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9th September 2018

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Ministers of the Word: Mike Thompson – Una Inwood

Ministers of Communion: Kevin Gilligan - Pat Milsom - Rosa Hockley

Prayer Ministry: Jenny Heseltine & Gail Ebsworth

Second Collection : Catholic Education

Eucharistic Prayer Preface II Preface IV

**Please Pray for the Welfare of our Sick People
and those who care for them**

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - PRAY FOR US

**Ian King, Steve Ebsworth, Bridget Spencer, Marjorie
Beard, Ruth Wolseley, Paddy Arnold.**

Please pray for Fr John as he travels.

Gospel Reflection for the Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary time

Opening New Possibilities



It seems the older we get, the more we learn to keep our mouths shut! Over the years we have learned that speaking from the heart can get us into trouble. Perhaps saying what is on our minds might not earn us the reputation we would like. It might not fit in with our sophisticated image to admit that we are afraid, or neurotic, or in need of help. We tend to avoid issues that we've learned to keep private... money, relationships, and religion are possibly the top three subjects we have leaned to keep to ourselves.

Today's gospel reading gives us at first impression a straightforward account of the healing of a deaf man. After a few more readings however, we realise that the point of the miracle is a sign that Jesus was the Messiah. It was a sign that the Jews of that time would have expected of a Messiah. It had long been prophesied that the ears of the deaf would be unsealed, and that the tongues of the dumb would sing for joy. More than this, by choosing a Gentile as the subject of his miracle, Jesus is telling us that there is no discrimination when it comes to Gods' salvation.

When it comes to matters of faith, many of us have a bit of a speech impediment. Sadly, in this day and age, people who talk openly about their religious beliefs can be viewed as odd, and so we keep our mouths shut. Today's gospel points out the wrong in keeping our beliefs private. Time and time again, Jesus shows us that God's love is available to everyone without prejudice. Time and time again Jesus shows us that love and acceptance can open up whole new possibilities in broken lives. Our faith cannot be limited to one hour on a Sunday morning. We are invited to 'open up' and share the possibilities God offers with everyone we meet.

Bitesize

Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to continually be part of unanimity.

Christopher Morley

Education Sunday

9th September

Education Sunday is a day of celebration for all those involved in education. For over a century it has been part of an ecumenical celebration in which the Catholic Church participates. The Catholic Education Service's theme for Education Sunday 2018 is 'Ephphatha - Be Opened!'.

This is a day on which we support the Catholic Education Centre. It's also a day to remember Pope Francis' prayer intention that those in Africa be better placed to access education and jobs.

To do:-

Support '*Build Africa*'. 'Build Africa' is an African education charity that believes in the power of education to help end poverty. The charity works to give children the education they need and fight the inequalities that stand in their way. Visit www.build-africa.org

And **FROM THE DIOCESE**

Today is Education Sunday and there will be a second collection to help fund the important work of the Catholic Education Service, that supports all Catholic Schools in England & Wales, in providing the best possible Catholic education for the children at our schools. Please give generously to this appeal.

If you are interested in supporting the Catholic education of our children by becoming a School Governor, please contact Bill McEntee of the Clifton Diocese at bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com or 0117 9025599 or visit the Clifton Diocesan Schools website <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance>.

Off To Uni'? Check out the Chaplaincy.

Chaplaincies obviously vary from university to university but more often or not the chaplaincy is a daily social drop-in and hub, used by a wide variety of students and staff, and commonly regarded as a "home from home". You can get yourselves hot drinks read the papers, meet others, or sit with your books and laptop. All are made welcome.

Remember the Charity Shops

As Summer draws to a close and you pack away your Summer wardrobe, remember that the children's clothes will probably not fit them this time next year. An ideal time to make up a bag for your local charity shop.

The Triumph of the Holy Cross

14th September

We are called to participate in the struggle against evil in every form: racism, social injustice, oppression, infidelity, dishonesty, and corruption. The Risen Lord wishes to deliver us from all evil. But how? Not by removing every difficulty, but by giving us courage to face it and overcome

it. Our sufferings are stepping-stones to victory. We look to the cross as a symbol of triumph over suffering and the promise of eternal life.

COLLECTION

The collection for w/e 26/8/18 was £316-70.



Twenty Third Sunday

There's a beautiful part of the Rite of Baptism which is, strangely, optional in England and Wales. It's called the *Ephphatha* Rite, taking its name from today's gospel. The priest touches the baby's ears and lips: 'the Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he

soon touch your ears to receive his word and your mouth to proclaim his faith...' For those who witness the miracles of Jesus, this was surely a sign of God's nearness that the prophets had looked forward to and a sign that something *Godly* was taking place. For us who are baptised today's gospel might remind us of that simple call offered to us as disciples – we are to be hearers of God's word. We are invited to allow God's word to make its home within us, to find a shelter in us. But we are also called to be proclaimers of that word, not just in the way we speak but through the way we live. Baptism anoints us and empowers us to be those hearers and those proclaimers... and our world needs to hear the message of God's presence, his love, his compassion and his gentleness through those who have encountered him. Let's keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus, our ears open to his word. Let's have the courage to be messengers of that word this week, in what we say and in what we do, so that the mission of Christ continues in those called to be like him.

Fr James Hanvey SJ 25 September - 7.00pm – St John's Church, South Parade, Bath.

Fr James Hanvey SJ makes a return visit to St John's in Bath for this [third lecture in our series](#) marking the first five years of Pope Francis' pontificate. On Tuesday 25 September, Fr James – Master of Campion Hall, Oxford - helps us consider Francis' vision for the Church of the twenty first (if not the twenty second) century. He will invite us to consider what challenges Pope Francis now faces in leading the Church but also Fr James allows us to reflect upon what challenges *us* as the Church in preaching the Gospel of Christ. How do we give credible, authentic witness today and how does the church Pope Francis shepherds continue to speak a *good news* through its word and example?

THIS WEEK

Psalter 3

Saturday 8 th September	All Day 6.00pm	FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Newent Onion Fayre Mass Lydney	
Sunday 9 th September	9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Collection: Catholic Education Service Mass – Cinderford Mass – Newent Little Church starts again.	Intentions: For the Holy Souls especially the Dead Members of FOSSE & the people of the parish.
Monday 10 th September	7.00pm	Prayer Evening	Gail Holiday
Wednesday 12 th September	10.00am 7.00pm	Liturgy of the Word with Coffee and Chat Byzantine Rite Mass – St Peter's - see below.	
Thursday 13 th September	9.00am	Mass	
Saturday 15 th September	11.00am 6.00pm	Centenary Service for the ROYAL AIRFORCE at the United Reform Church in the centre of Newent Mass Coleford	
Sunday 16 th September	9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Collection Home Mission Society Mass – Cinderford Mass – Newent Taize	

**Everything in this world will pass away. In eternity only Love
will remain.**

Pope Benedict XVI

From An Invitation to Faith

Next Week's Readings: Is 50:5-9; Ps 114; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Ministers of the Word: Would readers available please volunteer?

Ministers of Communion: Silvana Whitton – Jenny Heseltine - Mary Cameron

Looking Forward

BLAISDON MASS

Blaisdon, Friday 5th Oct 7pm and Friday 2nd Nov at 7pm MASS.

Byzantine Rite Mass:

To mark the 70th Anniversary of when the Ukrainian Community in Gloucester first begun to use St Peter's Church for their celebration of the Divine Liturgy, there will be a Byzantine Rite Mass in St Peter's Church, London Road, Gloucester at 7.00pm on Wednesday **September 12th**. Fr Mykola Matwijwskyji, Chancellor of the Apostolic Exarchate for Ukrainians in Great Britain and Fr Lubomyr Pidluskyj, Parish Priest of the Good Shepherd Ukrainian Church in Gloucester will be the main celebrants with Fr Liam and other priests concelebrating. Deacon Tim Meadows will give the homily. The Divine Liturgy will be entirely in English, with a specially formed choir. All are invited to this special celebration.

RAF CENTENARY

As we draw to a close of 100 years since the end of WW1 we now commemorate 100 years of the RAF; which started by the joining of the Royal Flying Corps and the Naval Air Service. Our celebration will also be a joint service with the URC and Our Lady of Lourdes Newent. The service will be led by Rev Pat Phillips on Saturday 15th September at 11am at the URC

I know that there are a few (like myself) who are ex-RAF and I invite you and anyone else to take part in this celebration, to make it really special to say thank you to all the men and women from this area who have served and still serve today.

If you would like to contribute with stories, photos, or memorabilia please contact Tom Heseltine on 01989 750665.

We can see that when we receive the Word like she did, when we share it like she did, it will be fruitful for us like it was for her. We can bear Christ to the world that He came to save, of which we are a part.

Dr Scott Hahn -from What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Mary.

CYMFed Flame 2019

The biggest Catholic Youth event in England & Wales is back! Young people from across the Clifton Diocese aged 14-25 are invited to join Bishop Declan at Flame in Wembley Arena on Saturday 2nd March 2019. Clifton Diocese Youth Ministry are offering ticket, travel & Diocesan scarf all for just £50 per person. Places are filling up fast, so go to www.cliftondiocese.com or contact your Parish Priest for more details and to book your place.

The Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage Triduum During the course of 2018 to 2020 the statue of Our Lady from the Slipper Chapel at the Catholic National Shrine in Walsingham will be taken to each Cathedral in England for a three-day triduum of prayer, as part of the preparation for the re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary in 2020. Each visit will take place between a Thursday and Saturday. Clifton Cathedral dates TBC – for updates please see <http://dowrytour.org.uk/> It will come to Belmont Abbey 11th to 13th October, with schools going on the Friday. See the website for further details.

CELEBRATE Bristol - 27th - 28th October 2018

"See, I am doing a new thing!" - Isaiah 43:19(NIV)

A Conference for the whole family! A non-residential weekend including tailored 'streams' for all ages of children and young adults. This year keynote speakers, Michelle Moran, and David Wells, will be 'unpacking' an exciting theme. In addition there will be workshops, seminars, praise and worship, prayer ministry, Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession. The event is hosted by Catholic Charismatic Renewal at St Bede's Catholic College, BS11 0SU.

Further details to be found at www.celebrateconference.org

Trust and Grant Applications Officer

An exciting opportunity has arisen in the Diocesan Finance Team for a Trust and Grants Applications Officer. This role will involve working closely with parishes to identify fundraising opportunities and researching trust and grant funding organisations to find suitable funding for projects. The role requires experience of preparing and writing funding bids as well as excellent communication skills to deliver fundraising support throughout the Diocese.

The role is full-time and based at Alexander House, Bristol. Salary £27,000 per annum.

*The deadline for applications is **15th September 2018.***

<https://cliftondiocese.com/diocese/working-for-us/>

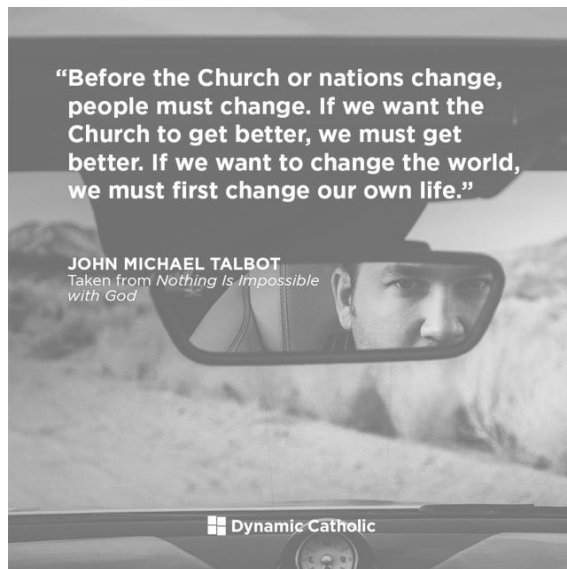
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

13th October 10am to 1pm at Apostle Room Clifton Cathedral.

This formation morning welcomes all those who work to enable the children in our parishes to hear and reflect upon the word of God through Children's Liturgy. For catechists and children's workers. All welcome.

Taizé

Our monthly Taizé evening prayer services are a very simple yet beautiful form of prayer centred around music, scripture, prayer and silence. We regularly welcome members of our own community as well as Christians from surrounding churches. Taizé is ecumenical, international and accessible to all, whether practising Christians or of no faith yet. I strongly recommend you come along and try it, and perhaps bring along that friend or neighbour who would benefit from a gentle introduction to church or just needs a quiet space in a busy week. Instrumentalists are particularly welcome to come and help lead the service. We meet at 6pm on the third Sunday of each month except in August when we join Noah's Camp near Ledbury. The service usually lasts about 45 minutes and concludes with coffee and cake. Please talk to Martin Mason (mjamason@hotmail.com) for more information. The next evening prayer will take place on September 16th.



EXTRA MASS

Fr Barnabas has agreed to say an extra weekday Mass alternating between Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9am. He will start next Tuesday, 11 September, then Thursday the following week and so on...