

2022—HERE WE COME!!

Welcome to our first Ephpheta newsletter for 2022!

We hope that you are all well and had a nice time with family and

friends over Christmas and the New Year.

It has been an unusual summer—COVID has impacted on all of us in different ways and we are all trying to work out life with the "new normal".

BUT—the Ephpheta team are very excited about the year ahead and looking for new ways to support our wonderful deaf community. We will be looking at doing things a little differently for the moment to keep

everyone safe but still provide support to the community.

So let's start this new year with a positive attitude—of love and service to each other, of love for God. As we all know, the things of this world will always change, but God's love for us is eternal.

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A message from Liz & Dave!

Liz's report

Hi everyone—hope that this finds you all safe and well. Here we are at the start of another year at the Ephpheta Centre. It is hard to believe I have now been with Ephpheta for over 13 years!

I think that this year—like the last 2 years—is going to be a mixed up year. COVID has impacted every thing in our lives—not being able to see family and friends, not being able to do things "the normal way". From an Ephpheta

point of view, it is very hard to plan events in a way that makes things safe for the community and still meets our deeply human need to see each other face to face. It is wonderful that we have been able to continue with Mass face to face and hopefully this will continue.

I would like to give a big "shout –out" to the wonderful team we have at Ephpheta. I feel so lucky to be working with a great group of people who are dedicated to serving the community and who work so hard as a team. When we had a first meeting after our break

over Christmas, it was wonderful to see each other again and we are planning lots of exciting things for the community throughout the year. We look forward to catching up with you all soon.

Until next time, Liz



Dave's report

2022?! Happy New Year to you all. I cannot believe we have been through the Covid pandemic for at least two years. It has been a rough ride. Masks. Covid PCR. RAT. Omicron. All the Covid media briefings on TV. All the confusing information on the Internet and Facebook about Vaccinations. Wow. Really, we must look after ourselves and stay safe. Remember to check with your GP – doctor for a medical follow up.

We pray: may love, not fear, go outwards. Inspire our Australian leaders to make good decisions and choose wisely, aligned with the common good of the Australian and Ephpheta communities. Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.

We are organising many events such as Mini Deaf Café, Craft groups, Prayer groups, Rosary groups and so on for the Ephpheta community. Please check the newsletter for dates and times. Everyone is welcome to come and share our stories in Auslan in a safe Deaf space.

We will continue to have Catholic Mass services in Auslan for anyone. Feel free to come to Our Lady of the Assumption church at Homebush to receive communion and chat with the

the Ephpheta wall.

When you want to see one of the Ephpheta team, please make an appointment in advance so we can make time and have a warm and friendly chat with you! Stay safe and healthy! David

Ephpheta community. Our Mass services are also live streamed into FaceBook -



Mini "Deaf Cafes"

We are excited to announce a series of mini Deaf Café's at different locations throughout Sydney—so we can all get together and meet in a safe way. Please bring money to buy your own food and drinks from the club.

When and where:

Tuesday 8 March Time 10am	West Gosford RSL 26 Central Coast Hwy, West Gosford		
Tuesday 22 March Time 10am	Penrith RSL 8 Tindale Street, Penrith		
Thursday 7 April Time 10am	Dee Why RSL 932 Pittwater Road, Dee Why		
Tuesday 26 April Time 10am	Campbelltown Catholic Club 20-22 Camden Road, Campbelltown		
Tuesday 10 May Time 10am	Canterbury Leagues Club 26 Bridge Road, Belmore		
Tuesday 24 May Time 10am	Wenty Leagues Club 50 Smith Street, Wentworthville		

Numbers are limited. Please **RSVP** to Donovan (sms to 0408 697 773 or email to donovan@ephpheta.org.au) or any Ephpheta staff to let us know **WHICH** mini café you are coming to. **Please do not come if you are sick.**

We look forward to seeing you!



Auslan Play Group (0-5)

Our new Auslan Play Group—a social group for mums, dads, carers and their children aged 0-5— is going very well.

When: Tuesday 1 March 10am—12 noon



Where: Hall, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Underwood Rd, Homebush (the parish hall is behind the Church What? A morning tea for mums, dads carers and their children aged 0-5 years. Ephpheta will supply morning tea for the mums and dads but PLEASE bring food and drink for your children. Parents are responsible for their children throughout this event and children CANNOT be left.

Want more information? Please contact Pat at Ephpheta on 0414 412 852 (sms only)

Our APRIL playgroup will be on Saturday 9 April from 10am – approximately 1pm! This is so working parents can also come and have fun! We will meet in a park if the weather is nice. Please contact Pat for more information.

Ash Wednesday Mass— 2 March 2022

Ash Wednesday is an important day. It marks the start of Lent—the period of 40 days when we travel with Jesus on his journey to the Cross, and as we look forward to his resurrection at Easter.

We start Lent with Mass on Ash Wednesday when we receive the mark of ashes on our forehead from the priest. The ashes are actually from the burnt left-over palms from Palm Sunday.

You are welcome to join us for Mass, and if you cannot make it, we will be live-streaming the service from our Ephpheta Facebook page.

When: Wednesday 2 March at 11am

Where: Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Underwood Rd Homebush

If you are not able to attend Mass but would like to receive ashes, please contact Fr Michael as he may be able to visit you.



Lent is a very special time in our Catholic community. Starting on Ash Wednesday, it is a time when we prepare to meet the resurrected Jesus at Easter.

Lent is a time when we focus on 3 things in particular – on prayer, on fasting (giving something up for God) and for doing good works to support the poor.

Lent Groups via Zoom—Fridays at 2pm

We will be having Lenten groups on Zoom which will be held in the weeks from Ash Wednesday to Easter. A Lent group is a great opportunity to read and reflect on the Gospels through Lent. All are welcome. The schedule of sessions is listed below.

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Session 1.	Jesus is tempted by the Devil	riday 4th March
Session 2:	The Transfiguration	Friday 11th March
Session 3:	The Parable of the Fig Tree	Friday 18th March
Session 4:	The Parable of the Prodigal (Lost) Son	Friday 25th March
Session 5:	The Woman Caught in Adultery	Friday 1st April
Session 6:	Jesus enters Jerusalem	Friday 8th April

Stations of the Cross via Zoom—Thursdays at 2pm

The Stations of the Cross is a traditional Catholic devotion that focuses on the events of the final hours of Jesus Christ life on earth. During Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross every week on Zoom. This will replace the Rosary during Lent.

The	foll	lowing
	are	e:

Thurs 3rd March

Thurs 10th March

Thurs 17th March

Friday 4th March

dates

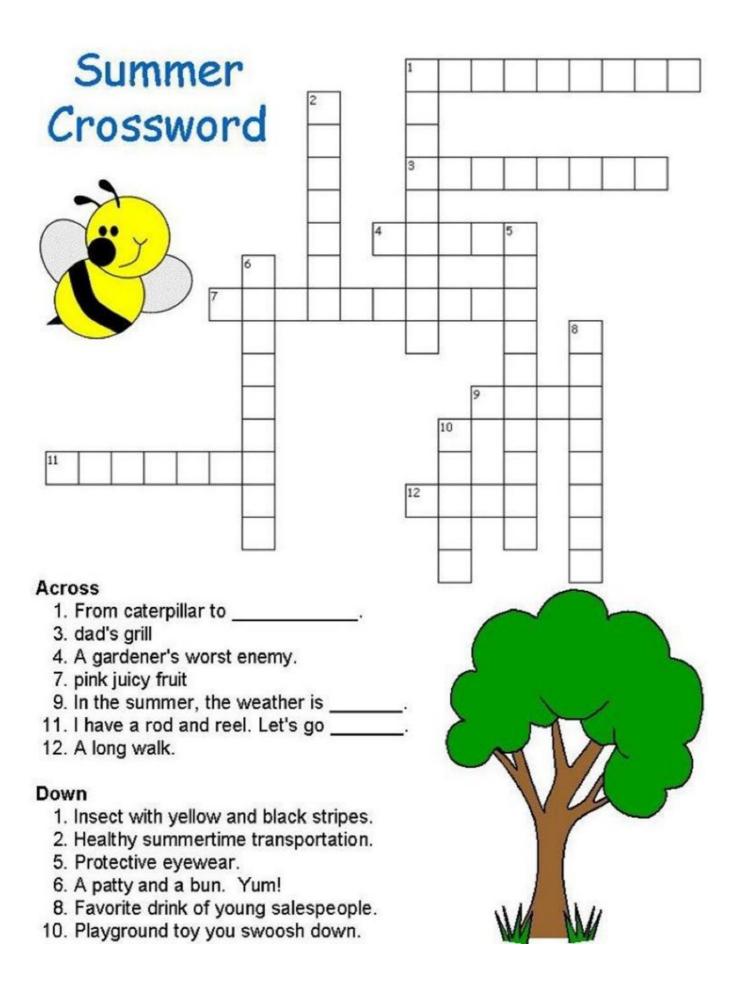
Thurs 24th March

Thurs 31st March

Thurs 7th April

Thurs 14th April

All are welcome! If you would like to join please contact Brett Beath 0407 064 872 or email Brett.Beath@ephpheta.org.au.



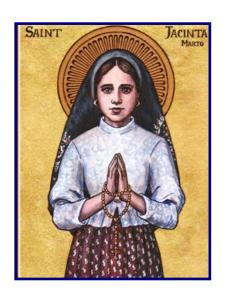
Sudoku is easy to play and the rules are simple. Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9.

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

FIND THESE NUMBERS IN THE SQUARE BELOW

2	7	2	6	0	6
8	5	4	2	2	1
0	6	8	7	5	0
1	5	7	2	5	3
0	8	6	9	3	1
3	6	5	1	3	8

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Lives of the Saints – Saints Jacinta & Francesco Marto Feast Day: 20th February



Birth: Francesco—1908; Jacinta—

1910

Death: Francesco—1919; Jacinta—1920

Became saints in 2017

Patrons of: Sick people, prisoners, children

Saints Jacinta and Francesco are well known as the two shepherd children, along with their cousin Lucy, saw visions of Mary at Fatima in 1917.

Francisco loved playing games with other children. He would not complain when treated unfairly and gave up a handkerchief with an image of Mary on it. He was a peacemaker and courageous. He loved the outdoors and playing with the animals.



With cousin Lucy (on the left)

His younger sister Jacinta loved dancing and flowers. She had a lot of friends, especially her cousin Lucy and the sheep. She named the sheep, held them in her lap and carry them home. She also loved to talk.

When Mary visited the children the first time she asked them to visit her every month for six months. Mary told them to pray the Rosary everyday and to pray for sinners.

Some of the people questioned the children about the visions of Mary. They tried to get the children to say that they lied about seeing Mary. But they did not. They knew that they had been blessed by Mary's visits.

In time the children were believed and a Church was built on the site where Mary appeared. Millions of pilgrims visit the shrine at Fatima every year to pray the Rosary.

After the visions of Mary, Francisco grew closer to Mary and Jesus. He especially loved to go to Church by himself and prayed to Jesus in front of the tabernacle. His sister Jacinta prayed a lot for others. She helped a young boy who was lost

The children praying

Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary,

Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, Fatima

and prayed, and Jacinta appeared to him and took him by the hand. At the same time, she was at home praying for him.

in a storm find his way home.

The boy kneeled

Francesco died from the influenza in his family home while Jacinta died two years later in Lisbon, also from influenza.

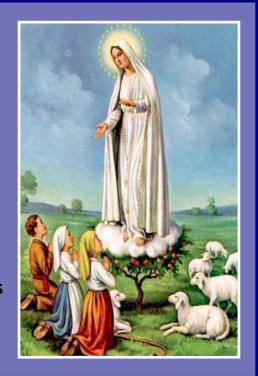
Their cousin Lucy became a Carmelite nun and saw Jacinta and Francesco being beatified

by Pope John Paul II in 2000. She died five years later.

The Fatima Prayer

My Jesus, forgive us our sins.
Save us from the fires of hell.
Lead all souls to heaven.
Especially those who are in need of your mercy.
Amen

Saints Jacinta & Francesco, pray for us



Did you know.... Winter Olympics

'Citius, Altius, Fortius' is the Olympic motto, which translates to 'Faster, Higher, Stronger.' Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympics, had heard these words spoken by a priest several years before proposing them as the Olympic Games' slogan in 1894.



- Since the start of the Winter Olympics, Norwegian competitors have won the most medals.
- The oldest Olympic medalist received his medal at age 83. His name was
 Anders Haugen and he was a ski-jumper. He competed in 1924, but because
 of a scoring error he did not receive his bronze medal until 1974, 50 years
 after he should have received it.
- There is NO talking in the bobsled during a race! So deaf people can enter the bobsled!!!
- Marit Bjørgen from Norway has won the most medals of any Winter Olympian. This amazing cross-country skier has won a whopping 15 medals. She secured her title at the 2014 Winter Olympics, by winning three gold medals!
- American Eddie Eagan won a gold medal in boxing during the 1920 Summer Olympics in Antwerp, Germany. Then, more than 10 years later, he scored another in the 1932 Winter Olympics, as part of a four-man bobsled team. Wow!



Live streamed Accessible Mass

Mass at our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church is open to the community.

If you feel ok to come to Mass, you are very welcome so long as you are not sick. You will have to socially distance, wear a mask and sign in at the door.

Please note that there is NO morning tea after Mass.

If you are not feeling confident enough to come to Mass, the Church has said that this is ok. You can say a prayer, read the Mass readings for the day or watch a Mass online.

We are still filming and live-streaming Mass at 11am each Sunday with an interpreter from Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church so you can watch this on Facebook live on a Sunday or later on our Ephpheta website.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion when we cannot receive Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.



I embrace You as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

8th Sunday of the Year—27 February Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Jesus told the people a parable, "Can one blind person guide another blind person? No, both will fall into a hole. The disciple is not more important than the teacher.

But after the disciple is fully trained, the disciple will be like the teacher.

Why do you look at the small piece of wood in your brother's eye, but never see the big piece of wood in your own eye? Why do you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out that small piece of wood from your eye,' when at the same time you can't see the big piece of wood in your own eye?

You hypocrite (two-face)!

First, take out the big piece of wood from your eye, and then you will be able to see better to take out the small piece of wood from your brother's eye. A healthy tree does not give bad fruit. And a rotten (bad) tree does not give good fruit.

You can tell if a tree is good or bad by its fruit. You cannot pick figs from thorns; you cannot pick grapes from brambles! A good person brings good things from the heart. A bad person brings bad things from their heart. Because the things a person says come from the heart."

1st Sunday of Lent—6 March Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted Jesus for 40 days. During that time Jesus ate nothing, and at the end he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

But Jesus replied, "Scripture (Bible) says: People cannot live on bread only. "Then the devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said to him, "I will give you all this power and wealth. All these are mine and I will give them to you, if you worship me."

But Jesus answered him, "Scripture (Bible) says: You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him." Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and made him stand on top of the Temple. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, jump, because Scripture (Bible) says the angels will protect you.

The angels will catch you so you will not be hurt." But Jesus answered, "Scripture (Bible) says that you must not test the Lord your God." The devil gave up tempting Jesus, he left Jesus and went away.



2nd Sunday of Lent—13 March Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his face changed, and his clothes became shiny white. Suddenly, two men were there talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory.



They talked with Jesus about the way that he (Jesus) would soon follow God's plan by dying in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very tired and sleepy, but when they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with Jesus, they woke up.

At the same time as Moses and Elijah disappeared, Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here. We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Peter did not really know what he was talking about.

While Peter spoke, a cloud came and covered the three disciples. They were afraid. From the cloud a voice said: "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to Him!" Then the voice stopped, Jesus was alone. The disciples said nothing and told no one about the things they saw.

3rd Sunday of Lent—20 March Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

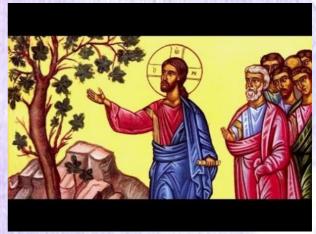
Some people arrived and told Jesus about the people from Galilee.
Pilate had them killed and mixed their blood with other sacrifices.
Jesus answered, "Do you think that they died because they were more sinful than all the other people from Galilee?

No! But I tell you, if you do not repent and stop sinning, you will all die the same as them. What about those eighteen (18) people in Siloam that were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you think they were more sinful than all the people living in Jerusalem?

No! But I tell you, that if you do not repent and stop sinning, you will all die the same as them."

Jesus told them this parable, "A man planted a fig tree in his vineyard. He went looking for figs on the tree but he found none. So he said to the gardener, 'Look, for three years I have been coming to look for figs on this tree, but there are none.

Cut it down. This tree is wasting good soil.' But the gardener answered, 'Leave it alone. Wait one more year. I will dig round the tree and put in some manure. Maybe next year the tree will grow figs. If no figs grow, then you can cut it down.'"



4th Sunday of Lent—27 March Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Many tax-collectors and sinners came to listen to Jesus. The Pharisees and the scribes (writers) complained and said, "This man, Jesus, welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told this parable: "A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of your money now.' So the father divided his wealth and his money between the two sons.

A few days later, the younger son had everything ready and he left. He travelled to another country. Like a fool, he spent all his money on drink, parties, prostitutes and wild living. Later, after he had spent all his money, a very bad famine (no food) happened in that country so there was nothing to eat. He was hungry and had no money, so he went to work on a farm feeding pigs. He was so hungry he wanted to eat the pig's food, but no one gave him anything.

Then he realised that he had been very foolish. He thought, 'My father pays his servants and the servants have plenty of food to eat. But I am here dying of hunger! I will go back and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be your son. Give me a job the same as one of your servants.' So he left the place and went back to his father.

While the son was still far away, his father saw him. He felt pity for him. The father ran to the boy and hugged and kissed him.

The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick, bring the best robe. Give him a ring and sandals. Then go, find the best fat calf and kill it.

We will have a feast, a celebration (party), because my son was dead and now he is alive again! He was lost and now he is found!' So they began to celebrate. The older son was working in the fields. When he came back to the house, he heard music and dancing.

He asked one of the servants, 'What's happening?' The servant said, 'Your brother has come and your father has killed the fat calf, because he is back home safe.' He was angry and refused to go in, so his father came out and asked him to come in.

But the older son said to his father. 'I worked hard like a slave for many years for you. I never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a kid (baby goat) for me to celebrate with my friends. But your other son wasted all your money on women, and now he has come home, and you killed the best calf for him.'

The father answered, 'My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But it is right that we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead, and now he is alive. He was lost, and now he is found.'"



5th Sunday of Lent—3 April Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning Jesus went into the Temple. All the people came to listen to Jesus. He sat down and began to teach them.

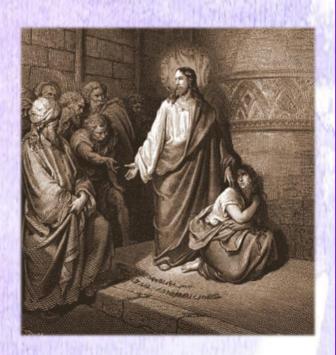
The scribes (writers) and Pharisees brought a woman. They caught the woman in the act (sinning) of adultery. They forced the woman to stand in front of everyone. They said to Jesus, "Master, this woman was caught in the act (sinning) of adultery.

In our law, Moses said we should condemn women like this to death by stoning (throwing stones) them. What do you say?" They were trying to trap Jesus saying something wrong. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger.

The Jewish leaders continued asking Jesus questions. So Jesus looked up and said, "If any person here has not sinned, let that person be the first to throw a stone at her."

Then Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this, they went away, one by one; the older people went first, in the end only Jesus was with the woman.

The woman was still standing there. Jesus looked at her and said, "Where are they? No one has condemned you?" The woman replied, "No one." Jesus said, "Well then, I do not condemn you. Go and don't sin any more."



Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) - 10 April Gospel Reading

The Jewish leaders, the chief priests and the scribes (writers) all stood up. They brought Jesus to Pilate. They began to accuse Jesus and said to Pilate,

"We caught this man making trouble with our people, telling them not to pay tax to Caesar. And he said that he is the Christ, a king."

So Pilate asked Jesus,

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "You say I am."

Pilate said to the chief priests and the people,

"I find nothing wrong with this man."

But they would not give up and said again and again,



"He is making trouble with the people all over the land. He started in Galilee and now he is spreading trouble here!"

When Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate realised that Jesus was under Herod's authority. At that moment, Herod was in Jerusalem, so Pilate sent Jesus to Herod.

Herod was happy to see Jesus. He had heard about Jesus, and for a long time wanted to see him. He was hoping to see Jesus work some miracle. So he asked many questions but Jesus said nothing. The chief priests and the scribes (writers) were standing there. They accused Jesus of many things.

Then Herod and his soldiers began to mock Jesus. They gave Jesus an expensive cloak that kings wear, and they all laughed at him. Then they sent Jesus back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate had always been enemies, but on that day, they became friends.

Pilate asked the gathering of chief priests, the Jewish leaders and the people, punish him. He will be whipped and then he will be freed." Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. So he asked the people again, but everybody shouted, "Crucify Jesus! Crucify him!

For the third time, Pilate spoke to the people,

"You brought this man to me. You say he is a trouble-maker amongst the people. I have judged him and I find nothing wrong. Also, Herod found nothing wrong with him, and sent him back here. You see, Jesus has done nothing wrong. I don't think he should die, so I will punish him. He will be whipped and then he will be freed."

But everybody shouted together, "Kill him! Free Barabbas!"

Barabbas was in prison because he made trouble in the city, and also he was a murderer.

Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. So he asked the people again, but everybody shouted,

"Crucify Jesus! Crucify him!"

For the third time, Pilate spoke to the people, "Why? What has he done? I find nothing wrong with him, I think he should not be killed. I will punish him and then let him go free."

But everybody shouted loudly that Jesus should be crucified. Their shouting became louder. So Pilate gave up and decided. He freed Barabbas from prison and he gave Jesus to the people, to let them do what they wanted.

The soldiers led Jesus out to crucify him. On the way they saw Simon from Cyrene, and they forced Simon to help carry the cross behind Jesus. Many people followed Jesus. Many women followed and were very upset and cried aloud for Jesus. But Jesus turned and said to the women,

"Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children. In the future, it will happen that people will say, 'Happy the women that cannot have babies. Happy the women that have never breast-fed babies!' Then people will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' They will say to the hills, 'Hide us!' Because today men use green wood which is not ready, so what will happen after the wood dries?"

Two thieves were with Jesus and they too would be killed. When they arrived at the place named 'The Skull', the soldiers crucified Jesus and also crucified the two thieves, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them because they don't know what they are doing."

The soldiers threw dice to share Jesus' clothes. The people stood watching Jesus. The Jewish leaders mocked Jesus and said,

"Jesus saved other people. If he is God's Chosen One, the Christ, let him save himself!"

The soldiers also mocked Jesus, and when they came to give Jesus vinegar (sour wine) they said to him,

"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!"

On top of the cross was written: 'THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.'

One of the thieves insulted Jesus saying,

"Are you the Christ? Save yourself, and save us!"

But the other thief told him off and said,

"Have you no respect for God? You got the same punishment as Jesus. You and I should be punished, but Jesus did nothing wrong. (...turns to Jesus...) Jesus, remember me when you enter into your kingdom."

Jesus replied,

"Yes, truly I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise (place before heaven)."

Now it was about the sixth hour (noon), but the sun was dark because of an eclipse and the whole land was dark until the ninth hour (3 p.m.). In the Temple, the curtain was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted in a loud voice,

"Father, I give you my spirit."

After Jesus said this, his breathing stopped and he died.



When the Roman soldier saw everything that had happened, he praised God and said,

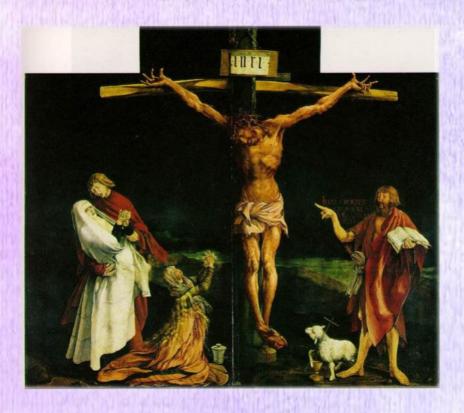
"This man, Jesus, was really a great and good man."

All the people saw everything that had happened, and they went home beating their chests in sorrow. Near the cross, Jesus' friends stood watching. The women from Galilee -they had followed Jesus everywhere -they also saw everything.

Then a man named Joseph, a member of the Jewish council, arrived. He was a very good man. He did not agree with the other Jewish leaders that killed Jesus. Joseph came from Arimathaea, a Jewish town, and he hoped that the kingdom of God would come.

He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Joseph took down Jesus' body from the cross and wrapped the body in a shroud (special long white cloth). He put the body in a new tomb carved in the rock. It was Preparation Day (Friday) and Sabbath would soon start.

The women that came from Galilee with Jesus, followed Joseph, and they watched him put Jesus' body in the tomb. Then the women went away and began to prepare special oils and perfumes for Jesus' body. On the Sabbath, they rested, following the Jewish law.





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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.

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!