

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF MENTONE - PARKDALE

SAINT PATRICK - SAINT JOHN VIANNEY



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

Reflections for the XXIII Sunday of the year

Introduction: Today's Scripture readings offer us an invitation to become humble instruments of healing in Jesus' hands by giving voice to the voiceless, the needy and the marginalized in our society. Today's Scripture also invites us to open our ears to hear the word of God and to allow the Holy Spirit to loosen our tongues to praise and worship Him and to convey the Good News of God's love and salvation to others.

A challenge for the Church: All three readings speak of a God who is partial to the voiceless and the afflicted. Today, however, many of us have lost the ability to recognize the voice of God calling us for action in our modern society. We are asked to give hearing and voice to the deaf and the mute. The person healed became a witness to the power of God. A Church that is to bear witness to the example of Jesus' love must not neglect "those who are bowed down." Through its healing presence the Church must give voice to the voiceless.

Instruction to Keep Silence: Why did Jesus ask the man to keep silence? Jesus knew that he still had more to accomplish before his final showdown with the religious leaders in Jerusalem. If the crowds were to attempt to make him the leader of a revolt, a probable result of spreading the story of this healing around, it would spoil his Heavenly Father's holy plan. Also, it seems likely that Jesus realized that people could easily misunderstand his healings and could see him simply as a human Messiah figure, a great miracle-worker and healer. In doing so, they would fail to grasp the larger message he had come to preach and live, which included humility and the necessity of suffering and the Cross before Resurrection (Dr. Watson).

Life messages: 1) **We need to help Jesus to heal the deaf and the mute today.** Jesus desires to give us his healing

touch in order to loosen our tongues so that he may speak to the spiritually hungry through us. He invites us to give him our hearts so that he may touch the lives of people in our day through us, just as he touched the lives of millions through saintly souls like Francis of Assisi, Damien of Molokai, Vincent de Paul and Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). Like them, we are also invited to become the voice of the "poorest of the poor," the helpless, the downtrodden and the unwanted who are set aside by the "new economy," or who cannot even "speak plainly and fearlessly" about their concerns. Jesus' touch will reveal to us how we neglect, scorn or shame some people while showing favor to others. His compassionate touch will help us to hear the cries of the poor and the sick. It will teach us to show kindness, mercy and consideration to others. His healing touch will also help us convey peace and hope to those around us.

2) **We need to allow Jesus to heal our spiritual deafness and muteness.** In times of grief, despair and failure, we can be "deaf" to the presence of God in the love and compassion of others; or we can become so preoccupied with the noise and clamor of the marketplace that we are unable to hear the voices of those we love and who love us. We may find it hard to speak to God in prayer and harder still to hear Him speaking to us through the Bible and through the Church. This may be because many of us are satisfied with what we have learned in catechism class about the Seven Sacraments, the Ten Commandments of God, the Six Commandments of the Church and the seven deadly sins. We don't want to hear more about our Faith through further study of the Bible or the teachings of the Church. It is not infrequent to meet Catholics who are highly qualified in their secular professions but are basically illiterate in their Faith. Hence, let us imitate the dumb man in the Gospel by seeking out Jesus, following him away

from the crowd and spending more of our time in coming to know him intimately as we study Holy Scripture and to experience him directly in our lives in personal prayer. Our growing awareness of the healing presence of Jesus in our lives will open our ears and loosen our tongues.

3) **Let us bring Jesus' holy word "Ephphatha" to a generation blighted by the materialistic cultural aggression of our times:** We are reminded that Jesus has the power to heal the spiritual deafness caused by habitual sin. Hearts that have become hardened by a refusal to hear, be changed by, and then live out his words are once again challenged: "Ephphatha! Be opened!" In their day, the Romans imposed their language and culture on Palestine. Modern secular culture, in fact, is no better. Religion and God are being evicted from schools, colleges, courtrooms, politics and public life. One cannot speak of virginity or marital fidelity without a contemptuous laugh from others. The unborn child with a precious soul is often considered a "mere nuisance," a "product of conception," a "fetus," "a blob of tissue," or a "tumor that can be gotten rid of," with no human rights. In today's motion pictures, all religious gestures are either forbidden or relegated to the ignorant or superstitious. We are told that sixty-five percent of our Catholic youth have no formal religious education beyond the eighth grade. They are exposed to the culture of free sex, loose relationships, liquor, drugs and violence. No wonder, then, if they become deaf and blind to Christian ideals of morality, holiness in life and social justice! May our Lord touch us through this Gospel so that we also can say "Ephphatha" ("Be thou opened!") to everything and everyone shut in from or closed to God and His loving Providence. (Prepared by Fr. Anthony Kadavil).

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news>

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Recently Deceased

Jan McMinn, Sr Marie Abud, Sr Regina Roba (South Sudan) and those in the Afghanistan bomb blast

Anniversaries

Prayer for the Sick



We pray for those who are sick. Fr

Alex Lim, Sr Miriam da Luz, SPC, Joy Websdale, Vicki Rhodes, Jim Lacey

Vocation View

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom? Chosen to be rich in faith. So take heart, be not afraid, consider your part in God's Kingdom.

Please pray for Vocations

Prayer / Meditation

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Each day the Church



is open

from 8:30

am to 6:00pm.

Please choose a time (1/2 hour) to spend in Adoration. Each Friday the Blessed Sacrament is exposed

1st Collection:

Presbytery: \$XXX

2nd Collection:

Thanksgiving: \$1,666.00

Loose Money: \$XXX

Parish Events

CatholicCare's Annual Appeal

With the current lockdown extended again this week you may prefer to donate directly to CatholicCare.

[https://](https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/donations)

www.catholiccarevic.org.au/donations

At CatholicCare Victoria they have been helping Victorian children, families and communities to access the care and support they need, when they need it most.

Donations help ensure mental health, parenting, employment, housing, and financial support continues to be available for families and individuals in need, now and into the future.

Everyone deserves to live life to the full. Donate now

Thanksgiving Envelopes

The next set of envelopes are in the church foyer for you to collect once our churches reopen.

ACN -

Haiti Emergency Aid



Emergency Aid for Haiti. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International)

has expressed its solidarity in prayer with Haiti and immediately approved an emergency aid package of half a million Euros (\$800,000 AUD) for the Haitian people. In response to this, ACN Australia has set up an emergency appeal to provide help for our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are going through a very hard time.

To donate visit

www.aidtochurch.org/haiti

Video

Aid to the Church in Need - Our Mission

<https://youtu.be/zx3HkxYcLtl>

11 / 12 Sept 2021

Rosters

Readers:

6:00 pm - S Henning (SP)
9:00 am - D Clifton, K Swadling SJV
11:00 am - K Mooney (SP)
5:00 pm - F Desumma (SP)

Extraordinary Ministers:

6:00 P Mount (SP)
11:00 am - S Tobin (SP)
5:00 pm - C Giosis (SP)

Sacristan (SJV):

D Atherton

Extraordinary Minister to the Sick (SJV):

B Fitchet

Flowers (SJV):

G Constanzo

Readings next week: Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Isaiah: 50:5-9

James: 2:14-18

Mark: 8:27-35

Rosary:

1. In St Patrick's Church the Rosary is prayed each day before morning Mass at 8:40am. All welcome.
2. The Rosary is also prayed on Thursday after 10:40am OLSC Mass and on Wednesday evenings, 3pm at Bridie's (9585 5142)

Divine Mercy Devotions:

Are held in St Patrick's

Cuppa & Chat

All are welcome

each Sunday



to join us in the Parish Community

OTHER EVENTS



This Father's Day, we thank our priests for their gift of spiritual fatherhood. They have dedicated their lives to taking care of us spiritually through prayer, the Sacraments, teaching, spiritual counsel, and personal witness.

The Priests' Retirement Foundation holds the Father's Day appeal annually on the first Sunday of September, Father's Day. Funds raised from the appeal go towards the care of retired and sick priests by providing suitable accommodation, medical assistance and a

comfortable standard of living for them. Please give generously to this appeal. To donate on-line <https://www.caml.org.au/foundation/Donate>

Wishing all of our parish dads a happy and blessed Father's Day. May God's blessings be on you in everything you do.



Monthly E-newsletter

Even though our monthly e-newsletter is on hold during this lockdown we are happy to hear from you to add your email to our mailout list. Please contact the Parish Office via email mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au

Pope Francis calls for prayer, fasting for Afghanistan

At the Angelus, Pope Francis called Christians to show solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, especially women and children, the victims of violent attacks in recent days. "Let us continue to assist those in need", he says, "and pray that dialogue and solidarity may lead to peaceful and fraternal coexistence."

By Vatican News staff reporter

"I am following the situation in Afghanistan with great concern," Pope Francis said on Sunday, adding, "I share in the suffering of those who mourn for the people who lost their lives in the suicide attacks last Thursday, and of those who are seeking help and protection."

Almost two hundred people were killed in the suicide bombing at Kabul's airport last week, and thousands of people are still waiting desperately to flee to the country as the Taliban takes control of the war-torn nation.

The Holy Father commended the souls of those who were killed "to the mercy of Almighty God." At the same time, he thanked those who are working to help the "sorely tried population" of Afghanistan, especially women and children. "I ask everyone to continue to assist those in need," the Pope said, "and to pray that dialogue and solidarity may lead to the establishment of peaceful and fraternal coexistence, and offer hope for the future of the country."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-08/pope-francis-calls-for-prayer-fasting-for-afghanistan.html>

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary this Wednesday 8th September

The Catholic Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of September 8, nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne.

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Government introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. This parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in legislation. A copy of the Parish Policy is available by contacting the Parish Office.

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The archdiocese is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults; a copy of our Child Safety Policy is on the noticeboard in the church foyer.

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Entrance Antiphon Ps 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading **Is 35:4-7** A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak. 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.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 145:7-10. R. v. 1**

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading **Jas 2:1-5** A reading from the letter of St James

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.

Gospel Acclamation **cf. Mt 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mk 7:31-37** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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.'

Communion Antiphon **Cf. Ps 41:2-3**

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Or

Jn 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

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