

Ephpheta Sunday 2023

Every year in early August the Catholic Church throughout the world celebrates a special event known as Ephpheta Sunday. This is linked to the Bible reading in the Gospel of Mark when Jesus meets the deaf man and says "Ephpheta" (which means to "be open").

Every year on Ephpheta Sunday the Church celebrates the gifts deaf people bring to the life of the Church - the gifts of language, faith and community. Ephpheta Sunday has always been the "big day" in the Ephpheta Centre's



calendar since the Ephpheta Centre first opened its doors in Paddington in 1979.

This year we will celebrate Ephpheta Sunday on 6 August with Mass and lunch. All are welcome!

We look forward to seeing you all on this special day! More information on page 5.

The Ephpheta Team



Ephpheta Sunday Celebrations at Markets Hotel, Homebush West



Ephpheta Sunday 2022

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A message from Liz & Dave!

Liz's report

Happy Easter!!

You might be thinking "Doesn't Liz know that Easter was back in April??".

But in the Catholic church, the celebration of Easter continues long after all the hot cross buns have finished, and the Easter eggs have been eaten!!

The Church celebrates the season of Easter for 50 days, finishing at Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles).

So why do we celebrate Easter for 50 days? At Masses through the Easter season, our usual practice of reading from the Old Testament is replaced by reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

These readings tell the story of the church's earliest days, and the beginning of our faith spreading throughout the ancient world.

It is a time when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus – Jesus who died so that we may have eternal life. It is a time of joy and celebration – remembering how much God loves each of us and that God is always with us. We celebrate that in the resurrection of Jesus, we all have the promise of eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

So – Happy Easter!

Until next time,

Liz



Dave's report

Hello readers! This year is flying by! Friday and Sunday Mass services with Auslan interpreting are happening at Ephpheta. We work very hard to make our Masses accessible for the Catholic Deaf community.

We had a busy Easter weekend. It was wonderful to see many Deaf and hard of hearing faces at the Our Lady of the Assumption Church Services!

We are very excited to have 5 priests in training coming to Ephpheta Centre on Fridays to learn Auslan, mix with our Deaf community and practice their signing. Please come and make them feel very welcome.

Winter is coming very soon. It's time to take out and dust off our winter gear! Please check this newsletter for many new events and come along to one of our accessible deaf friendly Masses.

As always, please get in touch with one of us at the Ephpheta Centre and we can have a chat with cups of hot coffee or tea! Just give us a call and make an appointment.

See you soon and happy reading!

Over and out.

David.



Father, my heart is heavy. I feel like I have to carry the burden alone. Words like "overwhelmed," "distraught," "exhausted" seem to describe where I am.

I am not sure how to let you carry my heavy load, so please show me how. Take it from me. Let me rest and be refreshed so that my heart won't be so heavy in the morning.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Fr Michael's Reflection...

Seminary life (c. 2004-2012)

Five seminarians have joined the community this year!

I was chatting with Chrisso about my experience as a seminarian, so I'll tell you what it was like when I was at seminary. Note that things change a lot over the years. In the past, (before my time) the seminary was part of a farm and the young men might be found learning Aquinas while they were digging potatoes! When I went to Seminary there was a lot less manual labour.

The process to enter the seminary was quite rigorous. There were psychological exams, interviews (including with the bishop), and a lot of forms. I am very grateful for the seminary staff who taught and helped us.

The seminarians in first year were kept apart from the rest of the seminary. They had to discern, pray and think about, what God wanted them to do in life. In my experience, quite a few people left the seminary early in first year. The study was not very heavy at the start. You had some time to get used to the set times for prayers and doing academic work. I remember being keen to start. I was so keen I even wrote a computer program to help me learn Latin. I'm still not very good, though I really enjoyed learning about the language. I also remember a religious brother who was a very good teacher. He gave a test on Catechism and after asking only one question, continued by asking, after every answer I gave, "And why is that?". I was sweating by the end of the exam!

In the higher years, we studied the languages of the Bible and the Church. I learnt Greek and Latin, but missed out on Hebrew :(

There was a lot of philosophy and theology, as well as Church history, Biblical studies, singing and choir, pastoral studies and practice. We also had various special classes in the seminary and liturgies to attend. There were prayers every morning, evening and night. The day usually started with Mass, unless we were going to help at the cathedral for a special occasion.

I learnt a lot from the men studying with me. There were many times I needed their help and they were a good support. Sometimes, there was a lot of pressure, usually around doing well in studies. I went into the seminary healthy and fit, and came out less so, yet the opportunity to spend time focused on learning more about God and how to be a priest was a great privilege. I have always been grateful for that.

God Bless,
Fr Michael.



Ordination as a deacon in 2011

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

Join us for a deaf artist led guided tour of the Art Gallery of NSW.

We will have the opportunity to learn about the different artworks in the gallery. We will also be able to explore the new renovated North Building and see a new exhibition 'The End of Imagination' which has an amazing underground area called 'The Tank'.

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

When and Where: Wednesday 31 May. Meet at 10.30am for an 11am start.

Art Gallery of NSW - Art Gallery Road, Sydney.

Meet at the Welcome Hub in the Welcome Plaza.

Cost: Free tour. Lunch at your own cost.

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 26 May.



Women's Day Out - 22nd June

Join us for a fun day at Campbelltown Arts Centre.

We will have a guided tour of the Arts Centre and a fun cardboard flower making workshop!

When we have finished with our creations, we'll be able to take them home.

After the tour and workshop we will have lunch together at your own cost. BYO lunch welcome.

When and Where: Thursday 22 June. Meet at 9.30am for a 10am start.

Campbelltown Arts Centre - 1 Gallery Road, Campbelltown.

Cost: \$15 - tour and workshop. Lunch at your own cost. *Please try and pay before the event.*

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 16 June.



Men's Day Out - 27th July

Join us for a guided tour of Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).

We will have a tour of the different areas in the SCG. We will hear about the different stories of players, spectators, events and learn about the rich history of one of Sydney's most famous venues!

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

When and Where: Thursday 27 July. Meet at 10am for a 10.30am start.

Sydney Cricket Ground. Gate A, Driver Avenue, Moore Park.

Cost: \$22 - tour. Lunch at your own cost. *Please try and pay before the event.*

RSVP: David 0408 669 772 (SMS) or email david@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 21 July.



Mass with Fr Michael Depcik - 30th July

Ephpheta is excited to announce that we will have a special visitor in July - Fr Michael Depcik a deaf priest from Detroit, USA!

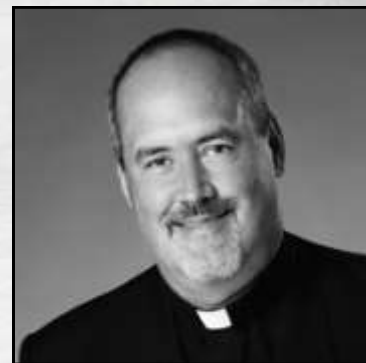
We will celebrate Mass together led by Fr Michael Depcik followed by lunch so our deaf community has the chance to get to know him!

When and Where: Sunday 30 July, 11am Mass at

Our Lady of the Assumption - 74 Underwood Road, Homebush.

Ephpheta will provide lunch.

So we have a rough idea of numbers and to make sure we have plenty of food - please let us know if you will be joining us! Contact Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au



Ephpheta Sunday - 6th August

Everyone is welcome to come and join us to celebrate Ephpheta Sunday!

We look forward to seeing you all on this special day!



When: Sunday 6th August

Mass: Starts at 11am

Our Lady of the Assumption - 74 Underwood Rd, Homebush.

Lunch: Starts at 12.30pm

Markets Hotel - 268 Parramatta Rd, Homebush West.

Please join us for a beautiful 2 course meal at the Markets Hotel.

The Markets Hotel is a short 5 minute drive from Our Lady of the Assumption in Homebush.

Cost: \$25 per person

\$12 per child (12 years old and under)

Ephpheta is supporting the costs of this event. Please pay before the event

RSVP: Numbers are limited. You must RSVP to Ephpheta Centre **before** Friday 22 July.

Email: christiane@ephpheta.org.au or 0405 749 488 (SMS).

- When you RSVP please let us know if you have any food requirements/allergies.
- If you are DeafBlind and need extra interpreting support on the day - please let us know **ASAP**.

How to pay: 1. Post us a cheque or money order to the Ephpheta Centre

2. Give cash to any Ephpheta staff

3. Pay online into our bank account

Account Name: Ephpheta Centre Cheque Account

BSB: 062 784

Account Number: 1000 01233

Reference: ES + your name

Friday Morning Mass at Ephpheta

Ephpheta is excited to announce that we will have Friday morning Mass with the deaf community again at our centre in Punchbowl.

We will have Friday morning Mass **once a month** starting in May at **11am**. Our first Mass was Friday 5 May - it was so lovely to have the community together at Punchbowl again.

We are also very excited to announce that we will have three past seminarians lead our first few monthly Masses!

After Mass we will have lunch together. Ephpheta will provide lunch.

Friday **9 June** 11am
Mass led by Fr Adam Carlow



Friday **7 July** 11am
Mass led by Fr Jack Elkazzi



Friday **8 September** 11am
Mass led by Fr Matt Dimian



PLEASE NOTE there is no Friday Morning Mass in August

On these dates our regular 2pm prayer group will be face to face - not on Zoom.
All are welcome to join.

It is also a fantastic opportunity for our community to meet our 5 new seminarians with Ephpheta.

So we have a rough idea of numbers and to make sure we have plenty of food - please let us know if you will be joining us! Contact Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au

Deaf Festival - 26 August

Deaf Connect have recently announced this year's Deaf Festival!

The festival is run by the Deaf community and everyone is welcome to come along. Please **SAVE THE DATE** - it will be a fantastic community day.

There will be lots to see and do - performances, workshops, shop with stall holders, fun and activities, meet Deaf led businesses, delicious food and competitions.



**SATURDAY,
26 AUGUST 2023
10AM - 4PM**

**CATHY FREEMAN
PARK @ SYDNEY
OLYMPIC PARK**

Ephpheta is hoping to join in and be involved.
We'd love to see our community there!

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 Community Retreat - March 2019

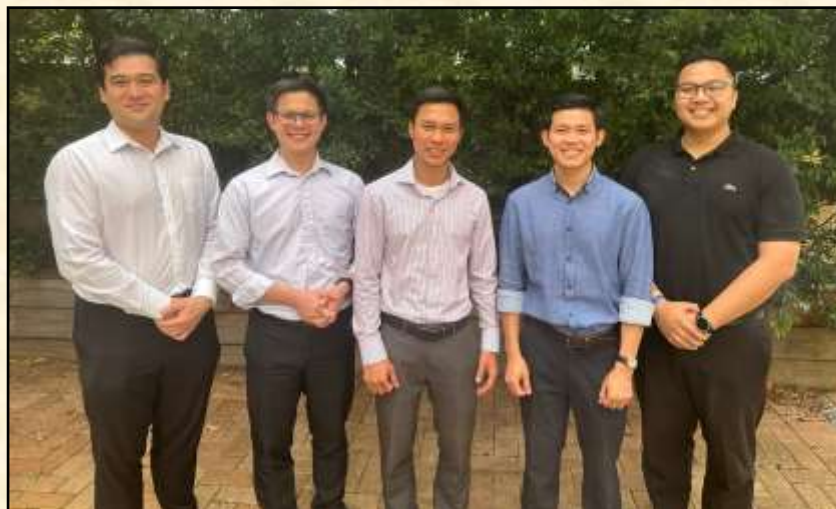
Ephpheta is supporting the costs of the retreat.

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.

Meet Our New Seminarians! Paul, Luke, Duong, Cong and Mark

It is our pleasure this newsletter to introduce you to 5 young men who are currently studying to become priests.



Luke, Paul, Duong, Cong and Mark

Please enjoy 2 introductions.
Keep a look out for 3 more in the next newsletter!

These young men are undertaking their pastoral placement with us – so that when they have become priests and are working in the community, they will have an understanding of our community.

Please make sure that you say hello when you see them at Ephpheta – they are all learning Auslan so need to practice!!

Paul Tran - Diocese of Parramatta

1. Where were you born and how long have you lived in Sydney?

I was born in Vietnam. I have lived in Sydney since September 2019.

2. Do you have brothers and sisters? What do you love most about your family? Tell us a little bit about your family.

There are five sisters and brothers in my family. My older sister is a nun, then my two brothers, myself and my younger sister.

I like the union of my family.

Also, I love my parent's devotion to God that they become our good examples of practising their faith.



3. Do you have a favourite Saint and if so why?

I love Our Lady because I could experience her motherly love for me and she is an ideal disciple.



I am moved by Saint Paul, the Apostle because he was a fervent witness of Christ and also my Christian name.

I love St. Ignatius of Loyola because I learned a lots from his spiritual experience.



4. Do you have a hobby? What do you do in your spare time?

I love learning history because I learn good lessons and wisdom by doing so.

I love music and learning how to play some musical instruments.

In my spare time, I love playing some musical instruments and pray with the Gospel.

5. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

On my 17th birthday, I rode my bicycle on the way of 200km in one day to conquer a long journey, to win myself, particularly to experience God's training for me on the way.

6. How do you feel about coming to work with the Deaf Community?

First of all, I feel at home, like a member of the Community.

The Community uses sign language to preach the Good News by their lives and to praise God at Mass which I was touched a lot by. They also taught me to keep and practise strong faith.

I always keep my deep gratitude to the Community for their patience and instructions so that I can learn and be trained by God through the Community.

7. Anything else you would like to add...

All I wish to do now is to learn how to sign my deep gratitude to the Community.

All of you are in my prayers and please keep me in your prayers.

Luke Huyna - Diocese of Parramatta

1. Where were you born and how long have you lived in Sydney?

I was born in Sai Gon (the south of Vietnam). I have been living in Sydney for 8 years.



2. Do you have brothers and sisters? What do you love most about your family? Tell us a little bit about your family

I have a younger sister. Her name is Kim. She is six years younger than me. I love my mother the most for she is always looking after us.

My family is devoted to the Catholic faith. Before 1990, both my parents worked as teachers. However, after the fall of Saigon, they pursued different careers and now they are both retired. Meanwhile, my younger sister is currently pursuing a degree in Business.

3. Do you have a favourite Saint and if so why?

Saint Luke is my favourite saint, and it is also the name given to me during my baptism. His life story is fascinating, as he was a doctor, a profession that I once aspired to pursue. Not only is he a skilled physical healer, but he also receives the ability to heal spiritually through his faith and by the grace of God.

His example inspires me to strive for the same qualities as I pursue the path of becoming a good priest.



4. Do you have a hobby?

What do you do in your spare time?

Playing sports is one of my favourite pastimes, and I particularly enjoy table tennis and swimming. I usually play twice a week with my community.

During my leisure time, I like to read books and watch documentaries. In addition to that, I am fond of listening to music and taking walks in the park.



5. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

The most daring experience I've had to date was climbing a mountain. I spent nearly three hours ascending and another three hours descending mountains in Blue Mountain.

It was also the most hazardous experience because I had never attempted to climb a mountain. On that day, I had not prepared well as well, I had run out of water and food during the journey. On that particular day, I was unprepared, having run out of water and food during the journey.

Fortunately, my friends' assistance allowed me to complete the day with contentment.

6. How do you feel about coming to work with the Deaf Community?

Studying and interacting with people in Ephpheta brings me great joy. The community is exceptionally cordial and hospitable, making me feel a sense of belonging.

Engaging in conversations and sharing biblical insights with them enables me to gain a deeper understanding of the deaf community.

This is a unique and valuable experience for me, which I believe will be beneficial in the future.



7. Anything else you would like to add...

I am grateful for your support, particularly for those who have devoted themselves to serving the deaf community.

Your service is an extension of God's hand, bringing hope to our world today.



To read more about Luke's seminarian journey:

"It was here I found my calling"

<https://catholicoutlook.org/seminarian-luke-huynh-it-was-here-i-found-my-calling/>

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 19 May 10am	Central Coast Leagues Club 1 Dance Drive, Gosford
Friday 16 June 10am	Dooley's Catholic Club 11-17 Church Street, Lidcombe
Friday 21 July 10am	Western Suburbs League Club 10 Old Leumeah Road, Leumeah
Friday 18 August 10am	Canterbury League Club 26 Bridge Road, Belmore

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!



The Rosary in Auslan via Zoom - Tuesdays at 2pm

The Rosary is a prayer that helps us to reflect on the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In these prayers we ask for help of our Mother Mary in heaven and we ask God to help us live our faith.

Everyone is welcome to join. You don't need to bring anything with you or know anything before – just bring an open mind and a loving heart and a will to know more about God and Mary our Mother in heaven.

Auslan Prayer Group - Fridays at 2pm

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

The Auslan Prayer Group is about sharing our faith and our love for God and each other.

We come together in friendship with open hearts and open minds.

It is a special place where each person is welcomed and valued. It is open to all deaf people.



Date	Theme	Topic	Where?
Friday 2 June	Saint Stories	St John Paul II	Zoom
Friday 9 June	Sunday Gospel Reading	Jesus: the Bread of Life	Face-to-Face at Ephpheta
Friday 16 June	NO PRAYER GROUP – DEAF MINI CAFE		
Friday 23 June	Saint Stories	St John the Baptist	Zoom
Friday 30 June	Saint Stories	Ss Louie & Zelig Martin	Zoom
Friday 7 July	Sunday Gospel Reading	Jesus Offers Rest to His People	Face-to-Face at Ephpheta
Friday 14 July	Saint Stories	St Francis of Assisi	Zoom
Friday 21 July	NO PRAYER GROUP – DEAF MINI CAFE		
Friday 28 July	Saint Stories	St Clare of Assisi	Zoom
Friday 4 August	Saint Stories	St Thomas of Aquinas	Zoom
Friday 11 August	Saint Stories	St Catherine of Sienna	Zoom
Friday 18 August	NO PRAYER GROUP – DEAF MINI CAFE		
Friday 25 August	Saint Stories	St Cecilia	Zoom
Friday 1 September	Saint Stories	St Benedict	Zoom
Friday 8 September	Sunday Gospel Reading	Jesus Foretells his Suffering to the	Face-to-Face at Ephpheta

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

Out and About in the Deaf Community

Women's Day Out - Day Trip to Leura

What a fun day spent in Leura together in March for women's day out!

We enjoyed a wonderful train ride together, morning tea of delicious scones, jam and cream, some fun different stores in the Leura area, and a lovely lunch at The Bunker Café.

A highlight of the day was bumping into some deaf people as we were shopping and having them join us for lunch.

A lovely surprise - you never know who you will see when out and about!

Thank you to all who joined us.

Next women's day out details are on page 4.

Hope to see you there!



Men's Day Out - Darlinghurst Gaol Tour

We were very excited to be able to get together for a tour of Darlinghurst Gaol in April. We had to postpone this tour for 3 years!

Over the previous 200 years Darlinghurst Gaol has changed from a place of terrible suffering to one of Australia's top art institutions.

The building is said to be haunted by the restless souls of some of the 76 prisoners!

15 deaf men joined us for an interesting tour that uncovered the Gaol's interesting past and revealed to us secret places that aren't typically accessible to the public. It was a fantastic tour led by an experienced historical guide.

After the tour we enjoyed lunch together.

Thank you to all who joined us.

Next men's day out details are on page 4. Hope to see you there!



Joe Monteleone's incredible artworks

Joe Monteleone is a fantastic Deafblind artist who lives in Melbourne. He has a Diploma of Visual Arts, specialising in printmaking. He began as a personal hobby to process and express emotions. His art practice has evolved to create work that aims to raise public awareness about Deafblind perspective, experience, identity and access.

Joe was always drawn to being a printmaker because of tactile touch - he did not like painting or drawing. Joe's first art show was the group exhibition "All the Colours" at Federation Square, Melbourne's central hub for arts, culture and public events, showcasing Deafblind Artists from all over Victoria.



Joe's Artist Statement

I am a Deafblind artist specializing in printmaking. I have Usher's Syndrome type 1, which means I was born Deaf, experiencing gradual vision loss over time.

My art is inseparable from my Deafblind identity. The works I create are an expression of my inner emotional world, unique perspective, culture and lived experience. Tactility is central to my carving process, playing with texture by touch. Aesthetically, art and access merge in bold use of contrast between black and white, which is visually clearer for those with low vision, including myself.

In all my works I strive to raise awareness and demonstrate what Deafblind people are capable of when ableist attitudes and societal barriers are removed. I hope my journey is part of creating a more accessible culture within the art world for Deaf and Disabled artists and audiences alike.



To watch more of Joe's incredible work:

<https://fb.watch/iZjuAhL7Ei/?mibextid=j8LeHn>

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, walk and sign. Ephpheta loves supporting new parents and watching them support others as their children grow.

When:

Saturday 3 June	10am - 1pm
Tuesday 4 July	10am - 12pm
Tuesday 1 August	10am - 12pm
Saturday 2 September	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)



Congratulations Sue and Graham Lansley!

Sue and Graham Lansley are very proud to share that they are now great grandparents to two beautiful babies!

Their great grandson Harvey Michael Ward was born on 18 December 2022 and great granddaughter Brooklyn Rose Pryor was born on 12 March 2023.

Welcome beautiful Harvey and Brooklyn. Congratulations to your beautiful growing family!



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 May - July program.

Date	What's On
24 May **	Bring your own craft/knitting project to work on
14 June **	Bring your own craft/knitting project to work on Deaf Festival Preparation
28 June	Day Out at Craft & Quilt Fair - Sydney Olympic Park
12 July **	Bring your own craft/knitting project to work on
26 July **	Bring your own craft/knitting project to work on

****** *On these days, please bring knitting needles and some wool.
Ephpheta will try to provide spare wool and needles if you don't have any.
If you don't want to knit, please bring your own project to work on.*

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

Lives of the Saints – St Anthony of Padua

Born: 1195 in Portugal

Died: 1231 in Padua, Italy

How old: 36

When become a saint: 1232 (one year after his death)

Feast Day: 13th June

Patron saint: finding things we have lost



Anthony came from a rich family. He wanted to be poor, because of his love for Jesus Christ. Anthony was a clever student, and he knew the Bible very well. He joined the Franciscan community. Anthony wanted to preach the Gospel and help other people.

He sailed to Morocco where he preached there for many years, but he started to feel sick and decided to travel back home. But God had other plans for him. Anthony travelled back to Portugal by ship. The ship was caught in the storm and arrived on an island called Sicily. He decided to stay on the island and lived a quiet life as a friar. During that time Anthony did a lot of praying studying, working in the kitchen and the garden, and helping sick people.

There was a large meeting of Franciscans and Dominicans. Anthony was chosen to give the homily at the meeting. With the help of the Holy Spirit, he started to speak very confidently. Everyone was surprised at his knowledge and his speaking skills.

Anthony was given the gift of preaching. He travelled around Italy and France talking in Churches and in the cities to people who came to listen to him.



There are many pictures of St Anthony, holding the boy Jesus. One day, when he was praying in his room, the boy Jesus appeared to Him. Anthony put his little arms around him and kissed him. This happened because he did not sin, and he loved Jesus very much.

St Anthony is known to help us look for things that we have lost. During his time he had a book of psalms. This book was special to him because he had written a lot of things that helped him preached. Late one night a young man decided to leave the Franciscan community. On his way out he saw Anthony's book. He knew that it would be worth good money for him, so he decided to steal it and run away.

When Anthony noticed that the book was stolen, he was very upset. He prayed to God and ask him to change the young man's heart and to have the book returned to him. God heard Anthony's prayers and the young man brought back the book and he also returned to the community.

Let us ask St Anthony to help us find the things that we have lost and to have a deeper love for Jesus Christ

Prayer to St Anthony to find a lost thing.

Dear St. Anthony,
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
please help me find the thing that I have lost.

Amen

St Anthony of Padua, pray for us.



Fr John Paul on the move!

Fr John Paul recently announced he will be moving parishes. He has been appointed to the new Parish Priest of St Paul the Apostle, Winston Hills.

Our last Mass at St Bernadette's in Lalor Park will be **18 June**.

Starting **16 July** onwards we will have our 3rd Sunday of the month Mass at Saint Paul's Catholic Church - 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

Please note their Mass time is at 9.30am NOT 10am

Any confusion about dates - please follow the separate calendar in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Ephpheta.



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, 4th and 5th (not the 3rd) Sunday of the month**

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church -

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

NO MASS HERE ON 20 AUGUST

- **3rd Sunday of the month**

St Paul's Catholic Church - 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills

(9.30am - 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.

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



Corpus Christi - 11 June

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus said to the Jews, "I am the living bread come down from heaven. Any person that eats this bread will live for ever. This bread is my flesh. I give my body so that people in the world can live forever."



The Jews started to argue with each other.

They said, "How can this man give us his body to eat?"

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth.

If you do not eat the body of the Son of Man, and if you do not drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Any person that eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life.

And I will raise up that person on the last day. My body is real food and my blood is real drink. If a person eats my body and drinks my blood, that person lives in me and I live in that person.

The Father sent me and I receive life from him. So any person that eats me will receive life from me.

I am the bread come down from heaven, not like the bread our ancestors (people of the past) ate; they are dead. Any person that eats this bread will live for ever."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 18 June

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus saw the crowds and felt sorry for them because they were in trouble and lost, like sheep without a shepherd.



Jesus said to his disciples, “The harvest is ready, but the workers are few. So pray and ask the Lord to send more workers to help gather his harvest.”

Jesus called the twelve disciples to come together, and he gave them the power to throw out evil spirits, and to heal all different diseases and sickness.

The names of the twelve apostles are: first, Simon named Peter, and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, sons of Zebedee; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon called the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, the person that later betrayed Jesus.

Jesus sent out these twelve apostles and told them: “Do not go to places where pagans (non-believers) live. Do not go to any Samaritan town.

But go to the people of Israel, they are the lost sheep. And when you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is very near.

Heal the sick people. Raise the dead. Cleanse the lepers. Throw out devils. You received without paying, so give without charging.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 25 June

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus taught the twelve apostles:

“Do not be afraid. Everything that is hidden will be shown. Everything that is secret will be open to all. The things I tell



you in the dark, you will tell to all people in the daylight. The things that I tell you in private, you will announce, standing on top of the house, for all people to see.

Do not be afraid of those that can kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

Better fear God because he can destroy both body and soul in hell. You can buy two birds for a penny. But not one bird can die without your Father knowing. God knows how many hairs you have on your head.

So, do not be afraid, because you are worth much more than hundreds of birds.

If any person stands in front of other people and proclaims belief in me, then I will do the same and stand in front of my Father in heaven and tell my Father that this person belongs to me.

But if any person stands in front of other people and rejects me (Jesus), then I will do the same, and stand in front of my Father in heaven, and tell my Father that this person does not belong to me.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 2 July

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus taught the twelve apostles:

“Any person that loves father or mother more than me is not good enough to follow me. Any person that loves son or daughter more than me is not good enough to follow me.



Any person that will not carry the cross and follow me is not good enough for me. Any person that wants to keep their own life will lose it (life). Any person that gives up life for me will find true life.

Any person that welcomes you also welcomes me. Those that welcome me also welcome the Father that sent me.

Any person that welcomes a prophet and accepts the prophet will receive the same reward that a prophet receives.

Any person that welcomes a holy person and accepts the holy person will receive the same reward that a holy person receives.

I tell you the truth, if anyone gives a cup of cold water to these little children, because they want to become my disciples, that person will truly receive a reward.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 9 July

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you hide these things from clever people, and you show these things to children.

Yes, Father, you are happy to do this. My Father gave me everything. No one knows the Son, only the Father.

The Father knows the Son. And no one knows the Father, only the Son.

He (Jesus) knows the Father, and some people know the Father because the Son reveals (shows) the Father to them.

Come to me all you people that are tired and have heavy burdens and I will give you rest.

Accept my yoke and learn from me because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Yes, my yoke is not heavy, and the burden I give is light."



THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 16 July

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus left the house and sat near the lake. Large crowds came around Jesus, so Jesus got into a boat and sat down. The people stood on the beach, and Jesus began to teach them many things in parables.



Jesus said, "Imagine a farmer going out to sow. While the farmer was sowing, some seeds fell on the edge of the path. Birds came and ate all the seeds. Some seeds fell on rocky ground, there was little soil. The seeds grew very quickly, but the sun burnt the plants, and because the plants did not have enough roots, they died.

Some seeds fell in thorn bushes, and the thorn bushes grew and choked the seeds. Some seeds fell on good rich soil, these seeds grew and gave crops. Some plants made a hundred grains, some sixty, and some thirty. If you want to understand, listen, think carefully about my message."

The disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Why do you use parables to teach people?"

Jesus said, "Because you received the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. But not them. Any person that understands some secrets of the kingdom of heaven, will understand more.

But those that do not understand the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, they will lose any understanding that they already have. This is why I use the parables to teach them. They look, but they don't really see. They listen and know what I said, but they don't really think carefully or understand what I meant.

Isaiah was right about these people, his prophecy has become true, 'You will listen and listen again, but you don't understand. You will see and look again, but you won't understand. The hearts of these people are hard, their ears and eyes are closed.

This happened so that they will not see with their eyes, they will not hear and will not understand with their minds, because they are afraid to be converted and healed by me.' But, because you see; because you listen and think, you are happy!

I tell you the truth, many prophets and holy men wanted to see the things you now see, but they never saw them. They wanted to hear the things you now receive, but they never heard them. This is why now you learn what the parable about the sower means.

The seeds that fell on the edge of the path are the same as the people that receive the word of the kingdom without understanding. The devil comes and takes away what is in their heart. The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the same as those that receive the word and accept with joy.

But they have not really lived and followed the word, so when trouble or persecution come, they give up easily. The seeds that fell in the thorn bushes are the same as those that receive the word. But because they worry about the world, and because they are greedy for money, the word stops growing in their hearts; so they do nothing good.

The seeds that fell on good rich soil are the same as those that receive the word and understand. They do good things, some a hundred times more, some sixty times more, and some, thirty times more."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23 July

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus told a parable to the crowds of people,

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man that sowed good seed in his field.

While everybody was asleep, the enemy came and sowed weeds in the field, and then the enemy went away. Later, when the new wheat grew, the weeds appeared also.



The servant went to the man and said,

“You sowed good seeds in the field? Where did the weeds come from?” The man answered, “An enemy must have come and planted weeds.”

The servant said,

“Do you want me to go and pull out the weeds?”

The man answered, “No, because when you pull out the weeds, you might also pull out the good wheat.

Better let wheat and weeds grow together. Then when the wheat is ready, I will tell the workers to harvest. I will tell them: first collect the weeds and burn them, then gather the wheat and save it in my barn.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 30 July

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus said to his disciples,

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field.

Someone finds the treasure, hides it and covers it up in the field.

That person is happy, sells everything and buys the field.

Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a salesman looking for precious pearls.

One day the salesman found a precious pearl, he went and sold everything he had, and he bought the pearl.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



The Transfiguration of the Lord - 6 August

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus went up a high mountain with Peter and the two brothers, James and John. They were alone with Jesus. There three disciples saw Jesus change: his face became as bright as the sun.



His clothes became as white as light. Suddenly, two men appeared, Moses and Elijah; 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 cloud’s 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.”

The disciples heard the voice, and 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.

They walked down the mountain, and Jesus gave them a strict order, “Tell no one about the things you saw today. Wait until the Son of Man has risen from death.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 13 August

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus told his disciples to go in the boat and go to the other side of the lake. Then Jesus told the crowds to go home. After this, Jesus went up into the hills by himself to pray.



It was getting dark, Jesus was alone and the boat was now far away on the lake. There was a strong wind, and the boat was struggling because of the rough sea.

Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus came to the boat, walking on the water. The disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified.

They shouted with fear and said, "It is a ghost!"

Immediately Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. It's me (Jesus). Courage (be brave)!" Peter said, "Lord, if it's really you (Jesus), tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. But Peter felt the strong wind, he became frightened and began to sink.

Peter shouted, "Lord, save me!" Jesus quickly put out his hand and caught him. Jesus said, "You have little faith. Why did you doubt?"

Then Peter and Jesus got in the boat, and the wind stopped. The men in the boat bowed down in front of Jesus and said, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 20 August

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus left Gennesaret and went to the area of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that area came to Jesus.

She shouted, "Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is tormented by a devil."

But Jesus said nothing.



The disciples went to Jesus and persuaded him.

They said, "Give her what she wants, because she is shouting and making a lot of noise."

Jesus replied, "God sent me only to the lost people of Israel."

But the woman came and knelt in front of Jesus. She said, "Lord, help me!"

Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

The woman replied, "Yes Lord, but don't forget dogs eat pieces of food that fall from the table."

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! I will give you what you want."

At that same time, her daughter was well again.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27 August

Gospel Reading

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is”

The disciples said, “Some people say you are John the Baptist, other people say you are Elijah, others say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Jesus said, “But you, who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Simon, son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because flesh and blood, human knowledge, did not tell you this, but my Father in heaven told you who I am.

So now I say to you: Your name is Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church. The powers of hell will not conquer the Church. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you agree on earth shall be (same) agreed in heaven.

Anything you prohibit on earth shall be (same) prohibited in heaven.”

Then Jesus gave his disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was Christ.



THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD



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EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS

Have you seen our website recently?

Our website is now being updated regularly so it is
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If you have any ideas or feedback for our website
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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!