



The Priory Church of Jesus Christ Ascot

TODAY

Choral evensong 6:30pm

The Priory is closed on Tuesday

Monday, Wednesday - Friday

8:30am Morning Prayer

9:00am Mass

5:00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday September 16th

Edward Bouverie Pusey

10:00am Holy Eucharist

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Your words gladden the heart, O Lord, they give light to the eyes. **Alleluia.**

Hymn: 25

For your prayers this week

Pray for the Diocese of Harare (Central Africa) Bp. Chad Gandiya. Jonathan our Bishop and the Bishops and Parishes of the Society. Bp Martyn Jarrett. St Martin & St. Paul, Tipton, Rev. John Dunn. St John the Evangelist, Tipton, Fr Simon Sayer. Holy Cross, Tividale, Fr Martin Ennis. St. Michael the Archangel, Tividale, Fr Martin Ennis. Christ Church, Tunstall, Fr John Stather.

Pray for this Priory, Fr. Paul and the Trustees

Pray for the peace of the world.

Pray for those in need: the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, for refugees, for all victims of terrorism, cruelty or abuse, the lonely, the frightened, the despairing and the bereaved.

Pray for those who are sick or in need: Simon, Naomi, Derek, Barbara, Ray, Patti, Lisa, Helen, Karen, Jacqui, Pam, Duncan, Marion, Marjorie, James, Nigel, Allan, Heather, Angela, Warren, Barry, Sr Catherine, Ruth, Gillian, Clive, Bp Damien, Fr Chris, Shaun, Jim, Fr James.

Pray for the departed Fr. Charles Lowder, Fr. Henry Liddon, Bp. Robert Mortimer, Fr. Bernard Clements, James Riddell, Sr Mary of the Transfiguration, Fr. Charles Marriott, Mother Elizabeth Bertha, Harold Rowsell, Bp. Geoffrey Fisher.

Readings for next Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38.



By the time of Jesus Isaiah 35 (1st Reading) was understood as pointing to the coming of the Messiah. So when the messengers from the jailed Baptist ask Jesus if he is the "one who is to come," Jesus' answer alludes to this passage: "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear" (Luke 7:22). Implication: if the end-time healings are happening, maybe the end-time agent, the Messiah, is indeed present among them.

This helps us to understand Mark's account of Jesus healing the deaf-mute of Decapolis. Mark's choice of a rare word to describe the man's speech impediment, "mogilalos" ("mute, incapable of speech"), demonstrates that he wants us to remember Isaiah 35 when we read his account of this healing. That word appears only twice in the whole Bible: in the passage from Isaiah (Isa 35:6) and in this account of Mark.

Today's Gospel is a good example of the way all the evangelists view the accounts of Jesus' healing, that is, from two perspectives: (1) they describe Jesus' healing the physically disabled, and (2) they also symbolise the power of the risen Lord to heal from spiritual blindness, lameness, deafness, and muteness. The cue to look for the symbolic dimension in this Sunday's Gospel (healing from spiritual deafness and muteness) comes in the next chapter, at Mk 8:17-18, where Jesus asks his disciples, "Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear?" Questions that he also addresses to us.

So maybe today is a good time to ask the Lord to bless us with the prayer, "Ephphatha" ("Be opened!"). The better we can hear the Gospel, the better we can live it.

Warden: Fr. Paul McLaren-Cook.

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