

PARISH NOTICES

Welcome to St John's If you are new to the church, please make yourself known to one of the clergy or the welcomers. After the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of church. Please stay if you can.

Today's readings The prophet Isaiah's vocation is to call his people back to God with renewed faith and commitment. Today's reading tells us that if they hear and respond the result will be startling: the desert will be transformed into fertile land, and God's people restored to wholeness.

Last week's reading from the letter of St James told us that our faith must reveal itself in action and specifically in the love we show towards other people. Now he goes on to be specific: Christians must never give preference to people who are well-to-do or have a high social position. Jesus was no respecter of status, and his followers should imitate him. Our Lord loves both poor and rich, educated and uneducated - he gave his life for everyone. So we should not put people into categories according to external appearance.

In the Gospel today we find Jesus in pagan territory where he will make Isaiah's prophecy a reality: the deaf will hear, the dumb will be able to speak. And speak is what those who witnessed this miracle do, in spite of Jesus's instruction that they should 'tell no one about it'. The Lord's command 'Ephphatha, be opened' brought hearing and speech to one man, astonishment and the inability to keep quiet about it to witnesses. And to us - the burning desire to tell others about Jesus? Pray that it may.

There is no **Bible Study** this week, but do prepare for next Sunday's Mass by looking at the readings:

Isaiah 50: 5-9 St James 2: 14-18 St Mark 8: 27-35

Working party Thank you to everyone who gave time to help yesterday. If you didn't make it this time, there will be other opportunities!

Please take note of the information about the Macmillan Coffee Morning at St Andrew's on 27th September, the Harvest appeal for Turning Tides, and date of the parish pilgrimage to Walsingham next year - all on the table near the south door.

To contact the clergy:

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THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, WEST WORTHING

8th September 2024

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8.00 am Mass

10.00 am Parish Mass (Hymns NEH 415, 348, 378, 306, 434) Intention: The Parish

6.00 pm Evening Prayer and Benediction

Monday 9th September 10.00 am Mass Those who are hostile to the faith
Feria

Tuesday 10th September 6.30 pm Mass Bishops
Feria

Wednesday 11th September 11.00 am Mass The world's poor
Feria

Thursday 12th September 9.00 am Mass Peace and reconciliation
Feria

Friday 13th September 10.30 am Mass *at St Andrew's* Preachers
St John Chrysostom

Saturday 14th September 9.30 am Mass Thanksgiving
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Please pray for:

The sick: Wendy Oakeshott, Jack, Reg Parker, Ros Cole, Emma Perry

The recently departed:

Those whose anniversaries occur this week:

8 Noel Whiffen, Elton Terry, Wilfred Brown

9 Arthur Beale *priest*

10 Susanna Howard, Mary Dawson, Frederick Maddaford

11 Doris Johns, Mary Green

13 Bob Chaplin