



# St. Lawrence's Parish Coonabarabran

## The Gospel of Mark 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.

Mass Times this week		Mass Times next week	
07 Tue	No Mass	No Masses will be displayed ahead of time due to ever changing circumstances. We appreciate your understanding during this time of pandemic	
08 Wed	No Mass		
09 Thur	No Mass		
10 Fri	No Mass		
11 Sat	TBA		
12 Sun	TBA		



We acknowledge the original owners of this land, and pay respects to the elders and deceased members, of the Gamilaroi people.

## Readings for next week

September 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

Is 50:5-9;  
James 2:14-18;  
Mk 8:27-35

Hours of the Sunday,  
Te Deum

PSALTER WEEK 4



## Fathers Day Appeal 2021

The Diocese will hold its annual Fathers' Day Appeal this Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, **online** this year as sadly, it is not possible for us to gather in person for Mass.

This important appeal is for the ongoing support of our retired priests. While we celebrate and remember all our fathers, grandfathers and father-figures have done for us, it is a good time to stop and think of these priests who have been there year in and year out for each of us and our families, providing pastoral and spiritual support.

"Provision for aged and infirm priests is the privileged responsibility of the faithful, to whom these men have given their lives. Having borne the heat of the day in pastoral service, their modest needs should now be addressed with dignity and respect", said Bishop Michael McKenna. "Acknowledging that these men have journeyed with parishioners and their loved ones in joy and in sorrow, financial support for them can be an expression of gratitude by all those whose lives they have touched."

Given that our churches remain closed due to Covid restrictions, and the usual collection cannot be taken up this weekend, please consider supporting the ONLINE appeal. Donations can be made [HERE](#)



## Action for Afghanistan

Dear Friend,

It is clear that the Afghan people, especially ethnic and religious minorities as well as women and children are in great danger in their own country. In addition, there are more than 5,100 Afghans living in Australia, many with families in Afghanistan, and many without any certainty about their future in Australia.

While the Federal Government has undertaken to allocate at least 3,000 places for Afghans within the current humanitarian intake, the need is dire and immediate, and a special additional intake is required. We therefore wish to raise our voices as members of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) to urge the Federal Government to:

provide a special allocation of at least 20,000 additional humanitarian places for people fleeing Afghanistan, guarantee permanent visas to those living here under temporary visas, and

enable family reunions for Afghan people living in Australia.

We encourage you to be part of the voice of CAPSA, through one or both of the following ways:

Send a letter to your local Member of Parliament directly through the CAPSA website at [capsa.org.au/afghanistan](https://capsa.org.au/afghanistan). On this website you will find a form letter which you can easily edit or send as it is. By entering your postcode, you will be able to send it to your local MP.

At [www.actionforafghanistan.com.au](https://www.actionforafghanistan.com.au) you will be able to sign a petition along with thousands of other Australians.

We remain in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan who need our compassion and kindness now.

Peace Ecology & Justice e-Bulletin September 2021 - Season of Creation | World Day of Prayer for Creation

<https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/newsletters-and-bulletins/columban-ebulletin/>



World Day of Prayer for Creation  
1 September 2021  
Season of Creation  
1 September - 4 October 2021

**Please be advised that there is no Mass on**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021 due to stay at home orders.**

**Please keep up to date with health orders via NSW Health**

We ask for your continued assistance with this as we are keeping with the NSW Health rules.

BISHOP'S HOUSE

PO Box 246

BATHURST NSW 2795

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

May I encourage everyone, unless they have a medical condition which would preclude it, to take up the opportunity to be vaccinated against Covid-19: both to protect their own health and the health of others.

These were my own reasons for receiving vaccination many weeks ago. I relied on reputable medical advice about the efficacy and safety of the vaccines; and on the teaching of the Catholic Church that it was morally lawful.

Indeed, Catholic doctrine guides me to understand this as an act of solidarity and care for the common good.

Everyone is responsible for his or her own conscience, before God. That entails a responsibility to make it well-informed.

While some people who are Catholics may, for personal reasons, decide not to be vaccinated, that would be their own choice, not one directed by Church teaching.

In the meantime, please join me in praying for one another, especially those who are suffering the most in this pandemic. May this experience lead us to turn closer to Christ and find in him the way to compassion and service for our sisters and brothers.

+*Michael McKenna*  
**Bishop of Bathurst**

Dear Parish,

Join us for an opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time. Our seminar on is a 6x Wednesday series on "Treasuring our Later Years". We would be grateful if you could include the following suggested entry in your church bulletin:

***'Treasuring Our Later Years' (Reflection series via ZOOM), 6 x Wednesdays, 22 September to 27 October 2021, 12.45pm-3pm. (AEST)***

*Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include input, conversation and the opportunity to depth and integrate reflections and learnings through personal reflection and creative expressions. Topics covered include: ageing; spirituality; relationships; meaning; gratitude; death. Cost \$180 for the series, or \$30 per session. Bookings and payment via Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation website at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) For more information, contact email: [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel: (03) 9890 1101.*

Regards,  
Susanah Tan  
Secretary

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<b><u>Coonabarabran Roster</u></b>					<b><u>Mass Intentions</u></b>
	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept TBA	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<p><b>Please pray for the sick of our parish community and family members:</b></p> <p>Gail Healey, Ken Zingel, Bill Forrest, Cheryl Forrest, Margaret Fleming, Agnes van Leeuwen, Clare Holdforth, Jax Smith, Luke Roberts, Colleen Watson, Terry Muller, Rodrigo Jaboneta, Regina Lemon, Ben Robinson, Charlie Knight, John Estens, Margaret Collins (Sutton), Roland Soussa, Albert Markland.</p> <p><b><u>Prayer for the Sick</u></b></p> <p><i>Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.</i></p> <p><b><i>Please pray for the recently deceased:</i></b> <i>Kevin Meyers</i></p>
Commentator	No Mass	C Munns	M Milsom	N Milford	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	No Mass	N Higham	P Sweeney	K Martin	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	No Mass	K Martin	D Mitevski	N Higham	
Prayers of the Faithful	No Mass	C Munns	M Milsom	N Milford	
Computer	No Mass	L Roberts	B Weursch	C Munns	
<b><u>Baradine Roster</u></b>					
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept TBA	18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	No Mass	Trish	Annette	Ange	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	No Mass	Glenda	Don	Kim	
Commentator	No Mass	Greta	Irene		

**Parish Office - St Lawrence's Parish, 14 Namoi Street**  
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**Schools:**

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**St John's Primary School,** Queen Street,  
 Baradine NSW 2396  
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