

# 23<sup>rd</sup>

## SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He put his finger into  
the man's ears and,  
spitting, touched his  
tongue; then he looked  
up to heaven and  
groaned, and said to  
him, "*Ephphatha!*"—  
that is, "*Be opened!*"  
- Mk 7:33b-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

#### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 9, 2018 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Jesus ? went by way of Sidon ? into the district of the Decapolis." For most of Jesus' ministry, he remains in Galilee and areas with a predominantly Jewish population. Today, however, we see Jesus travelling through a heavily pagan area. This makes the utterance of faith in today's Gospel all the more astounding. "He has done all things well."

In this story, a deaf man is brought to Jesus. This man is not without community! Despite communication difficulties due to a speech impediment, his people bring him before Jesus. Jesus lays hands upon the man and commands his broken body to change. "'Be opened!' Immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly." The community is stunned. They can't stop telling the story. The more Jesus asks them to settle down, the more they proclaim! The Jewish people expected a Messiah but a Messiah with very particular qualifications. The Greeks and pagans anticipated no such saviour. There were no expectations to meet. They had a special capacity to be completely, utterly surprised. As Catholics, it can be easy to become accustomed to the songs and the prayers, to the routine of religious education drop-offs and Sunday Mass attendance. By now, we may have very particular expectations. When was the last time you allowed yourself to be surprised by God? Sometimes we are all like the deaf man in today's Gospel. God wants to speak to us, but we can't hear clearly. In your prayer this week, go before God honestly. Give yourself permission to drop your expectations and assumptions. Ask Him to renew your faith to show you how, in your life, "He has done all things well."



## The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

Office Hours: 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St Ph: 07 4151 6666 Email: sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au PO Box 79 Bundaberg Q 4670

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev Peter Tonti PP**

Parish Priest

**Rev Jomon Poothara**

Associate Pastor

**Mrs Anne Sheehan**

Liturgy & Sacramental Co-ordinator

**Mrs Denise Tuzes**

Visitation & Bereavement Co-ordinator

**Mr Norm Whyte**

Business Manager

**Mrs Diana Pippia**

Administration & Finance Co-ordinator

**Mrs Kaye Andersen**

Receptionist

**Bundaberg NET**

Youth Ministry

## SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Catholic  
Primary School**

Principal: Mrs Kaye Beston

[sjbgrok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sjbgrok.catholic.edu.au)

Ph: 4151 4771

**St Mary's Catholic  
Primary School**

Principal: Ms Madonna Davitt

[stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au](mailto:stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au)

Ph: 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Catholic  
Primary School**

Principal: Mr Mark Fox

[saintpatricks.qld.edu.au](mailto:saintpatricks.qld.edu.au)

Ph: 4152 1380

**Shalom College**

Principal: Mr Dan McMahon

[shalomcollege.com](http://shalomcollege.com)

Ph: 4155 8111

## CHURCHES

**Holy Rosary Church**

Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Sts

**St Patrick's Church**

16 Powers St

**St Mary's Church**

Cnr Barolin & Boston Sts

**St James' Church**

38 See St Barga

## OTHER CONTACTS

**Diocesan Safeguarding**

**Daniel Donnini:** 4887 3080

**The Diocese of Rockhampton**

Response Line: 1800 830 113

**Centacare:** 1300 523 985

**St Vincent de Paul:** 4151 5455

**Ozcare:** 1800 692 273

**Towards Healing:** 1800 337 928

## AFTER HOURS

**Anointing of the Sick  
for Medical Emergencies**

Phone 4151 6666  
& follow the prompts.

## LIVE THE LITURGY

We often associate the word "healing" with something that produces dramatic, physical results: the blind see, the crippled walk, and the deaf hear. Witnessing such miraculous events is few and far between for most. Healing happens more frequently in very ordinary ways using very ordinary means. And we can all be God's instruments for bringing it about. Kindness, love, mercy, and compassion can go a very long way. Treating people with kindness ? being inclusive and welcoming of the poor, the weak, and the powerless ? listening to another's story and pain ? offering compassion and love to those who have wronged us ? avoiding hurtful criticisms and watching our tongues. All can go a long way to changing and healing human hearts. There is power in love and kindness. Does this power not speak of someone greater than ourselves working in and through us?

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

I love watching replays of great sports highlights. Sometimes you see something so extraordinary that you tell others they have to see it to believe it. The one-handed catch, the in-the-park home run, and the photo finish are all examples of these types of moments. They are amazing feats that boggle the mind.

I wonder how many people in biblical times saw Jesus perform miracles and told others they wouldn't have believed it unless they saw it with their own eyes. Of course, we believe the stories of his miracles, and we didn't see them in person. We do believe them, don't we?

There is no television program that features replays of the actual miracles Jesus performed 2,000 years ago. However, there are miracles every day for the world to see. Many of those come about by allowing God to work through us. People are waiting to be healed and fed, and mountains are waiting to be moved. There might not be a replay for these miracles either. However, people will be amazed by the power of God. Jesus said we could do these things if we had faith. Blessed are those who believe but who have not seen. Furthermore, blessed are those who perform great works with God so that others may see.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

The theme for the **Season of Creation** 2018 is 'walking together'

During this season from September 1 to October 4,

Pope Francis encourages us to move from the slavery of consumerism to cultivating and protecting our earth, our common home.

As we walk together with all other Christians

we journey toward better care for our common home.

We can all ask ourselves: *What changes do I need to make to my life to show care for our common home?*

## SOCIAL JUST STATEMENT 2018-2019

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 September 2018. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled:

*'A Place to Call Home : Making a Home for Everyone in our Land'*.

The Statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australia Catholic Social Justice Council website: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Recently Deceased:** Andy Patroni (Mackay); Bill Taylor; Nieves Magdalita Bulow; Mario Signor (Italy); Bevan McGarvey; John Manly; Eta Kovacs (Sydney); Sr Ita Cavanagh; Don Hancock; Larissa Beilby.



## NOTICES

### Drought Relief

There are two (2) opportunities for you to assist those in our Diocese affected by Drought:

**Diocesan Appeal:** a Second Collection on Sunday, 30 September 2018 (*Social Justice Sunday*) will be held with all monies going to Rockhampton to be distributed to Centres in need.

**Drought Angels:** a *Drought Relief Transport Run* from Bundaberg to Jericho will leave on Friday, 14 September 2018. Non-perishable items are required. Baskets for Donations will be placed at the front doors of all Churches. For more information contact Elizabeth Bell - 0432 495 423.

**Fr Peter Tonti:** will be on leave from Monday, 3 September through to and including Friday, 5 October 2018.

**Prayer Against the Termination Bill:** will continue from Monday to Friday in Holy Rosary Catholic Church, beginning with the Angelus at 12noon followed by Mass (Tuesday & Friday), and/or Rosary during Exposition and Adoration for half an hour.

**Bundaberg CWLA Younger Group** will meet again for dinner on Tuesday 11 September at 6.30pm at Sabrosa Steakhouse. If any ladies would like to join us, you would be most welcome. Please contact Maureen on 4152 1263 (by lunchtime Tuesday) for further information or if you are attending.

**Public Square Rosary:** Join the public nation-wide Rosary for Our Lady for the repentance & conversion of our Nation on **Saturday, 13 October 2018** at 1pm at St Mary's Catholic Church. For more information contact Sue Greenwood on 0447 039 823. BYO: chair; sunshade & water. All welcome.

**Parish Christmas Magazine:** the Annual "Good News" Magazine Project is underway, with the focus this year "Be Prepared". The Magazine Committee would again appreciate your monetary sponsorship, either in big or small amounts. Please consider helping in this way. Sponsorship Forms are on the back of this weekend's Hymn Sheet.

**Diocesan e-Newsletter:** the latest edition of the Diocesan e-Newsletter is available to read on all Church Noticeboards. Alternatively, to receive a copy direct to your in-box, send an email with your name to: [catholiccq@catholic.net.au](mailto:catholiccq@catholic.net.au) or contact the Parish Office to organize a copy.

**Why Do We? ~ A Monthly Presentation on Various Catholic Beliefs:** Dates for upcoming presentations are October 4th, November 1st, December 6th all at 5.30 to 6.30. These sessions will be held in the Rossolini Centre.

### Time and Talent Update

Thank you to the 320 people who recently indicated their willingness to serve our parish in some way. Our aim now is, by the end of September, to contact all who completed a form and those past ministers who didn't submit a form indicating continuation in or retirement from ministry. October will be the month for training and formation of all in ministry. Some ministries need specific training; others not so. Training every 3 years in "Integrity in the Service of the Church" is obligatory for all lay people who serve the Church in any way. If you have yet to let us know how best you can serve the parish, please contact the Parish Office.

## LITURGIES

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

#### Monday 10 September 2018

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

#### Tuesday 11 September 2018

9.00am St James' - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass  
- Mass with Adoration

#### Wednesday 12 September 2018

**The Most Holy Name of Mary**

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

#### Thursday 13 September 2018

**St John Chrysostom**

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

#### Friday 14 September 2018

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

- Mass with Adoration

2.30pm Pioneer South

- Mass with Anointing

#### Saturday 15 September 2018

**Our Lady of Sorrows**

7.30am St Mary's - LWC

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

## NEXT SUNDAY

16 September 2018

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Year B (II)**

**Hours of the Sunday  
Psalter Week 4**

**Saturday**

6.00pm St Patrick's

**Sunday**

7.00am St James'

8.00am Holy Rosary

9.00am St Mary's

5.30pm Holy Rosary

## SCRIPTURES

**First Reading**

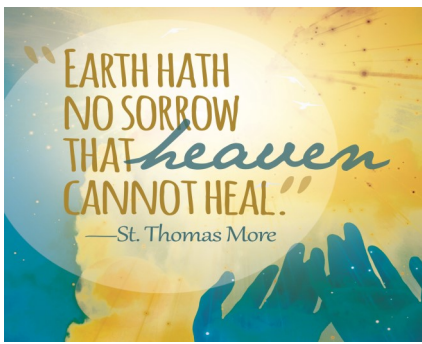
Isaiah 50:5-9

**Second Reading**

James 2:14-18

**Gospel**

Mark 8:27-35



### SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

#### Isaiah 35: 4-7

Nearly 800 years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied that the Lord would come to save and heal his people. We hear Jesus fulfilling this prophecy in today's Gospel reading. Why do you think God waited 800 years to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy?

#### James 2: 1-5

James warns of the dangers of showing partiality for the rich over the poor. Why does this remain a challenge for believers even today?

#### Mark 7: 31-37

Why do you think Jesus ordered the people who witnessed his healing of the deaf man with a speech impediment not to tell anyone?



#### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

In relationship with Christ,  
empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we serve joyfully as a people  
beloved and called by God.

Last weekend began “Child Protection Week” throughout the Australian Community. Appropriately, the Friday before (31 August) the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference and the Catholic Religious Australia released a joint response to the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional abuse. This has come from the 40 Bishops and more than 150 Religious Orders in Australia.

The Catholic leaders have announced they accept 98% of the recommendations of the Royal Commission and have vowed that the Church’s shameful history will never be repeated.

Sr Monica Cavanagh, President of Catholic Religious Australia said “Making the Church a safer place for our children and vulnerable persons is at the heart of our commitment to mission.”

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference, said, “Many Bishops failed to listen, failed to believe, and failed to act. Those failures allowed some abusers to offend again and again, with tragic, and sometimes, fatal consequences. The Bishops and leaders of religious orders pledge today: Never again. There will be no cover-up. There will be no transferring of people accused of abuse. There will be no placing the reputation of the Church above the safety of children.”

Last weekend copies of this media release were made available in our Churches. For those who were unable to get a copy they will again be available this weekend.

The joint response from Catholic Religious Australia and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference can be found at [www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au) or [www.catholicreligiousofaustralia.org.au](http://www.catholicreligiousofaustralia.org.au) The Truth. Justice and Healing Council reports can be found at [www.rjhccouncil.org.au](http://www.rjhccouncil.org.au)

There are many victims caught up in institutional child sexual abuse: the victims and survivors and their families; the good priests who struggle with their shame; and all who live their Catholic faith. Hopefully this response is a step of healing - for survivors, their families, and for the Church as a whole. As a priest I have been attending meetings concerning Child Safety since 1984. In recent years these have been more frequent, intense and urgent. In all, the words fail me. Our Scripture readings last weekend strongly point out that actions are what now count. As St James tells us, “You must **do** what the word of God tells you and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.”

A big challenge of these times is not to lose sight of Christ and the goodness of most people in our Church.