

Welcome to 2023!

Hello! Welcome to our first newsletter from the Ephpheta Centre for 2023!

We are all excited to be back after a break through January and have lots of exciting things planned for the community for the year ahead!



While COVID is not the first story on the TV news every night, it is still out there in the community and every week people are becoming very sick. We still need to keep everyone safe from COVID. For example, we will not be having large gatherings at the Ephpheta Centre for the moment.

BUT we will continue to have gatherings at safer venues for the community. All the staff are back in the Ephpheta office –

please make an appointment with us to come and see us. If you are sick, please stay home and do not come to deaf community events.

We look forward to seeing you all throughout the year. May God continue to bless our deaf community in 2023 and always.

Best wishes,
The Ephpheta Team



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A message from Liz & Dave!

Liz's report

Hello! Welcome to 2023!

A new year is a good time to slow down and reflect on where life has taken us and where we are going. We had a joyful start to our working year as we celebrated the ordination to the priesthood of Frs Jack, Adam and Matthew.

As I was sitting at Mass that night, surrounded by some members of our community and the full Ephpheta team, I was so thankful to God for allowing me to be a part of the Ephpheta team. It is a privilege to serve and work within the deaf community.

I was researching some deaf community prayers and found this which I have slightly changed and would like to share with you:

Lord, thank you for the gifts of sign language, the Deaf community and Deaf culture.

We pray for those learning and teaching sign language. We pray for those who interpret.

We pray for those who work in Deaf education, and for Deaf children and students.

We pray for greater recognition of Auslan and for greater access to your deaf community,

We pray for those who feel alone, without people to communicate with in their own language, that they will know your presence and your love.

May the deaf community always be a place of faith and love.

Amen (with thanks to www.christianbsl.com/)

Here's to another great year at the Ephpheta Centre.

Until next time,

Liz



Dave's report

2023 has begun! People already have been asking us when is the next newsletter? It is a good thing they are waiting for us to plan exciting events such as Deaf Cafe get togethers in different places in Sydney.



Summer is almost over. Autumn is coming. A nice cool breeze is coming. Beautiful leaves falling off trees. Nature is beautiful. We need to go outdoors and take a refreshing walk in our beautiful Australian bush for example which is good for our mental health. We need to stay healthy body wise and mind wise. Staying fit. Eating healthy food. Drink lots of water. We will feel better (I know coffee helps me too)!

We are excited to bring you many activities this year. Auslan Play Groups. Deaf Crafts. Deaf Cafe. Day outings. Community Visits. Community Support. Deaf Youth. One to One visits. Group visits. We also offer support for Catholic Sacraments. Marriage preparation? Catholic Faith? Funeral planning? Our chaplain for the deaf community, Fr Michael is here to help you too.

The Ephpheta team is here to support you with things you may find difficult. Our office is open for appointment Tuesday to Friday. Please get in touch with one of us and we will make time to see you with a hot cup of tea!

Looking forward to catching up with many of you throughout the year of 2023!

Take care and stay safe,

David.



Fr Michael's Reflection...

Christian Marriage



There have been a lot more people than usual wanting to get married in the parish recently. It keeps me busy! It's a good thing to see.

Christian marriage is a wonderful gift from God. The wedding of a Christian man and woman is a marriage within a marriage. Their love and commitment to one another for life is part of the marriage of the Church with Jesus.

The last book of the Bible tells us to look forward to that day when the Bride of Christ (the Church) will come down from heaven like a bride ready to meet her Husband. The Husband of the Church is the Lamb of God, Jesus.

A Christian couple are members of the Body of Jesus, the Church. They do their part well when they live according to the loving will of God. God gives them special graces, spiritual help, to serve and help one another.

Their work is not only to become holy themselves. Their work is to help one another, and their children, to live good and holy lives. In other words, God wants married people to help each other to heaven.

Often, I ask engaged couples how they are going to help each other to the kingdom of heaven. Many times I have received a startled and confused look. They look like an animal caught in the headlights, completely taken by surprise! However, this question should not be a surprise. Jesus Christ came so that we might live with God in heaven.

Heaven promises a life even more beautiful and wonderful than this life sometimes can be. So, in loving the one we married to heaven, we are only loving them as God has loved us.

Mother Mary and St Joseph, help us to love one another and God. May we begin to love Jesus in our marriages like you loved Him. May we love the one we married, at least, in prayer, if we have been separated from them.

God bless,
Father Michael.



Deaf Women's Day Out - 24th March

Join us for a fun day in Leura! We will head to the beautiful Blue Mountains area for a fun shopping day!

We can all meet, catch the train and have lunch together and enjoy some cheeky shopping.

When and Where: Friday 24 March. We will meet at Central train station.

We will give a detailed travel plan when you RSVP.

Cost: Shopping at your own cost. Bring money to buy coffee/lunch.

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 17 March.



Deaf Men's Day Out - 21st April

Join us for a guided tour of Darlinghurst Gaol.

The Gaol has a fascinating history dating back to 1822. Some people believe this gaol is haunted!

We will have a tour of the many different areas the gaol has and learn about the incredible history it has.

After the tour we will have lunch nearby together at your own cost.

When and Where: Friday 21 April. Meet at 10.30am for a 11am start.

Darlinghurst Gaol. Corner of Forbes Street & Burton Street - Darlinghurst.

Meeting Point: National Art School (NAS) Café - Forbes Street entrance.

Cost: \$15 - tour.

Ephpheta will be financially supporting this event. Please pay before the event.

RSVP: There are limited numbers available for this event. You must RSVP to Donovan to secure your place 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email donovan@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 14 March.



Combined Men's & Women's Day Out - 31st May

Please **SAVE THE DATE** for our next Combined Men and Women's Day Out.

We are still finalising details and will have more information in the next newsletter.

When: Wednesday 31 May

RSVP: If you would like more information when the event is confirmed please contact Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au.

COMING SOON

*Save
the
Date*

Ephpheta Centre Deaf Community Retreat

Saturday 19 August & Sunday 20 August 2023

We are so pleased to announce that we will holding a retreat for the Deaf Community this year.

A retreat is a lovely way for us to learn more about our faith and deepen our relationships with God and each other.

When: Saturday 19 August and Sunday 20 August 2023.

Arrive around 9am on Saturday. Leave after lunch on Sunday.

Where: Benedict XVI Retreat Centre at Grose Vale

(near Richmond).

This is a beautiful peaceful centre not far from Richmond and Kurrajong



Who is this for? Any member of our deaf community who would like to learn more about their faith and God. Everyone is welcome.

What will we do on retreat: Listen to interpreted presentations, be involved in discussions, chat with each other. We will have Mass on site each day. Auslan interpreters provided.

Our retreat will be led by a special guest speaker Sr Anastasia Reeves OP.

Cost:

- **Own Room (1 person per room) \$150 each person**
- **Shared Room (2 people per room) \$75 per person**

Price includes one night's accommodation, all meals from morning tea on Saturday to lunch on Sunday. Morning teas, afternoon tea and supper included. Linen and towels provided.

- **Day only (not staying the night) - does not include dinner - \$40 per person per day**

Ephpheta is supporting the costs of the retreat.



Ephpheta Community Retreat - March 2019

Are you interested in coming?

Please contact Chrisso on 0405 749 488 (SMS) to let us know if you are interested in coming or would like more information.

Please try and confirm that you are coming before **30 April**.

Stations of the Cross & the Rosary during Lent

Tuesdays at 2pm – on Zoom

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.

The Rosary is a prayer when we 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.

During Lent we will be praying both prayers. You don't need to prepare. Don't worry if you have never prayed these prayers before. Bring an open heart and mind!



The Schedule - all on Zoom:

Stations of the Cross	Tuesday 28 February
The Rosary – Sorrowful Mysteries	Tuesday 7 March
Stations of the Cross	Tuesday 14 March
The Rosary – Sorrowful Mysteries	Tuesday 21 March
Stations of the Cross: at St Mary's Cathedral (see below)	Tuesday 28 March
The Rosary – Sorrowful Mysteries	Tuesday 4 April

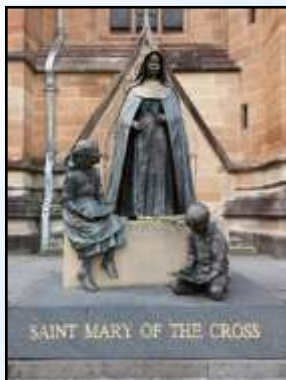
If you would like to join please contact Brett Beath 0407 064 872 or email brettb@ephpheta.org.au

Stations of the Cross – 28th March

In the lead up to Holy Week, we will be going to St Mary's Cathedral to pray the Stations of the Cross as a Catholic Deaf Community.

It will be lead by Fr Michael.

After Stations of the Cross we will celebrate Mass then head to Westfield for lunch. All are welcome to come.



Meet there

Plan for the day:

11:30am: Meet outside St Mary's Cathedral - College St, Sydney
(Meet at the Statue of St Mary MacKillop)

12:00pm: Stations of the Cross

1:10pm: Mass

After Mass: Lunch at Westfield Food Court in the City.

Please bring money for Lunch

Both Stations of the Cross and Mass will be Auslan interpreted.

RSVP: Brett Beath 0407 064 872 or email brettb@ephpheta.org.au

2023 Easter Mass Timetable

All Masses will be held at **Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church 74 Underwood Road, Homebush**. All Masses will be Auslan interpreted.

Please see below for our Easter timetable. You are welcome to join if you feel safe.

Please note that there is **NO EASTER VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY NIGHT**.

Event	Date	Time	Where	
Palm Sunday	Sunday 2 April	11am	Our Lady of the Assumption	Deaf Mass
Holy Thursday	Thursday 6 April	7pm	Our Lady of the Assumption	Integrated Mass
Good Friday	Friday 7 April	3pm	Our Lady of the Assumption	Integrated Mass
Easter Sunday	Sunday 9 April	11am	Our Lady of the Assumption	Deaf Mass

We will have a cup of tea together in the hall after Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday Mass

All Masses will be **live streamed** onto Ephpheta's Facebook page.

The Integrated Masses on Holy Thursday and Good Friday will be very busy.

Spaces at those Masses might be limited.

Any questions, please contact Ephpheta staff.

Everyone is welcome at these Masses, we look forward to seeing you there!



Waitara Mass – 30 April

The Ephpheta Centre community has been invited to celebrate Mass with the Diocese of Broken Bay.

This will be an integrated Mass with their parish.

This Mass will be live streamed on Ephpheta's Facebook page.

When: Sunday 30 April. Mass begins at 9.30am

Where: Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral - 27 Yardley Avenue, Waitara



Mini "Deaf Cafes"

Here is the list of our next round 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.

Friday 17 March Time 10am	Dee Why RSL 932 Pittwater Road, Dee Why (DATE CHANGE - NOT ON 9 MARCH)
Friday 14 April Time 10am	Revesby Worker's Club 2B Brett Street, Revesby (LOCATION CHANGE - NOT CITY AREA)
Friday 19 May Time 10am	Central Coast Leagues Club 1 Dance Drive, Gosford
Friday 16 June Time 10am	Dooley's Catholic Club 11-17 Church Street, Lidcombe

Please **RSVP** to Donovan (SMS 0408 697 773 or email donovan@ephpheta.org.au) or any Ephpheta staff to let us know **WHICH** mini cafés you are coming to.

Please do not come if you are sick.

We look forward to seeing you!



Auslan Prayer Group via Zoom

Fridays at 2pm (1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th of the month)

Thursday at 2pm (3rd of the month)



Lent Group

Lent is a very special time in our Catholic community. It is a time when we prepare to meet the resurrected Jesus at Easter.

During Lent we will have the opportunity to read and reflect on the Gospels.

The schedule of sessions is listed below

Session 1	The Temptation of Jesus	Friday 24 February
Session 2	The Transfiguration	Friday 3 March
Session 3	Jesus and the Women at the Well	Friday 10 March
Session 4	Jesus Heals the Blind Man	Thursday 16 March
Session 5	Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead	Friday 24 March
Session 6	The Passion of Jesus Christ	Friday 31 March

Easter

During Easter we will be reflecting on the joyous occasion of Jesus' Resurrection at Easter and preparing for Pentecost.



Session 1	Jesus and Thomas	Friday 14 April
Session 2	The Road to Emmaus	Thursday 20 April
Session 3	Jesus the Good Shepherd	Friday 28 April
Session 4	Jesus: the Resurrection and the Life	Friday 5 May
Session 5	Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit	Friday 12 May
Session 6	Jesus' Commissions the Disciples	Thursday 18 May
Session 7	Pentecost	Friday 26 May

All are welcome.

All on Zoom.

You don't need to prepare.

Don't worry if you have never been in a prayer group before.

Bring an open heart and mind!

If you would like to join please contact Brett Beath 0407 064 872 or email

brettb@ephpheta.org.au

Craft Christmas Lunch

Our craft group had a very happy Christmas catch up on Wednesday 14 December.

It was great to catch up at Dooleys at Lidcombe for a very yummy lunch. It was also lovely to have a chance to thank some of our lovely group who had volunteered to help teach us all new crafts and skills throughout the year.

Thank you to all who joined us - we had a fantastic day!



Combined Day Out - Chocolate Factory

Our first Combined Day Out for 2023 was a very sweet day!

On 17 February we visited the Chocolate Factory at West Gosford and learnt about the very interesting way that chocolates, marshmallows and nougat are made.

Highlights of the day - yummy lunch, enjoying the tour, catching up with the community and - of course - the chocolate shop! Yum!!!

We are looking forward to more wonderful community events in 2023!

If there are any events you'd like Ephpheta to try and organise, please contact our team.



Community Christmas Party

How wonderful it was to celebrate Christmas again with the community!

On Sunday 4 December we celebrated Mass with Fr John Paul at Lalor Park and then had a wonderful lunch in the parish hall.

It was a great day and wonderful to catch up with everyone for a proper deaf community celebration.



Thanks to St Gabriel's!



St Gabriel's
SCHOOL

A special thank you to the staff, families and students from St Gabriel's school for their Christmas donations.

We received some lovely knitted blankets and other gifts which we delivered to some of our community in need for Christmas.



Our new priests!

The Ephpheta team were very excited to be invited to the ordination of 3 new priests at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on 2 February.

The 3 young men – Fr Adam Carlow, Fr Jack Elkazzi and Fr Matthew Dimian – spent time with Ephpheta and the deaf community when they were studying.

When they were with us at Ephpheta, they learned many things about the deaf community and helped us in our work. We loved having them with us!



Jack signing with Pasquale in 2019



Adam & Matthew serving at Deaf Mass at Ephpheta Centre 2018

We all felt very proud watching them being ordained as priests.

We hope to have them come and say Mass with the community throughout the year and we will let you know when this will happen.

We also have 5 new trainee priests (seminarians) who will soon be studying with Ephpheta in 2023. More information in the next newsletter!!

We know the Ephpheta community will give them a warm welcome!



Thank you to Parramatta Diocese for the photos

Auslan Play Group (0-5 years)

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

Lots of interesting chats about baby's developing, starting to crawl and walk. Supporting new parents and each other as their children grow.

When:

Saturday 4 March	10am - 1pm
Tuesday 4 April	10am - 12pm
Tuesday 2 May	10am - 12pm
Saturday 3 June	10am - 1pm

Where: Parish 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.

If you or your child are sick, please stay home.

Want more information? Please contact Chrisso at Ephpheta on 0405 749 488 (SMS)



Our APG Christmas Party in December 2022 - a wonderful day!

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to 4 staff members from the Ephpheta Centre who in December received awards for their long service working with the Archdiocese.

Congratulations to Margaret for 11 years, David for 12 years, Donovan for 12 years and Liz for 13 years!

We are so proud of you, your hard work, and all that you bring to the life of our community and the Catholic Church!



Craft Group

Ephpheta Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at the hall behind Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church (74 Underwood Rd, Homebush).



We start at 10am and finish around 2pm. Please **bring your own lunch** - Ephpheta provides morning tea for a gold coin donation.

See below for the February - May program.

Date	What's On
8 March	Bring your own craft/knitting project to work on
22 March	Bring your own craft/knitting project to work on
29 March	BINGO
12 April	How to make fabric rope coaster by Becky Stoker - Part 1
26 April	How to make fabric rope coaster by Becky Stoker - Part 2
10 May	Bring your own craft/knitting project to work on
24 May	Bring your own craft/knitting project to work on

Numbers and space is limited so **please** contact the Ephpheta team to let us know you would like to come.

Wrap with Love and Ephpheta Craft!

On 8 February our craft group enjoyed meeting a special visitor - Linda from Wrap With Love. This organisation provides blankets to people all over the world who are in need.

Our craft group made an amazing 21 of blankets for Wrap with Love. Thank you to the craft group for your generosity and hard work.

Wrap with Love told us that some of these blankets have been sent to Turkey and Syria to help people who have suffered in the recent earthquakes.

Well done craft group!!



Accessible Mass

Mass is open to the community. All are welcome to Mass.

Please do not come to Mass if you are feeling sick.

Our Mass time table is:

1st, 2nd and 4th (not the 3rd) Sunday of the month

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church -

74 Underwood Road, Homebush (11am - Deaf Mass).

3rd Sunday of the month

St Bernadette's - 10 Gardenia Grove, Lalor Park
(10am - Integrated Mass)

We will have morning tea after Mass.

We are still filming and live-streaming Mass each of these Masses. You can watch this on Facebook live on a Sunday or later on our Ephpheta website.

PLEASE SEE THE SEPARATE CALENDAR IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR MASS DATES AND TIMES.



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.

Lives of the Saints – St Gianna Beretta Molla

Born: 4 October 1922 in Milan, Italy

Died: 28 April 1962

How old: 39

When become a Saint: 2004

Feast Day: 28th April

Patron saint of: mothers, pregnant women



Gianna Beretta was the tenth of thirteen children in her family. Gianna's family were very religious. One of her sisters became a nun and two brothers became priests.

Gianna's mother was a doctor and decided that she wanted to be a doctor too. Gianna went to university and then medical school. While studying, she worked with the poor and old people. After completing her studies, Gianna worked as a doctor who looked after babies (paediatrician).

In her spare time Gianna loved to ski and climb mountains.

She married her husband Pietro Molla and they had three children. They were a happy family. Gianna and her husband taught their children the Catholic faith.



Gianna with her husband Pietro Molla

It was very important to them. Gianna continued to work as a doctor. She felt that being a doctor and a mother was her mission and her gift from God.

She felt very close to God.

Gianna was to have her fourth child, but the doctors found that she had cancer, a large ovarian cyst. The doctors needed to operate. But if she was to have the operation, the baby would die. So the doctors advised her that to save her life, the baby must die. Gianna wanted her baby to live, so she did not have the operation.

During that time she received comfort in her prayers and in her faith. She gave birth to her fourth child, a girl. One week later Gianna died.

Years after Gianna's death, her daughter followed her mother and become a doctor.



Gianna with two of her four children

Gianna is a saint because she lived a normal life, as a mother and a doctor. She loved caring for babies and when she was giving the choice for her baby to live or die, she cared more about her child than about herself.

Prayer to St Gianna Beretta Molla

God our Father, through St. Gianna Beretta Molla, you have given to us a woman
who was a witness to the Gospel, as a young person, a wife,
a mother and a doctor.

We thank you because through the gift of her life, we learn to accept and honour
every person.

Holy Spirit, give us wisdom, knowledge and courage
so that through the example of St. Gianna's life, and through her prayers,
we place ourselves at the service of
every person and grow in love and holiness. We ask through Christ our Lord,
Amen

St Gianna Beretta Molla, pray for us.

2nd Sunday of Lent - 5 March

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Six days later, Jesus went up a high mountain with Peter and the two brothers, James and John. They were alone with Jesus. The three disciples saw Jesus change. His face became bright like the sun. His clothes were white like light.



Suddenly, two men appeared, Moses and Elijah, and they were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here. If you want, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

While Peter was talking, a bright cloud came, and the shadow covered the three disciples. A voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved. I am pleased with him. Listen to him.”

When the disciples heard the voice, they fell to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. He said, “Stand up. Do not be afraid.”

Then they looked up and saw no one but only Jesus.

When they walked down the mountain, Jesus gave them this order, “Tell no one about the things you saw today.

Wait until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

3rd Sunday of Lent - 12 March

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

In Samaria, Jesus came to the town called Sychar. This town is near the field Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there. Jesus was tired by the journey so he sat down next to the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

The disciples of Jesus had gone to the town to buy some food.

The Samaritan woman was surprised and said, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan! You want me to give you a drink?" Jews are not friends with Samaritans.



Jesus answered, "If you really knew what God is giving you, and if you knew who I am that asks you for a drink, you would quickly ask me for a drink and I would have given you living water." The woman said, "You have no bucket, and the well is deep. How would you get this living water? Our Father, Jacob, of long ago, gave us this well. He drank from this well himself. Also, his sons and his animals drank from this well. Are you more important than Jacob?"

Jesus said, "Any person that drinks this water will be thirsty again. But if any person drinks the water that I give, that person will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become like a spring of water flowing inside that person. That water will give eternal life."

The woman said, "Sir, give me that living water so that I will never be thirsty again, and never have to come here to get more water from the well." The woman said, "Now I realise you are a prophet. Our people (Samaritans) worshipped God on this mountain. But you Jews say: 'People must go to Jerusalem to worship God.'"

Jesus said to her: "Believe me, soon you will worship God not on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem. You do not know the God you worship. But we Jews know the God we worship. Salvation comes from the Jews. But the time will come, really it is here now, then people with true faith will worship the Father in spirit and truth. God is spirit and we must worship him in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah, the Christ, will come one day. And when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus answered, "I am the Messiah. I am the Christ you are talking about." Many of the Samaritan people in town believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman had told them about Jesus. So when the Samaritan people saw Jesus, they asked him to stay with them. Jesus stayed for two days. Many more people believed because of the things Jesus said.

The people said to the woman, "At first we believed because of all you told us about Jesus. But now we believe in Jesus because of the many things he told us. We know that he is really the One that will save world."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

4th Sunday of Lent - 19 March

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus was walking, he saw a man born blind.
Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud.
He took the mud and rubbed it on the blind man's eyes.



Jesus said to him, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam." (Siloam means 'Sent').
The blind man went to the pool, washed, came back and he could see. Some neighbours and people that used to see the man begging before said, "Look, is that the blind man that used to sit and beg?" Some said, "Yes."
Others said, "No, perhaps he looks like the blind man."

But the blind man himself said, "I am the same man. I was blind before."
The people brought the man to meet the Pharisees. The day that Jesus made the mud and cured the blind man, that day was the Sabbath. The Pharisees asked the man, "How did you receive your sight?"
The man answered, "He made some mud and rubbed it on my eyes; I washed and now I can see." The Pharisees said, "This man, Jesus, cannot be from God. He broke the law of the sabbath."

But other people said, "How can a sinner do miracles like that?"
So the Jews argued and disagreed with each other. The Jewish leaders asked the blind man again, "This man, Jesus, cured you. What do you think of him?" The man answered, "He is a prophet." The Jewish leaders replied, "Are you trying to teach us. You are a sinner from birth!" They threw him out. Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

The man answered, "Tell me where to find him so that I can believe in him".
Jesus said, "You are looking at him; I am he." The man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshipped Jesus.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

5th Sunday of Lent - 26 March

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The two sisters (Martha & Mary) sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, Lazarus your friend is ill.' After Jesus received this message, he said to his disciples, "This illness will not end with death but in God's glory. Through Lazarus' illness, the Son of God will receive glory."



Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus. But after Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go to Judaea."

Jesus arrived in Bethany, and found that Lazarus had already been dead and in the tomb four days. Bethany is about two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews came to see Martha and Mary to comfort them because of their brother's death. Martha heard that Jesus had come, she went out to meet him. Mary stayed sitting at home. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask." Jesus said, "Your brother will rise to life." Martha said, "I know he will rise to life in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Any person that believes in me will have life after death. And the person that lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha said, "Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, yet come into the world."

Jesus saw Mary crying, and the Jews also crying; Jesus was upset and felt deep sorrow in his heart. Jesus said, "Where have you put Lazarus?" They said, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. The Jews said, "Look, Jesus truly loved Lazarus!" But others said, "He opened the eyes of the blind man and cured him. Why could he not stop Lazarus dying?" Still deeply upset, Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone covering it. Jesus said, "Move away the stone."

Martha said, "Lord, Lazarus has been buried four days. The smell will be bad." Jesus said, "Remember what I told you, that if you believe you will see God's glory?"

So they moved away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I know that you always listen to me. But I say this for the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me." After he had said this, he shouted in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out. His hands and his feet were tied with strips of cloth and a cloth covered his face.

Jesus said to the people, "Remove (take off) the cloths and let him go free." Many of the Jews that had come to visit Mary, saw what had happened and they believed in Jesus.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Palm Sunday - 2 April

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Pilate ordered Jesus to be whipped first before crucifixion. The soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium (square) of the Roman governor. All the soldiers came around Jesus. They tore off his clothes and put a red robe on him. They made thorns into a crown and put it on Jesus' head. They put a reed (stick) in his right hand. Then, they knelt in front of him, and mocked him, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!"



They spat at him. They took the reed (stick) and hit his head. When they had finished mocking him, they took off the red robe and gave back the old clothes. They led him away to crucify him.

On the way, the soldiers saw a man named Simon, from Cyrene. They forced him to help carry the cross for Jesus. Then they arrived at a place called Golgotha, that means, 'The Place of the Skull'. The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with gall. Jesus tasted it, but refused to drink.

When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus, they gambled to see who could win Jesus' clothes. Then they sat there and watched Jesus.

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

At the same time, two thieves were crucified with Jesus, one on the right, and one on the left. People passing by shook their heads and mocked Jesus saying:

"You said you would destroy the Temple and in three days build it again! Save yourself! If you are God's Son, come down from the cross!" The chief priests, with the scribes (writers) and the Jewish leaders, also mocked Jesus, saying, "Jesus saved other people, but he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross and we will believe him. He trusted God. Now let God save Jesus, because he did say, 'I am the Son of God!'"

The robbers crucified with Jesus also mocked. At the 6th hour (12 noon) the whole land became dark for three hours. At about 9th hour, three o'clock, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, Lama sabachthani?"

That means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon (leave) me?"

Some people standing there heard Jesus. They said, "He is shouting to Elijah!"

Someone quickly went to get a sponge. He dipped it in cheap vinegar-wine and put it on a stick, gave it to Jesus to drink. The other people said, "Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him." But Jesus, shouted again in a loud voice, gave up his spirit and died.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Easter Sunday - 9 April

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Early on Sunday morning, when it was still dark, Mary Magdala went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb. Mary ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple (John), the one Jesus loved. Mary said to them, “They have taken Jesus’ body from the tomb. We don’t know where they have put his body.”



So Peter went to the tomb with the other disciple. They ran together but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, arrived at the tomb first.

He bent down and saw the cloths lying on the ground, but he did not go in.

Simon Peter, running behind the other disciple (John), arrived later.

Peter went into the tomb. He saw the cloths lying on the ground.

He also saw the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head.

This cloth was rolled up separate from the other cloths lying on the ground.

Then the other disciple (John) that had reached the tomb first, also went in.

He saw and he believed. Before that, they had not understood the teaching of the scriptures (Bible), that Jesus must rise from the dead.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

2nd Sunday of Easter - 16 April

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the disciples were together in the room, and the doors were closed and locked, because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and his side.



The disciples were filled with joy because they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. The Father sent me, so I too send you."

Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, their sins are not forgiven."

One of the twelve apostles, Thomas, was not there. Later the disciples told him, "We saw the Lord." Thomas answered, "I refuse to believe until I see the holes in his hands and touch them. I will not believe until I see the hole in his side and touch it."

Eight days later, the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood among them.

He said, "Peace be with you." Then Jesus spoke to Thomas, "Look! Touch my hands. Put your hand in my side and feel it. Doubt no more, but believe."

Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "You believe because you can see me. But the people that have not seen me and still believe, they are truly blessed." Jesus did many other miracles and the disciples saw them. But all these other miracles are not written in this book.

All the miracles included in this book are to help you to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that because you believe you can have life through his name.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

3rd Sunday of Easter - 23 April

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Two disciples walked to a village named Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. They were both talking about what had happened recently. While they were talking, Jesus himself came and walked with them. They saw him but they did not recognise that it was Jesus.



Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about?" The two disciples stopped, their faces looked very sad. One of the two disciples, named Cleopas, said to Jesus, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem not knowing the things that happened there in the last few days."

Jesus asked, "What things?" They said to him, "All about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a great prophet. He did wonderful work and said wonderful things about God. But our high priests and our Jewish leaders condemned Jesus to death by crucifying him. We hoped that Jesus would be the one to free Israel.

But there's more news: two days ago Jesus was killed; and now we are surprised because some women told us that they went to the tomb early this morning. They could not find the body of Jesus and they came back to tell us that they saw angels.

The angels told the women Jesus is alive! Some of our friends went to the tomb, and everything the women had said was true: the body was not in the tomb, they didn't see Jesus. Then Jesus said to the two disciples, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the message of the prophets.

Remember, the prophets said Jesus must suffer before he received glory." So Jesus began to explain the story about Moses and the different prophets, and that all the things written in the scriptures (Bible) were really about Jesus himself. Then they came near the village, Jesus wanted to continue walking, but the two disciples persuaded him to stay with them.

They said, "The day is nearly finished and it is becoming dark." So Jesus went in to stay with them. They sat down to eat: Jesus took the bread and said the prayer of blessing. He broke the bread and gave it to them.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognised Jesus, but he disappeared. The two disciples said to each other, "While Jesus talked to us along the road explaining the scriptures (Bible), our hearts burned inside us."

The two disciples left Emmaus and quickly walked back to Jerusalem. They found the eleven apostles there together with their friends. The apostles told the two disciples, "Yes, it is true. The Lord has truly risen. He appeared to Simon Peter." So the two disciples told them the story of what had happened along the road, and that they only recognised that the man was Jesus when he broke the bread.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

4th Sunday of Easter - 30 April

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to the Jews, “I tell you the truth, any one that wants to enter the sheep pen (special place for sheep) should go through the gate. If a person goes in another way, that person is a thief. One person goes through the gate: the shepherd. The person guarding the gate lets the shepherd in.



The sheep listen to the shepherd’s voice. The shepherd calls the sheep by name and leads them out. When the shepherd has gathered the sheep, the shepherd starts to walk in front of them, and the sheep follow because they know the shepherd’s voice.

The sheep never follow a stranger, they run away because they don’t know the stranger’s voice.” Jesus told this parable to the people, but they did not understand what it meant.

So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All others that have come are thieves. The sheep refuse to listen to them. I am the gate. Anyone that comes through me will be safe. That person can come in and go out freely and will find green fields.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came so that all will have life and I give full life to all.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

5th Sunday of Easter - 7 May

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust God, and trust me (Jesus). There are many rooms in my Father's house.

I would not tell you this if there were no rooms.



I am going there to prepare a place for you. And after I have gone and prepared a place for you, I will come back and take you myself, so that you will always be with me. You know the way to the place I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father but only through me. If you know me, you also know my Father. Now you know him and you have seen him."

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Philip, I have been with you for a long time and still you don't know me?

If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. So why do you say, 'Let us see the Father?' Do you really believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I spoke to you, they are not my words. These words are from the Father.

He lives in me and He is working through me. You must believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If you can't believe, then try and believe because of the things I did. I tell you the truth, any person that believes in me will do the same work as myself. Yes, that person will do greater (better) works, because I am going to the Father."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

6th Sunday of Easter - 14 May

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments. I will ask the Father and he will give you another 'Helper' to be with you for ever.

He is the Spirit of truth the world will never accept because the world does not know him. But you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you alone like children with no parents. I will come back to you. Soon the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. You will live because I live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Any person that receives my commandments and follows them really loves me.

Any one that loves me, my Father will love also, and I will love them and show myself to them."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



The Ascension of the Lord - 21 May

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

The eleven apostles went to Galilee. They went to the mountain Jesus had arranged to meet them.

There they saw Jesus, they worshipped him, but some hesitated.

Jesus came to them and said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me.

Go, and make all people in the world my disciples.

Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Teach them to follow all the commandments I gave you.

Remember, I am with you always; yes, till the end of the world.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



Pentecost Sunday - 28 May

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

On the first day of the week, in the evening the disciples gathered together in the room.



The doors were closed, because they were afraid of the Jews.

Jesus came and stood among them.

He said to them, “Peace be with you.” He showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. My Father sent me, so in the same way I send you.”

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive people’s sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, their sins remain (not forgiven).”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Trinity Sunday - 4 June

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

“God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.

God gave his Son so that any person that believes in his Son would not be lost, but live forever.

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world through his Son.

Any person that believes in him (Jesus) will not be condemned.

But any person that refuses to believe is condemned already. Why?

Because that person refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD





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EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS

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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!