

Parish Bulletin

St Carthage's Cathedral Parish, Lismore



5 September 2021, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

PLEASE NOTE DUE TO CURRENT LOCKDOWN ORDERS ALL PLACES OF WORSHIP ARE NOW CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

The parish office is closed to the public during lockdown, however we are still available via email and phone.



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

- St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore
- Carmelite Monastery Chapel, Goonellabah
- St Dymphna's Church, Dunoon

Online Streaming of Sunday Mass can be viewed on the Lismore Diocesan Website or at the following link:

youtube.com/c/LismoreDioceseAU

Or use this QR CODE



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PARISH CLERGY

Bishop Gregory Homeming OCD
Bishop of Lismore
Fr Bing Monteagudo
Administrator
Fr Alexander Munyao
Assistant Priest
Revd Mr Graeme Davis
Deacon

Jesus Says to Us: Hear And Speak

There are two miracle-stories that occur only in Mark's gospel: the healing of the blind man at Bethsaida, and today's story of the healing of the deaf-mute. Both stories reveal to us the truly human face of Jesus who responds with compassion to people's infirmities. But they also reveal the healing powers of the promised Messiah who will 'open the eyes of the blind' and 'unseal the ears of the deaf' (Isaiah).

However, in both Markan stories, Jesus is also the reluctant Messiah who performs his miracles out of public view and orders people not to tell anyone! Biblical scholars have long debated the meaning of the so-called "messianic secret" in Mark's gospel. We may say it did not work very well as the disciples could not hold their tongues, proclaiming to all who would listen: "he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak"!

Another explanation is that Jesus does not want people to focus on him, but on the 'kingdom of God'. And Jesus does not want to be identified as some kind of celebrity or political Messiah since, in his own words, "the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45). Indeed, the full reality of Jesus' messiahship could only be revealed in the experience of the Cross which is also at the heart of true discipleship. In broader perspective, we should realise the disciples in Mark's gospel are depicted as lacking faith – or being metaphorically blind and deaf. Even Peter, James and John- who saw Jesus transfigured on the mountain (Mk 9:2-23) – soon fell into crude misinterpretations, thinking of power and fame rather than loving service of others in the way of the Cross.

So, despite all the miracles in Mark's gospel, Jesus' full identity as Christ-the-Messiah and Saviour-figure remains a 'secret' to the often clueless disciples who fail to see Jesus as much more than a miracle-worker. While Peter does move to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, he then shows his faulty understanding by failing to accept Jesus' message that the Son of Man is to suffer and die – resulting in Jesus' rebuke to Peter: "Get behind me Satan!" (Mk 8:27-33). "Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said: 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened'". This healing message of Jesus to the deaf-mute is spoken to his disciples and to us who are often deaf to the full message of the Gospel and dumb in our failure to witness Jesus Christ to the world. We too are afraid of the full call to discipleship which includes identifying with Jesus the "suffering servant". We are invited to find in Jesus' compassion a truly human way of responding to people in distress. Also, we are invited to be disciples of Christ the Messiah who brings healing and hope to our world through the reality of the Cross and miracle of the Resurrection.

Happy Father's Day

We wish all fathers and all the men in our lives who have stepped up to be that father figure a very Happy Father's Day.



God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen

Parish Bulletin via email.

Don't forget to let us know if you would like to receive the Bulletin via email.

Links to prayer resources and messages from our priests may also be included. This will be a way we can stay in contact and support each other through these difficult times.

If you would like to have your name added or know of another parishioner who you think would like to be included, please email Jenny at office@stcarthages.org.au

National Child Protection Week - 5-11 September 2021



National Child Protection Week invites all Australians to play their part to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. This is the 31st year celebration with the theme: *Every child in every community needs a fair go. To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.*

We can all play a part by creating stronger happier neighbourhoods. This can be achieved by talking to your neighbours, checking in with friends, being a good role model, supporting and being kind to parents rather than judging or being competitive, offering to assist where possible and speaking up if you see something that is unsafe.

It is important that we listen to, and value, what children have to say. Where possible include their voices in decision making and be advocates for their best interest.

By speaking regularly to children about their personal safety and how they can protect themselves, as well as "tuning into" their worries, children are more likely to trust us and feel comfortable to talk to us when something big is going on.

Make your influence positive; start a conversation today with your colleagues and families about listening to and valuing the voice of children and young people.

Please remember in your prayers;

THOSE WHO ARE RECENTLY DECEASED: Elly Bare, Tom Lynch, Carmel Windred, Vincenzo Batista, Ron Woodham, Dulce Ramirez, Robert Adams.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Kerrie Divette, Glenda Ryan, Shannal Ratnayake, Ann Pierce, Mark and Gillian Lobegeier.

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE AT THIS TIME: Fr Jim Reilly, Pierre Yardin, Neville Higgins, Betty Byrne, Jim Synott, Purificacion Sumagui.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Rosario Almonte.



Marriage Tribunal of the Catholic Church: Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Tribunal Office extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.



For further information please phone the Marriage Tribunal Office on 66217 288 or email tribunal@lismore.catholic.org.au

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss options you have available to you.

To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone (02) 6621944 or email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards

in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 50:5-9

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35



PAYS 0.45%
INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND!

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