



Readings for  
this week:

Isaiah 35:4-7  
James 2:1-5  
Mark 7:31-37



Readings for  
next week:

Isaiah 50:5-9  
James 2:14-18  
Mark 8:27-35

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### YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR .....

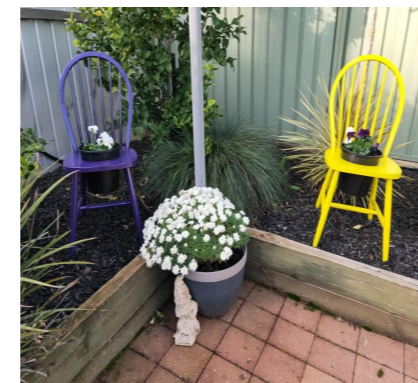
**Sick List:** Graeme Weir, Noreen & Pauline Griffith, Julie Pollard, Chris Keating, Fr Owen Doyle, Jim McIntyre, Gerard Murphy (brother of Kevin) Pat Treacy Cherie Mammone,

**Recently Deceased :** Chris Keating, Fr Paul Purcell

**Anniversaries :** Fr John Naughton

### ISO PROJECT

Each week whilst in lockdown, we will feature some of the creative work of our parishioners and how they have passed their time away in isolation. We kick off this week with parish stalwart, Sheila Griffin, who, together with husband Noel, searched the Op Shops and Second Hand Dealers and sourced these quirky and unique wooden chairs. They then set about painting them in lovely bright colours and potted up some flowering plants to compliment. They are a great feature in their back garden and I'm sure you'll agree, they have done a wonderful job ..... Brenda



What have you been doing in isolation ?

If you have a special project, please let us know and we can share your talents with all our parishioners.

## WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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Parish Secretary: Brenda Pye, Email address: mooroopna@cdos.org.au

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9.00am to 4.00pm  
Website: stmarysmooroopna.com

### Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

5 September 2021

#### 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!*

or:

(R.) *Alleluia!*

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 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*

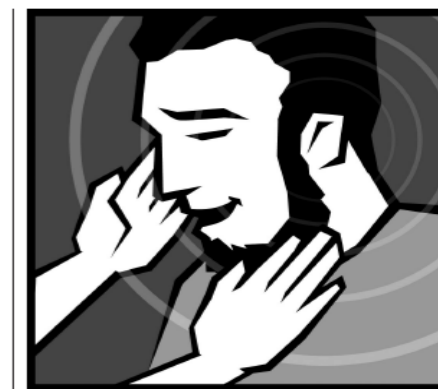
*and healed all who were sick.*

*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 Greg Sunter

Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak. When Jesus healed the man in the gospel story the crowd were admiring of what he had done. They even exclaimed, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' These words are a direct echo of the Isaiah text – they were recognising Jesus as fulfilling the prophecies of the promised Messiah.

However, the passage also demonstrates to us that Jesus was trying to show the people that he was not exactly the Messiah that many of them were anticipating. This healing story takes place in the region of the Decapolis – south-east of the Galilee region and populated mostly by Gentiles. By travelling in this area and working miraculous healings, Jesus is making the point that his mission is to all people, not just 'the Chosen People' of Israel. He commands the crowd who witnessed the healing to tell no one about it but, filled with the idea that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for, they broadcast the news. Jesus wanted their silence because he knew that they did not fully understand the sort of Messiah that he was. Only when they understood that this Messiah must suffer and die would he have allowed them to speak of his deeds.

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## ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other  
- growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

### NORMAL WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sat Vigil 6.30pm  
Sunday 10.00am

### POST LOCKDOWN RECONCILIATION

10.30am to 11.00am Saturday

Sadly, we have had no good news from our Premier this week.

There will be no liturgies and our church will remain closed to parishioners for private worship.

This situation will be reviewed on 23rd. September.

NO VIDEO MASS

Unfortunately, we will be unable to do a video Mass this week as our videologist Tom is still in isolation.

However, you are welcome to watch the live service from Sandhurst on Sundays at 10.00am

[www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

### PARISH / SCHOOL NEWS

#### ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Most children at the school are undertaking remote learning and only children of parents who hold an Essential Workers Permit are permitted on-site. We thank Anthony Butts and all the staff who are doing a wonderful job facing the challenges presented.

#### ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Is attached for your information. For any clarification or queries, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office

#### APOLOGIES

For the lack of clarity of the print on Page 1 of the bulletin this week. I will try and work out a way to enhance it prior to next week. However, it is much easier to read on the printed version.

Brenda.

## SEASON OF CREATION

### A MESSAGE from BISHOP SHANE

Each year, particularly since the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato Si* (LS, 24 May, 2015) thousands of Christians on six continents come together on the first day of September for a time of restoration and hope, a Jubilee for our Earth, and discover new ways of living with creation.

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the Season of Creation, concludes on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on the fourth of October.



During this period, Christians worldwide renew their faith in the God of Creation and join in prayer and work for the care of our common home.

Our world is beautiful and mysterious, inviting us to reflect with wonder and gratitude to God who loves it into existence.

Human beings are part of nature, created in the image of God to live in this web of relationships, with God, each other, the earth and all creatures.

In the Diocese of Sandhurst, communities are surrounded by a diversity of life and landscapes, experiencing God's blessings in unique and wonderful ways.



"Ask the animals, and they will teach you,

Or the birds of the air and they will tell you,

Or speak to the earth and it will teach you,

Or let the fish of the sea inform you."

Job 12.7-8



### To all our dads and father figures

At this time of restrictions on visiting and travel for many of us, the celebration of Father's Day may be bittersweet, when we had been hoping to be with our fathers and families in person

#### Dear God

We pray for fathers everywhere.

We especially pray for those who are separated from their families, as well as for those families that make the difficult decision to embrace lives in new homes, far from the lands of their birth.

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 live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

AMEN

### ADULT FAITH EDUCATION GUEST SPEAKER - FR. ADI INDRA

The St. Brendan's Adult Faith Education program meets every Tuesday night, 7:30pm-8:30pm to do an in-depth study of the Catholic faith.

On Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Adi Indra will be guest speaker.

He will be speaking on the topic of 'Covenant or Contract:

A Discussion on Catholic Marriage, using his expertise in Canon Law to answer tricky questions about marriage, divorce and annulment.

This talk will be held online via Zoom.

All are welcome and no registration is required.

Click this link to join at 7:30pm on Tuesday:

<https://latrobe.zoom.us/j/82362022926>

### A message from Mons Peter

Shepparton has been in the news with our strict restrictions about mobility. It has brought changes into our home and working lives. While it has created difficulties for many, we can also reflect on the positive outcomes.

We may find ourselves thinking more of others who may be struggling. Perhaps a phone call to a relative or a chat with a neighbour may brighten their day.

With the pace of life a little slower, we may find we think more of others in our personal prayers. That is what I am experiencing. I offer it to you as a possibility for your own homes.

### St Mary's Sacramental Program

Please remember the 21 children who are enrolled in our sacramental program

Oscar Weis, Louise Garcia, Desiree Gray, Ayen Dang, Hayley Glover, Dominic Lawless, Sienna Tripoli, Ethan Ulrich, Lucas Tripoli, Zachary Vanderdonk, Willow Dean, Mikhail Maksacheff, Nikolai Maksacheff, Edward Nioa, Romily Macreadie, Brandon Doherty, Cooper Smith, Cherie Smith, Ashton Foyster, Nicholas Vigliaturo, Abel Huggard,

They were hoping to celebrate their First Eucharist over 2 weekends in September.



Obviously this is not possible now and Mons Peter and Mrs Hicks are working towards a way forward.

Watch this space and we will advise you as soon as new arrangements are possible.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR LADY



Hail holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
Our life, our sweetness and our hope,  
To thee do we cry,  
To thee do we send up sighs,  
Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears,  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
And show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Oh sweet virgin Mary  
AMEN



**SAFEGUARDING  
SUNDAY 2021**  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

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.

We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:

[www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday).

### Kids in Church !

3 year old Reece

Our Father, Who does art in heaven,  
Harold is his name !!

