that even Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. If God makes what grows in the field so beautiful, what do you think he will do for you? It is just grass—one day it is alive, and the next day someone throws it into a fire.

But God cares enough to make it beautiful. Surely, he will do much more for you. Your faith is so small! "Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' That is what those people who do not know God are always thinking about.

Do not worry, because your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. What you should want most is God's Kingdom and doing what he wants you to do. Then he will give you all these other things you need. So do not worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Tomorrow will have its own worries.



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Sunday 15 August

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF REVELATION

The temple of God was opened, and the ark of the covenant (God's promise) could be seen inside. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, standing on the moon, and with twelve stars on her head as a crown. She was pregnant and in labour; she shouted out in pain.

Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and each head had a crown. The tail waved through the sky and threw one third (a) of the stars to the earth.

The dragon came and stood in front of the woman, waiting to eat the child as soon as it was born. The woman gave birth to a boy, the son that would rule the world with an iron rod. The baby was quickly taken up to God and to his throne. The woman escaped into the desert, to a place that God had prepared to keep her safe.

Then I heard a loud voice from heaven: "God has won! God's salvation has come from heaven! God has shown his power as King! Now Christ has shown his authority!"

PSALM THE QUEEN STANDS AT THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE THRONE.

The daughters of kings are with you Lord
On your right stands the queen in gold.

Listen to me, daughter. Forget your people
and your father's family.

The king is your Lord. Adore him.



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 to life.

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 LUKE

Mary went quickly to a town in the hill country of Judah to visit Elizabeth. Zechariah lived there. Mary went into the house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt (kicked) in her womb.

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said aloud, "You, Mary, are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the baby in your womb. Why did you come to honour me, you, the mother of my Lord? When I heard your greeting, the baby inside me leapt (kicked) with joy. Yes, you are blessed because you believed the Lord's promise would become true."

Mary said, "My soul praises the Lord. My heart is glad because God is my Saviour. He remembered me, I am his humble servant. Yes, from now on, all people will say that I am blessed, because the Almighty has done great things for me. His name is holy. In the past, God has always shown his mercy to all that honour him. God shows the power of his arm, and condemns the proud people.

He removes kings from their thrones, and raises up the humble. He gives good things to the hungry. The rich, he sends away with nothing. God keeps the promise he has made. He has come to help Israel. He remembered to show mercy to Abraham, and to his descendants (future people) for ever."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then she went back home.

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 22 August

A READING FROM THE SCROLL OF JOSHUA

Joshua asked all the family groups of Israel to meet together at Shechem. The older leaders, the heads of the families, the judges, and the scribes (writers) of Israel stood before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: "Long ago your people lived on the other side of the Euphrates River, people like Terah, the father of Abraham, and Nahor; they worshipped other gods.

But if you do not want to serve the Lord, you must decide which god you will worship. Will you worship other gods like your people long ago, or will you worship the gods of the Amorite people here? I, and my family, will worship the Lord God."

The people answered, "We will never leave the Lord our God and we will never serve other gods. The Lord God brought us and our people long ago from slavery, from the land of Egypt. We saw the miracles that the Lord God worked. He kept us safe on our journey through the desert. We will serve the Lord because he is our God."

PSALM –TASTE! SEE! THE LORD IS GOOD TO US!

I will always bless the Lord.
I will never stop praising him.
The Lord does not like people doing evil things.
The Lord listens to the prayers of good people.

People that want justice seem to suffer but the Lord will save them.
The Lord will protect them.
Not one bone of his body will be broken.
Wicked people will die, but good faithful people will never be condemned.



A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

If you obey Jesus Christ, then you should respect each other. Wives should respect their husbands in the same way that they respect the Lord. A husband is the head (in charge) of his wife in the same way that Christ himself is the head (in charge) of the Church; and He (Christ) saves the Church because the Church is his body.

Wives should obey their husbands in the same way that the Church obeys Christ. Husbands should love their wives in the same way that Christ loves his Church. Christ gave his life for the Church to make her holy.

He made the Church clean by his words and by washing in the water so that the Church would be beautiful, pure, not spoilt but holy and without fault. Husbands must love their wives in the same way that they look after their own bodies; the man that truly loves his wife also loves himself. Why?

Because no man hates his own body, but he feeds his body and looks after his body. In the same way, Christ looks after his Church because the Church is his body, and we are members of the Church, Christ's body.

That is why a man must leave his father and mother and join his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery is difficult to understand, there are many different ways of explaining. But I, Paul, am talking about Christ and the Church.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Many people that followed Jesus heard his teaching. They said, "His language is impossible to accept. Who could accept his teaching?" Jesus knew that his disciples were complaining so he said to them, "Why is my teaching difficult for you to accept? Why are you upset? What would you do if you saw the Son of Man ascend (go up) to the place where he was before?"

It is the spirit that gives life, not the body. The flesh cannot give life. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and my words have life.

But some of you do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning, who would not believe in him. He also knew who would betray him. Jesus continued speaking, "That is why I told you that no one can come to me but only if the Father allows that person to come to me." After saying this, many disciples left him. They stopped following Jesus.

Then Jesus turned to the twelve (12) apostles and asked them, "What about you, do you want to give up and leave me?" Simon Peter answered, "Lord, who shall we follow? You have the message of eternal life and we believe. We know that you are the Holy One of God."

4 Turner Street,
PUNCHBOWL NSW 2196
Phone: (02) 9708 1396
TTY: (02) 9708 6904
Fax: (02) 9709 5638
Email: office@ephpheta.org.au
www: www.ephpheta.org.au

 Join us on Facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/thecentrefordeaf>

The Ephpheta Centre is supported by the Charitable Works Fund.



Staff Email Addresses:

Brett	brettb@ephpheta.org.au
David	david@ephpheta.org.au
Donovan	donovan@ephpheta.org.au
Liz	liz@ephpheta.org.au
Pat	pat@ephpheta.org.au
Fr Michael	frmichael@ephpheta.org.au

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!