

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(Year B) 5 September 2021**

**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 Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 145(146):7-10**

*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.

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

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

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

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.

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

**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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

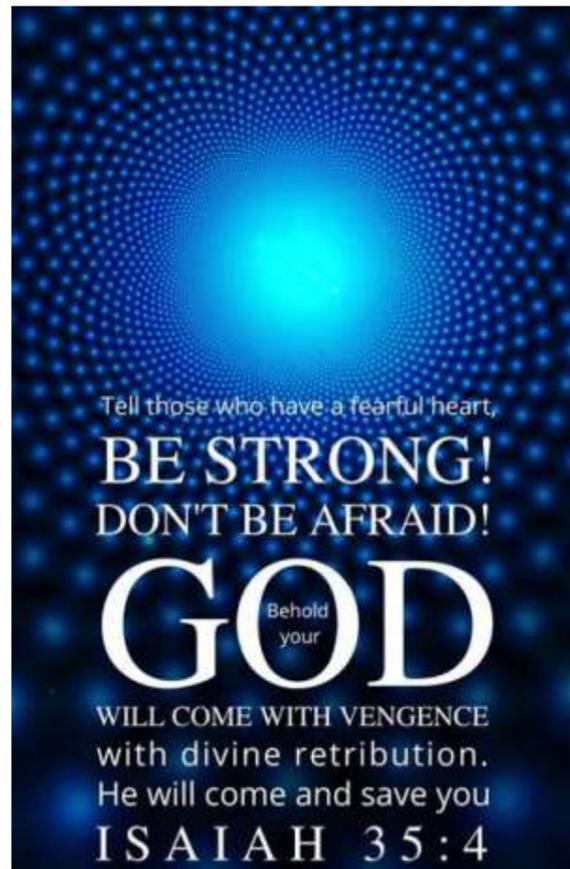
**Gospel**

**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.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**Sacred Heart Parish  
Preston**

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

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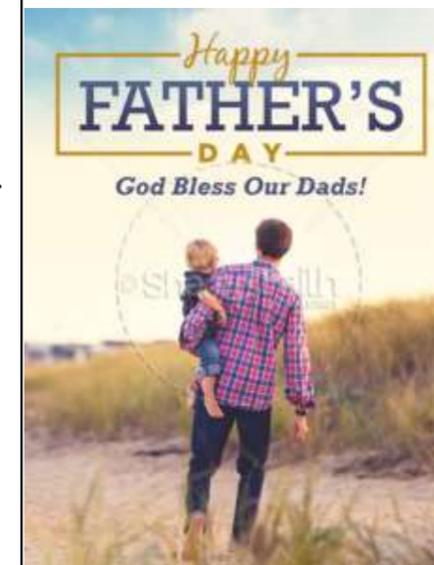
**The Healing Touch of Jesus**

Recently I read a short story about an old and dusty violin which was taken for an action. The violin was about to be sold for a mere \$3 when a grey-haired man stepped forward, picked it up, dusted it off, tuned it and began to play. The man played such sweet music that, when he finished, the bidding jumped into the thousands of dollars. What transformed the dusty old violin into a precious instrument? Of course, the touch of the Master's hand.

I find the story fits so well with the Gospel story about a deaf man who was healed by Jesus. Mark's Gospel tells us that the man suffered the loss of his hearing and ability to speak. Such physical difficulties led him to suffer many hardships in life. However, his encounter with Jesus had transformed him completely. What he expected from Jesus when he met Him was nothing more than laying of hands on him. To his surprise, Jesus did more than he expected. He restored his hearing and speech. Describing his healing process, Mark writes, "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,' which means 'Be opened.' The result was amazing, far beyond what he could think of. His ears were opened and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he was able to speak clearly. What transformed the deaf and mute man? The touch of the Master's hand.

Both stories, the old and dusty violin and the gospel story about the deaf and mute man, are very inspiring. They challenge us to be humble and to be Jesus' instrument for healing. Firstly, is the challenge to be humble. As a result of our human weakness, we often find our lives like that of a dusty violin and a deaf man. Not only covered with dust of sins, we also suffer from spiritual deafness, muteness, and blindness. We need to allow Jesus' hand to touch and heal us. His compassionate touch will clean us from our sin and restore our dignity as God's loving children. His healing touch will open our mouth to speak and sing praises to God in prayers, Holy Mass, bible sharing, and so on. His healing touch will open our ears to listen to God who speaks to us through the Bible and through the Church.

Secondly, both stories challenge us to witness Jesus' healing touch to others. We need to help Jesus to heal the deaf and the mute in our society today. We lend our hands to give the touch that heals the sick, lend our tongues to speak to those who suffer spiritual hunger and voice of the voiceless, lend our hearts to touch the lives of those who go through life without anyone to care for them. Throughout the history of Christianity many have devoted their lives to bring Jesus' healing touch to others such as St. Francis of Assisi, St. Damien of Molokai, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Jeanne Jugan, St. Mary MacKillop, and St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). We too are called to bring the healing touch of Jesus to the downtrodden and broken-hearted.



**Office Hours:**  
Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD  
Ph: 0428 715 282

**Italian Community Chaplain:**  
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD  
Ph: 0478 963 248

**Parish Office:** Rachel Costa  
**School Principal:** Mark Tierney  
**School Phone:** 9487 1001

**Sacrament Co-ordinator:**  
Ylenia Useli  
shpcatechists@gmail.com

**Child Safety Officers:**  
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212  
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

**Child Safety Committee:**  
Robert Dullard (Chair), Kay Dufty,  
Mary Harb, Teresa Dang and  
Pauline O'Day

**Parish Council Members:**  
Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay  
Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,  
Ophelia Swai, Anisasio (Pauline)  
Veamatahau, Mark Tierney,  
Ben Fortuna and Natalie Baran

**Parish Finance Committee:**  
Peter Constable (Chair)  
Ph: 0425 779 831

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**  
Stephen Costello (President)  
Ph: 0432 405 417

**No public Masses  
until  
further notice**

10:30am Sunday Mass  
and 9:10 weekday  
Masses are livestreamed.  
For the live stream links  
please visit:

[www.sacredheartpreston.com.au](http://www.sacredheartpreston.com.au)

**Parish Mass Schedule**

**Weekend Masses:**

**Saturday:** 6:00pm

**Sunday:** 9:00am (Italian),

10:30 am, 6:00 pm

**Weekday Masses:**

**Monday to Friday:** 9.10am

## Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Feast Days of the week:

Wednesday 8 September The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Thursday 9 September St Peter Claver  
Blessed Frederick Ozanam



### Lockdown Light—a weekly series

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ... Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations at [www.bit.ly/LockdownLight](http://www.bit.ly/LockdownLight)

**RUOK?**  
A conversation could change a life.

**To Parish Priests & Staff**  
You're invited...  
We are hosting a Morning Tea to make time to reconnect and ask R Uok? because we believe that asking "are you ok?" is something we can all do to make a difference.

Please join us  
**Thursday 9 September, 10am**  
[www.zoom.us/j/4470460197](http://www.zoom.us/j/4470460197)

Speaker  
**Mary Brown, Relationship Partner**  
CatholicCare Victoria

**Wear something yellow!**

Visit [ruok.org.au](http://ruok.org.au) for tips on how to ask.

### Joke Corner

#### Who is the Winner?

The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask which one should have the prize. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to mother?" and "Who does everything mother says?" Five small voices replied in unison. "Okay daddy! You get the toy."

## Father's Day Appeal

Due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions and public Masses not being able to be said at Parishes, donations to the Father's Day appeal can be made through the Priests Retirement Foundation website via debit, credit card or Paypal where the donor's details are loaded and receipts can be issued.

The site is [www.cam.org.au/foundation](http://www.cam.org.au/foundation).

St. Joseph, Pray for Us  
**Happy Father's Day**

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to You for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. St. Joseph, Pray for all our Fathers, Amen

Dear Father,

St Gabriel's Parish Reservoir is pleased to invite you and your parishioners to a Spiritual Afternoon with St Joseph. This will be held at St Gabriel's Parish Centre and Church on Sunday 19 September, 2pm – 4.30pm.

Presentations on St Joseph will be given by speakers Sr Mary Sarah OP and Anna Krohn. (sapientiaproject.com). The afternoon will include Litany of St Joseph and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Participants can register <https://www.trybooking.com/BTLUQ> or parish office 9460 6036, [reservoir@cam.org.au](mailto:reservoir@cam.org.au)  
Regards  
Fr Gregory Pritchard  
Parish Priest  
St Gabriel's & St Stephen's Parish

THE SAPIENTIA PROJECT PRESENTS  
SPIRITUAL AFTERNOON WITH  
**St Joseph**  
4.30-1.30 SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2021  
St Gabriel's & St Stephen's Parish



Today many of us will connect up with family- in some way - to celebrate and honour the gift of our fathers and those within our Church, community groups and neighbourhoods who share this role of caring, protecting, teaching, encouraging and securing protective spaces for children and young people to have a fair go. Appropriately, today marks the beginning of **National Child Protection Week**.

This year's theme is "Every child in every community needs a Fair Go", acknowledging that it is a fundamental human right of all children and young people not only to feel safe but to be safe at all times and in all circumstances. Find out more about this week at: [www.napcan.org.au](http://www.napcan.org.au).



### LAUDATO SI: ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

"The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home. Together, the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray, protect, and advocate for God's creation. During the 2021 Season of Creation, from 1 September through 4 October, hundreds of thousands of Christians will be uniting around the theme so everyone is invited to participate."

LS 64: "If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians in their turn realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith."

LS 233: "The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things."

You are invited to go to <https://seasonofcreation.org> to join in the celebration Season of Creation

A tip: Before throwing away your COVID masks, simply cut the elastics to dispose of them properly. The reason is that both marine and terrestrial fauna are affected. Birds have also been seen with COVID masks tangled in their wings. We respect our cohabitants on this planet. Please forward this request to your family and friends so that no creature is lost to our discarded masks

**WE PRAY FOR:**  
The elderly and the sick  
Anthony, Peter Bourke,  
Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph  
Paige Lapenta, John Plum, and  
Bronislawa Slobodzian  
That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect  
Those who have died recently  
Xavier Francis Navascues  
We Commemorate  
Kevin Sievers (1st anniversary)  
O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.

### THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.  
(say this prayer in lieu of receiving Communion)

### THEOLOGY @ THE PUB – T@P

T@P is back online this coming Monday, with another livestream over on Facebook. Our speaker this month is Monsignor Joe Takchi, a Melbourne based Maronite Priest who will be speaking on the Eastern Catholic Churches. Grab a drink and join us over on our Facebook page this coming Monday, 6th of September, at 7:30pm. Check out the link in our bio for more details!  
**Talk commences: 7:30pm**  
**Where:** Facebook Livestream  
**When:** Monday the 6th of September 2021  
**Visit us on Facebook:** [<http://www.facebook.com/tapmelb/>]  
**Website:** [www.theologyatthepub.com.au](http://www.theologyatthepub.com.au)

### Cleaning Roster: Saturday 11 September 2021

Volunteers  
Thank you for your hard work

