

| St. Elizabeth's Parish Team |                    |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Fr. Tadeusz Ziolkowski      | Parish Priest      | 9795 6217    |
| Christina M. Ferguson       | School Principal   | 9795 5258    |
| Janine Phillips             | Parish Facilitator | 0417 315 896 |
| Jolanta Styczen             | Parish Secretary   | 9795 6217    |

| Prayers & Mass Times of the Week |                                 |                                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday                           | No Service                      |                                  |
| Tuesday                          | 9.15 AM                         | Mass;                            |
| Wednesday                        | 9.15 AM                         | Mass;                            |
| Thursday                         | 9.15 AM                         | Mass; Rosary;                    |
| Friday                           | 9.15 AM                         | Mass; St John Chrysostom         |
| Saturday                         | _____                           | The Exaltation of the Holy Cross |
| Saturday                         | 6.30 PM                         | Mass;                            |
| Sunday                           | 9.00 AM                         | Rosary;                          |
|                                  | 9.30 AM                         | Mass;                            |
|                                  | 5.30 PM                         | Mass;                            |
| <b>Reconciliation:</b>           | 30 minutes prior to all masses. |                                  |

| Last Fortnight's Collection                      |           |
|--|-----------|
| Thanksgiving Offering                            | \$1652.00 |
| Presbytery Offering                              | \$ 941.55 |
| <b>Thank you for your commitment and support</b> |           |

| Next Week's Reading                                  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B</b> |                       |
| <b>First Reading</b>                                 | <b>Isaiah 50: 5—9</b> |
| <b>Second Reading</b>                                | <b>James 2: 14—18</b> |
| <b>Gospel</b>  | <b>Mark 8: 27—35</b>  |
| <b>Thank you for your commitment and support</b>     |                       |

| BAPTISMS <i>(Baptism requires a months' notice)</i> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Upcoming baptism:</b>                            |  |
| Laundry <b>September</b>                            |  |
| Church Cleaning —                                   | <b>14 September—Clement</b><br><b>21 September—Matilde</b> |

| Week's Roster |                             |                   |                    |                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|               | Ministries                  | SATURDAY, 6.30 PM | SUNDAY, 9.30 AM    | SUNDAY, 5.30 PM   |
| THIS WEEK     | <b>Commentator</b>          | Joe Connoly       | Hannah Chua        | Wilson Fernandez  |
|               | <b>Reader</b>               | Terry James       | Amer S Taab        | Peter Liptai      |
|               | <b>Eucharistic Minister</b> | Kate Robinson     | Dominic Disanayake | Volunteer         |
| NEXT WEEK     | <b>Commentator</b>          | Chatarina Pereira | Volunteer          | Peter Liptai      |
|               | <b>Reader</b>               | Joe Connoly       | Sheryn Disanayake  | Volunteer         |
|               | <b>Eucharistic Minister</b> | Joe Connoly       | Jane Cassar        | Roman Siriwardene |

| Please pray for...                     |   |
|--|---|
| Those who are baptised:                |   |
| Those who are sick:                    | Jacques Re'my, Pereira family members, Cecile Hien Pham, Kamari Family members, Frank Maning, Annita Diaz, Simeona Wilson, Jaime & Maria Cruz, Rafferti Florida, Vivian Martin, Sandra James. |
| Those who recently died:               |   |
| Those whose memories are sacred to us. |   |



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**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B** **8 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**First Reading** **Is 35:4-7**  
*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!**

1. 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.)**

2. 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.)**

3. 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**  
**Jas 2:1-5**  
*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

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 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**  
*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

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.'

**Reflection by Fr Michael Tate**

As we began to welcome the Gospel, we made the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our hearts. It is meant to be accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' It wouldn't be enough to mentally recite that little prayer. We have to do something physical.

Jesus could not have been more physical than in the story of today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle, saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. But he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. We are not angels, but ensouled bodies and that is how our Lord particularly related to this man in need of healing.

It is in the sacrament of Baptism that we imitate the Ephphatha incident in today's Gospel. At one stage, the priest lightly touches the ears and then lightly touches the mouth of the person being baptised. This brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith.

We could take a moment to recall the Ephphatha dimension of our baptism. Take your thumb and lightly touch your ears (a parent could do this for an infant) making a prayer along the lines of our baptism: 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He again touch my ears to receive His Word and my mouth to proclaim His faith to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.'

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## TWENTY – THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### HYMNS “AS ONE VOICE”

#### GATHERING SONG SATURDAY 6.30 pm

- Come to the feast No 151; Page 151

#### PROCESSION OF GIFTS SONG

- Bless the Lord No 83; Page 271

#### COMMUNION SONG

- Eye has not seen No 146; Page 146

#### FINAL SONG

- Praise God from whom all blessings flow No 10; Page 13

### HYMNS “AS ONE VOICE”

#### GATHERING SONG SUNDAY 9.30 am

- Praise to the Lord No 132; Page 311

#### PROCESSION OF GIFTS SONG

- In His Time Text attached

#### COMMUNION SONG

- Amazing Grace No 29; Page 32

#### COMMUNION REFLECTION

- Quiet music

#### FINAL SONG

- Go tell everyone Text attached

1. God's Spirit is in my heart,  
He has called me and set me apart.  
This is what I have to do,  
what I have to do.

#### Chorus:

He sent me to give the Good News to  
the poor,  
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners  
no more,  
Tell blind people that they can see,  
And set the downtrodden free  
And go tell everyone the news that the  
Kingdom of God has come,  
And go tell everyone the news that  
God's Kingdom has come.

2. Just as the Father sent me,  
So I'm sending you out to be  
My witness throughout the world,  
The whole of the world.

### IN HIS TIME

1. In His time, in His time  
He makes all things beautiful  
In His time  
Lord, please show me everyday  
As You're teaching me Your way  
That You do just what You say  
In Your time.

2. In Your time (in Your time)  
In Your time (in Your time, Lord, You make all things  
beautiful)  
You make all things beautiful  
In Your time (in Your time)  
Lord, my life to You I bring  
May each song I have to sing  
Be to You a lovely thing  
In Your time.

### THANK YOU ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We are delighted to express  
our deepest gratitude to Greg  
Pedrola for his exceptional  
work on the steps outside the  
church at the front entrance.

Thanks to his dedication, time and skills, the steps have  
been successfully repaired, enhancing both safety and aes-  
thetics for every one who visits our church.

Please join us in thanking Greg for his invaluable  
contribution.

### Live Your Best Life in Love...

#### A Marriage Encounter weekend is for you

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend.  
Time-out to nurture your most precious relationship away  
from daily distractions.

The weekend is based around Catholic values. Couples  
of all faiths are welcome.

**Please check our website for more details and to book  
your special weekend:**

**Our next weekend is: 4 - 6 October 2024 at St Paul's  
Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.**

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday  
afternoon around 4:30pm

We are also offering a weekend in **Trafalgar, Gippsland on  
November 16 -17th, 2024.**

Information/Bookings: Please phone

**Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)

Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

## PARISH NOTICES

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Tuesday   | 8.45am - 12.45pm |
| Wednesday | 11.30am - 3.30pm |
| Thursday  | 8.45am - 12.45pm |
| Friday    | 11.30am - 3.30pm |

### SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia  
marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray  
for those who have been abused, their families  
and supporters. We recognise and apologise for  
the harm done by priests, religious and lay  
people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and  
confidence in the Church requires constant  
work and vigilance.

We recommit to cultural change that will help  
the Church be a place that respects the dignity  
of all children and adults at risk, and empowers  
and listens to all people, especially those who  
are vulnerable.

You can find out more about the Church's work  
in this area at: [https://www.catholic.au/s/  
article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024](https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024)

### PARISH CHURCH DINNER & DANCE

We are delighted to announce that our Parish  
Church Dinner & Dance will be held on Satur-  
day,

**21st September 2024!**

*Please save the date to celebrate this epic  
event together. Your participation is crucial in  
making this a memorable occasion and  
supporting our wonderful community!*

### FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

On 13 September 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (also called  
the Church of the Resurrection) was dedicated. The following day, the  
cross that Empress Helena had discovered on 14 September 320, was  
venerated in a solemn ceremony. In 614, the Persian King, Chosroes II,  
waged war on the Romans. After conquering Jerusalem, he confiscated  
many treasures, among which was the Cross of Jesus. The Byzantine  
emperor Heraclius initiated peace negotiations, but was rejected.  
He then waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution  
of the Cross, which then returned to Jerusalem. Today, the cruelty  
of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to  
humanity by accepting death on the Cross: "Who, though in the form  
of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory  
of the Cross of Jesus!" (Pope Francis)

*Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one  
who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses  
lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.' For God so  
loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who  
believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God  
did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the  
world might be saved through him (Jn 3:13-17).*

#### Stop turning in on ourselves

"Being Christian", Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "is not the result of an  
ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event". The  
Gospel the liturgy offers us on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy  
Cross suggests that God wants to enter into a relationship of love with  
everyone. This is offered in His Son, Jesus, lifted up on the Cross.  
Lifting up our gaze to God expresses a very important truth: we are  
invited to enter back into relationship with Him. We need to stop  
turning in on ourselves, uselessly nurturing a sense of guilt and  
forgetting that "in whatever our hearts condemn, God is greater than  
our hearts" (1 Jn 3:20). Let us lift up our eyes toward the stars  
(remember Abraham and the promise of many descendants), knowing  
how to cast every worry onto God.

#### There is no neutrality regarding the Cross

We cannot remain neutral regarding the Cross of Jesus. Either we are  
with Him or we are against Him. A choice is made before every action,  
for the actions of a Christian are none other than the testimony of how  
"God has love us so much that he gave His only Son, Jesus".

#### Prayers

*Most High glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my heart.  
Grant me an upright faith,  
secure hope and perfect charity.  
Fill me with understanding and knowledge  
that I may fulfill your command. Amen.*

**(prayer of Saint Francis before the Crucifix of San Damiano)**

*Vatican News*