

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona



*James 2:18 2:18*  
*Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith*

**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday & Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:00pm

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## PARISH NOTICES

Although we are unable to celebrate mass together I will create a modified bulletin for the parish each week. It will contain the Sunday Readings and reflections on the Mass theme. If you know of someone who would like a copy, get them to email me, [paulmcd@westnet.com.au](mailto:paulmcd@westnet.com.au) or text 0401999915.

In place of a homely Fr Hart has written a reflection for us. *See below.*

**New Parish Priest:** Fr Anthony Dunne commences as Parish Priest on the 19th Jan. Fr Reece Beltrame is the Administrator from 1st Oct to the 19th Jan.

Fr Hart will be in the parish until Fr Beltrame arrives. We thank Fr for being with us. Unfortunately with the lockdown he has had a very quiet time.

**Online Masses:** See list and links on the back page

## REFLECTION FOR THE 23RD SUNDAY.

Last week, those watching an online Mass, saw Jesus having words with the Scribes and Pharisees, who, as usual, were defending their customs and institutions. This week, in contrast, it is the local gentile people who bring a neighbour who lacks good hearing and speech. Jesus quietly leads him aside and attends to him personally, and with a compassionate healing touch.

It is said that President Obama, due to strict security precautions, rarely used the front doors of any building. He usually arrived through the basement or rear entrance and always greeted people 'on the job' with a cherry "Who are you? Tell me a little about yourself?", without reporters or cameras present. Such recognition and warmth related not to their position or power, but only to the person they were, to the beauty and potential within their hearts.

We Christians are called to be leaders in developing the practice of effective listening. Only by letting Jesus touch our ears and tongue with his gifts of understanding, compassion, forgiveness and genuine concern, can we begin to stop and ask ourselves, "What am I hearing, what meaning lies behind these words, what meaning am I conveying to the other?"



Fr Paul Hart

**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.

**Collect**

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**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.

**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.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Matthew 4:23**

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.'



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## **Prayers of the Faithfull**

Jesus, light of the world, guide us through these dark times.

We pray to the Lord.

**R.** Lord hear our prayer.

**For our sick**, Mathew Smith, Martin Kelly, Wendy Mills, & Carmel Baker,

We pray to the Lord.

**R.** Lord hear our prayer.

**For our recently departed**, Fr. Peter Carauna, Bruce Duck and those who's anniversaries occur at this time including Richard West Blade, Mary O'Brien & Lawrence (Dooley) Carroll.

We pray to the Lord.

**R.** Lord hear our prayer.

## **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

## **Communion Antiphon**

**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.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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## FROM BISHOP MARK EDWARDS

The Delta variant COVID-19 pandemic is proving very difficult to contain and, with the government, we work as best we can to protect our people and ourselves. This means that our lives will be somewhat restricted for the next month at least. The level of restriction moves in response to the information the government receives. One thing is becoming clear: vaccinations are very important. The Catholic Church has embraced, supported and facilitated vaccinations around the world for many diseases in the past and now it does the same for COVID19. Having a high proportion of the population vaccinated will be a key plank in enabling us to return to having Masses and other Sacraments in something like the fashion we want to celebrate them.



It is of deep concern to me that misinformation on social media is misleading many in our communities. It needs to be countered. As faith leaders and communities, we can do a great deal to guide, reassure and comfort those in need, encouraging people to listen carefully to reliable public health advice and to follow it by being vaccinated and taking other responsible measures, such as social distancing and lockdown restrictions, to limit the effects of this pandemic. Pope Francis calls receiving a vaccination (and agitating for it to be available to those in less developed countries) an act of love.

### POPE FRANCIS URGES PEOPLE TO GET VACCINATED

*Vatican News 18 August 2021*

*Pope Francis launches a powerful appeal for people to get vaccinated with approved Covid-19 vaccines, calling it “an act of love.”*

The Pope has joined his voice to those of Bishops across North and South America to urge people to get jabbed against Covid-19. In a video message produced in conjunction with the Ad Council, Pope Francis praised the work of researchers and scientists in producing safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines.

“Thanks to God’s grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from Covid-19,” he said in the video released on Wednesday. He added that vaccines “bring hope to end the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we collaborate with one another.”

Pope Francis went on to say that getting a Covid jab that is “authorized by the respective authorities” is an “act of love.” “Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable”.

Pope Francis then prayed to God that each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love. “No matter how small, love is always grand. Small gestures for a better future.” The Pope was joined in the video by several Cardinals and Archbishops from across the Americas.

**Video:** [Pope Francis Vaccines Act of Love.](#)

*Devin Watkins*

## SCOTT HAHN: ALL THINGS WELL

The incident in today's Gospel is recorded only by Mark. The key line is what the crowd says at the end: "He has done all things well." In the Greek, this echoes the creation story, recalling that God saw all the things He had done and declared them good. Mark also deliberately evokes Isaiah's promise, which we hear in today's First Reading, that God will make the deaf hear and the mute speak. He uses a Greek word to describe the man's condition (*mogilalon* = "speech impediment") that's only found in one other place in the Bible, today's Isaiah passage, where the prophet describes the "dumb" singing. The crowd recognizes that Jesus is doing what the prophet had foretold.

But Mark wants us to see something far greater - that, to use the words from today's First Reading: "Here is your God." Notice how personal and physical the drama is in the Gospel. Our focus is drawn to a hand, a finger, ears, a tongue, spitting. In Jesus, Mark shows us, God has truly come in the flesh. What He has done



is to make all things new, a new creation. As Isaiah promised, He has made the living waters of Baptism flow in the desert of the world. He has set captives free from their sins, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has come that rich and poor might dine together in the Eucharistic feast, as James tells us in today's Epistle. He has done for each of us what He did for that deaf mute.

He has opened our ears to hear the Word of God and loosed our tongues that we might sing praises to Him. Let us then give thanks to our glorious Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Let us say with Isaiah, "Here is our God, He comes to save us." Let us be rich in faith, that we might inherit the kingdom promised to those who love Him.

## PRECIOUS GIFTS.

The gift of healing is a precious gift. but it is only with the heart that we can hear rightly. The cry of a needy person may reach our ears, but unless it reaches our heart, we will not feel the person's pain, and it is unlikely that we will respond. And the gift of speech is a precious gift. But it is again it is only with the heart that we can speak rightly.

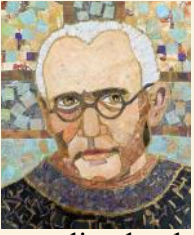
For our words to ring true, they must come from the heart. If they come only from the lips, they will have a hollow sound and will have little effect. They will be like a wind that ruffles the surface of the water but leaves the depth untouched. But the words that come from the heart, enter the heart.

## FEASTS THIS WEEK:

The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Wednesday 8th Sept.



## DO NOT GET WITH THE TIMES



Saturday 14th Aug was the Feast of St Maximilian Kolbe whose life will be known to many readers. In brief, the Franciscan Priest, who had a ministry in Catholic communications, imprisoned in Auschwitz took the place of a family man condemned to death by starvation. Maximilian lived for three weeks leading the other condemned men in prayer until, as the last survivor, he was executed. The spared man lived to be 93, dedicating his life to retelling the story of his deliverance.

Max K would be an embarrassment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In an age of identity politics, where one seeks to associate with fashionable cultures, ethnicities, or groups, he refused the advantage of being part German in Nazi-controlled Poland. In age of fake news, he was a broadcaster of truth. In an age of blame shifting where politicians and bureaucrats seek to deny and avoid the consequences of their choices and actions, Max K took upon himself a tortuous death intended for another. In an age of cynicism and unbelief, he trusted in God and dedicated himself to serving Him and others.

From the heart of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Holocaust when all the proud boasts of secularism were revealed for what they are, Max K still speaks to us and it's worth recalling his observation:

“No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is to seek truth and to serve it when we have found it. The real conflict is the inner conflict. Beyond armies of occupation and the hecatombs of extermination camps, there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we ourselves are defeated in our innermost personal selves?”

Max's executioner probably died in a basement in the fall of Berlin, living long enough to see all that he strived for destroyed; St Maximilian Kolbe lives on, communicating the glory of God even better now than when he was on Earth. St Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us. [cgcatholic.org.au/LivingWord](http://cgcatholic.org.au/LivingWord)

## FAMILY PRAYER ON FATHER'S DAY.

Lord, 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, wisdom, tenderness and patience. Support them in the work they must do protecting those who look to them as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Rock and Defender. Amen.

## ONLINE MASS LINKS:

[Mass For You at Home](#)

[St Christopher's Cathedral Canberra](#)

[Sacred Heart North Albury](#)

[St Parrick's Cathedral Melbourne](#)

Any time

11am Sunday and anytime after.

9:30am Sunday and anytime after.

Daily & 11am Sunday and anytime after