

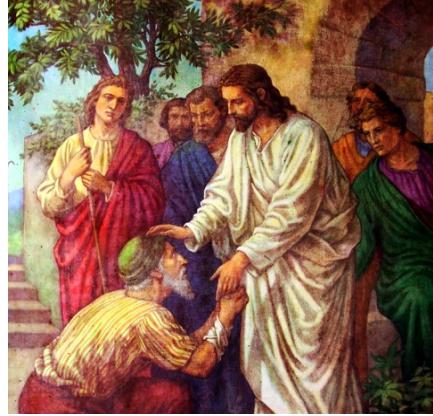
Twenty-third Sunday (Year B)

5th September 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a green cloth on the table or floor (green – the colour for Ordinary Time)

Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: In today's gospel, Jesus heals a man who cannot hear or speak properly. The people who saw this are amazed at Jesus' amazing works of healing.

Opening prayer:

Lord God, let us listen to your voice and come to you when we need help or healing in our lives.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark (7:31-37)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Jesus left the region around Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward Lake Galilee. He went through the land near the ten cities known as Decapolis. Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk. They begged Jesus to just touch him.

After Jesus had taken him aside from the crowd, he stuck his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and put it on the man's tongue. Jesus looked up toward heaven, and with a groan he said, "Effatha!" which means "Open up!" At once the man could hear, and he had no more trouble talking clearly.

Jesus told the people not to say anything about what he had done. But the more he told them, the more they talked about it. They were completely amazed and said, "Everything he does is good! He even heals people who cannot hear or talk."

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the video together

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQtlesAAWZA&t=131s>

Jesus heals a Deaf Man <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYuksIX6XnY>

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder what your favourite part of the story was...

I wonder if the man who was healed, had a name...

I wonder why Jesus took the man aside from the crowd...

I wonder how the man was feeling when Jesus took him aside...

I wonder if you know how other people's belief in Jesus has changed them ...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVkJQ> (4 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(*We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders: may be open to caring for all people.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for those who are in the process of receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. That the Holy Spirit will strengthen them in their faith and relationship with God.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for those members of our Church who are seeking healing and truth. May their hearts be led even closer to Jesus.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for those who feel burdened, hurt or lost, that they find healing and comfort in Jesus.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: We lift up our hearts and the prayers of our community. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing song: Open My Eyes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo6gZAUuQ3E> (2:53mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**

Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).

- **My Listening Ears Craft**

Make a head band to remember how lucky we are to have ears for listening and important it is to listen to others. <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/8TAbMLBpc.htm>

- **Colouring in**

<https://sermons4kids.com/jesus-heals-deaf-man-colorpg.htm>

- **Family Connection**

Discuss times that you have been unwell and talk about what helped you to get better. *As you gather as a family... celebrate Jesus' healing presence in our lives by giving thanks to God for the gift of healing and health.* <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>