23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B
9th September 2012

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7
Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, my soul!
Second Reading: James 2:1-5
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
Gospel: Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

YEAR OF GRACE—PRAYER
Gracious God,
You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.
You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives. Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church may be transformed, our relationship be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice.
We make our prayer through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel.
Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.
www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mass, including Children's Liturgy</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
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Baptisms:
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

Marriages:
(6 months notice)
Arranged by appointment.
[Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office]

Reconciliation:
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...

Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, especially Sr Mary Austin, Vincent Kelly, Shannon Hanah-Merrit, Margaret Holgate, Ino West and Sam & Jack Barker and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them.

We pray today for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, especially Thomas O'Connor and Maria Pristov and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God.

May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

PRIVACY LEGISLATION

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. The Parish of St. Ambrose is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation. A copy of the Parish’s Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner by contacting Bernadette at the Parish Office.

CHURCH ROSTERS

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<tr>
<th>Readers</th>
<th>Sept 8th</th>
<th>Joe &amp; Jill Caruana</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 9th</td>
<td>Ted Bartels</td>
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<td>Sept 15th</td>
<td>John Keating</td>
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<td>Sept 16th</td>
<td>Ruth Dejong &amp; Michael Petruccelli</td>
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<td>Special Ministers</td>
<td>Sept 8th</td>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 9th</td>
<td>Mary Welch, Mary Lamach Jones &amp; Bruna Bombig</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 15th</td>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 16th</td>
<td>Vicky Carrick, Bruna Bombig &amp; Rhonda Loret</td>
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<td>Church Cleaning</td>
<td>Sept 10th</td>
<td>Bernadette Petruccelli</td>
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<td>Sept 17th</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Karen O’Loughlan</td>
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<td>Church Flowers</td>
<td>Sept 14th</td>
<td>Rhonda Loret</td>
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<td>Sept 21st</td>
<td>Wedding</td>
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GOSPEL REFLECTION

The prophet Isaiah told the people to have courage and not to fear because their God is coming to save and heal them. When the people brought a deaf and dumb man to Jesus, he healed him in the quietness of a private place. We can find Jesus in the depths of our own hearts, and it is there that he works wonders of healing and forgiveness.

MONDAY AT THE MANOR

Call in at Judy and John Will’s house at Lot 6, Adam Close, around midday this Monday for a sandwich and a chat. Everyone welcome. Anyone needing transport can call Judy and John on 5427 2827.

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES

These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’s world.

Do your best and God will bless your efforts. 1889

The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane

VOCATION VIEW

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom? Chosen to be rich in faith. So take heart, be not afraid, consider your part in God’s Kingdom.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

What is more important—being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith we know that material things really do not matter and we are more willing to share what we have.
**St Ambrose Parish Woodend**

**BAPTISM**
This weekend we welcome into our Parish and Christian community Baylee William & Tyler James King sons of Warren & Telia and Autumn Rose Feist daughter of Robert and Jennifer. May God Bless their family always.

**POSITION VACANT**
Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced person for the position of:
- Payroll Clerk, Catholic Development Fund

**TABOR JOURNEY PROGRAM**
5-7 October 2012 at Templestowe
Tabor Journey is a program for separated, divorced or widowed people coping with the loss, the grief, the heartache and struggle that follows the end of a marriage/relationship. This live-in weekend is designed to provide a reflective time, a time to share, to bring some closure on what has happened and move on with life with greater freedom. For further information phone 52217055 or email geelong@ccam.org.au

**MOTHER & DAUGHTER CAMP 2012**
It is time once more for the annual Mother and Daughter Camp from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th October 2012 at the Don Bosco Camp Safety Beach. The camp is open to all daughters aged 10-16 and all mothers/grandmothers/step mums/aunties etc (of any age!). All are welcome, we always love to see new faces and we also love to catch up with previous participants! For more information or to download a form please go to [www.donboscocamp.org](http://www.donboscocamp.org) or contact Emily on 5987-2692

**ST AMBROSE SCHOOL BOOK FAIR**
The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the School Theatre between Thursday 6th September and Thursday 13th September. Our school receives a commission on all our sales and we use this to purchase books for our Library and Literacy Program.

The book fair is open to the public on Monday 10th Sept 3-4pm, Tuesday 11th Sept 8.30-10am & 2-4pm, Wednesday 12th Sept 8.30-10am & 2-4pm and Thursday 13th Sept 8.30-12 noon.

The teachers have a wish list of books they would like in the school library if you would like to purchase a book to donate to the school. Just ask Helen or Sandy in the Library if interested.

**SIENA CONVENT REUNION**
Did you attend Siena? In form 1 in 1966/67? If so you are warmly invited to our reunion on 7th October 2012, 2-5 at Siena. For more information email Elizabeth Minogue Cosstick@netspace.net.au or Jane McGloin 0437665529 RSVP 14th Sept 2012.

**MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER**
The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will hold their Annual Mission Fair on Saturday 13 October 9am-3pm at 154 Cotham Road, Kew. Proceeds from this year’s Fair will be directed to assist in the work of missionaries in their service to the poor in the Kisumu Diocese, Kenya. Come along and help support these people in their work. Enquiries Ph 98173715

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**
We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30th September. This year’s Social Justice Statement is titled: ‘The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The social and economic challenges facing families today’. The statement celebrates the vital role of family in our society and examines the pressures that threaten its stability. Work demands, living costs and forces of consumerism are some aspects of our society that impact on families. As Christians we are called to be supportive of all families, especially those in crisis and greatest need.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 83063499.

**THANK YOU**
The Development Office of the Archdiocese of Melbourne would like to sincerely that the parish community of St Ambrose Woodend for responding to the invitation to support the vital work of Catholic Chaplains in our community and generously donating $250. Your generosity will assist the Archdiocese to expand Chaplaincy Services and provide further resources in a range of settings and areas of disadvantage and directly to those parishes that hold responsibility for spiritual and pastoral care in the larger public hospitals. It will also support Catholic Chaplains are a tangible sign of the presence of God’s care at moments of great suffering and vulnerability, and with your kind support of our Catholic Chaplains—Companions of Hope, they will continue to provide love and care to people in times of greatest need.
First Reading  Is 35:4-7
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
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.
The word of the Lord.

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
A reading from the letter of St James
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 the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.
The word of the Lord.

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
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
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.’
The Gospel of the Lord.

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.
The Living Word 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Wordsearch
Try to find these words:
amazed  Decapolis  hear
begged  Effatha  heaven
crowd  fingers  ten
deaf  good  tongue

Jesus travelled to the land of Decapolis.

Finish the story of Jesus healing the deaf man by adding the missing words and pictures.

A crowd of people _______ Jesus to heal a man who was _______ and could not speak properly.

Jesus touched the man’s _______ and tongue and said, ‘Effatha!’, meaning ‘______ up’.

The man was very happy because now he could hear and talk! The people praised Jesus.

St Peter Claver was born in Spain in 1581 AD. After studying at the University of Barcelona, he became a Jesuit at the age of 20. St Peter was influenced by St Alphonsus Rodriguez to become a missionary in the Americas, where he ministered both physically and spiritually to the African slaves. He spent the next 40 years working for the humane treatment of slaves on plantations, and he reportedly converted some 300,000 African slaves to Christianity. Within the Spanish community living in America, St Peter organised charitable societies, similar to those organised by St Vincent de Paul across Europe. He said of the slaves, “We must speak to them with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips.”