



PARISH OF ST GEORGE

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

Gospel: Mark 7:31–37

In today's Gospel Jesus heals a deaf and dumb man, who was brought to him (see: today's gospel, Mark 7:31-37). It was clear that the man was doubly-challenged – suffering from disabilities and also regarded as an outcast. However, his moment came – a fortuitous moment – which brought to fulfilment Isaiah's messianic prophecy: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed" (1st R, Isaiah 35:4-7).

Jesus took some unusual steps to perform this miracle: 1) He leads the man away from the crowd, 2) puts His fingers into the man's ears, 3) spits on His own fingers, 4) touches the man's tongue with the spittle, 5) looks up to Heaven, 6) sighs, and 7) speaks the healing command: "Ephphatha", "Be opened". With these actions and gestures and a word of power, he frees the man from his impairments.

We deduce that this miracle is symbolic of our own spiritual deafness – our reluctance to listen to God's voice. In his *Confessions*, a spiritual autobiography, St Augustine likens his condition before his conversion to deafness: "Late have I loved you, O beauty so ancient and so new; late have I loved you! For behold you were within me, and I outside; and I sought you outside... You were with me, and I was not with you. ... You called and cried to me and broke open my deafness" (Book 7).

Breaking open our deafness is essential to both our spiritual journey and growth, and as fully functioning human beings. Returning the man's power of speech also means that we can be healed of the inability to speak words of praise, apology, and appreciation.

Confessions on request either in the Church or the presbytery at any time you prefer.

Mass Intentions If you would like to have a Mass said for any intention whatsoever then please do pass them into the sacristy through the collection plate or post them into the presbytery.

Readers List After some time Tim has decided to stand down as the "Readers List Organiser" and will be replaced by Gordon. If you wish to join the list, please add your name, and contact details to the list in the porch.

Announcement We are starting Adult Catechism on the 12th of September in preparation for the sacrament of Baptism. This begins after 11am Mass on Sundays. As we progress, we may consider alternative times which may suit more people. Catechism for Holy communion and confirmation will begin after arrangements.

Sat 04 Sep	06:30 PM	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
Sun 05 Sep	09:30 AM		Tony Jones
	11:00 AM		People of the Parish
Mon 06 Sep	10:00 AM	Monday in the 23 rd Week in Ordinary Time	Fr Joseph Bickersvaffe
Tue 07 Sep	10:00 AM	Tuesday in the 23 rd Week in Ordinary Time	Fr John Moon
Wed 08 Sep	No Mass	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Private Intentions
Thu 09 Sep	10:00 AM	Thursday in the 23 rd Week in Ordinary Time	Willian & Anne Rosa Pendlebury
		Saint Peter Claver, priest	
Fri 10 Sep	10:00 AM	Friday in the 23 rd Week in Ordinary Time	Margaret Mary Mguire
	06:00 PM	Holy Hour	
Sat 11 Sep	06:30 PM	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	May Barty
Sun 12 Sep	09:30 AM		Regi Kielty
	11:00 AM		Peter Jude Intentions

Weekly Collection We wish to thank you all for your ongoing generosity in the upkeep of the parish.

Sunday Not counted due to holidays
Weekly Standing Orders - £103.50

It would help greatly with paying in and processing at the bank if any cheques to the church are made payable to: "**St George Whitchurch**" which is the correct name for the parish account .

Mission Boxes Please take a Mission Today Autumn 2021 booklet and prayer/bookmark card from the back of church, whether you are a red box holder or not, until stocks run out. If your red box has not been emptied in the last 6 months please leave it on the left-hand table, as you leave church, and Richard will empty it. He will return it the following Sunday for you to collect. Thank you for your continued support.

Foodbank Currently, the Foodbank is short of some items of food which is part of a standard delivery to clients. We still urgently need breakfast cereals, small jars of coffee, long-life semi-skimmed milk, sugar, and biscuits. Other items of food that are needed can be found on the Foodbank website www.whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk. We are also very short of plastic shopping bags. If you have any to spare, please leave them in the basket in the church porch. Any help you can give is always gratefully appreciated.

Lateral Flow Testing Kits Everyone in England is now being encouraged to take two rapid coronavirus tests a week under the government's testing programme. We now have a supply of lateral flow kits for parishioners which can provide results in around 30 minutes. Please help yourself to a pack which contains 7 test kits, at the back of church. **People with Covid symptoms should NOT take a rapid test. Instead, please stay at home and book a PCR test online or by calling 119.**

Our parish safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke.