

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 4-7

A prophecy about the destruction of God's enemies.

Second Reading: James 2: 1-5.

James warns us that all men, whether rich or poor, deserve respect.

Gospel: Mark 7: 31-37.

Jesus fulfils the words of Isaiah: the dumb speak and the deaf hear.



Points for Reflection

- The coming of God, through Jesus Christ, into our history, is an event, which brings salvation.** For those who, by faith, accept Christ into their lives, that event has a healing effect. (*"The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped... and the tongue of the speechless shall speak for joy."*) This is the main theme of today's Scripture Readings.
 - But how should we accept Christ, so that we may be "healed" by Him?** The answer is supplied by the way Jesus deals with the deaf man. Before healing him, *"Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd..."* This is to signify that:
 - Our opening to Christ and our healing by Christ takes place only **on one condition: that we have a personal encounter with Him.** Christians, though members of the People of God, are never just numbers; they always remain people, who with all their strength, open themselves to and believe in another Person, Jesus Christ. If we think that, in order to be a real Christian, it is enough to belong to the Church or to be one of those who go to church on Sundays or to belong to a Catholic association, then we do not understand the essence of being a Christian.
 - Christians are not those who leave a non-Christian crowd and enter the Christian crowd without experiencing any inner change. Christians are those who, by the strength of God, **open themselves to something – Somebody – absolutely new.**
- The miracle makes us understand, through visible signs, what happens in a man who has allowed Christ to take full possession of his life. **A radical change takes place in him:** from not being able to hear or speak, he becomes capable of hearing and speaking. He can hear God and announce Him. He can hear the Word of God (Christ) and announce Him.
 - True Christians are those who come out of their loneliness, selfishness and pride, and give a new sense to life by following Christ and serving their brethren.** True Christians are those who have given up the idea of building a life on their own. Instead, they put all their trust in God and in Jesus Christ.
 - It is not an anonymous and colourless crowd that can announce the Good News of salvation to non-Christians, but **rather the community of those who continually listen to the Word of God, live it daily in themselves through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and, as a result of this, are able to witness it to the world, starting from those they meet in their daily lives.**

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Parish Council Chairlady:	Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322
Eucharistic Celebrations: Sundays: 9.00 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese) Anticipated Sunday Masses Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8.00 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese)	
Confessions: Sundays before Mass and during the 7.45 am Mass Weekdays on call	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 st Thursday of the month: 8.00 pm	

Kids' Corner

Colour the picture below based on today's Gospel reading.

