

# Parish Newsletter

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 9 SEPTEMBER 2018  
CYCLE B | ISSUE 41

One of the problems for the hearing impaired is that crowded situations, even a meeting where more than one person speaks at once, can overwhelm their hearing aid. There is not one but many sources of sound coming at them, and technology simply cannot isolate the sound they wish to tune into from all the others.

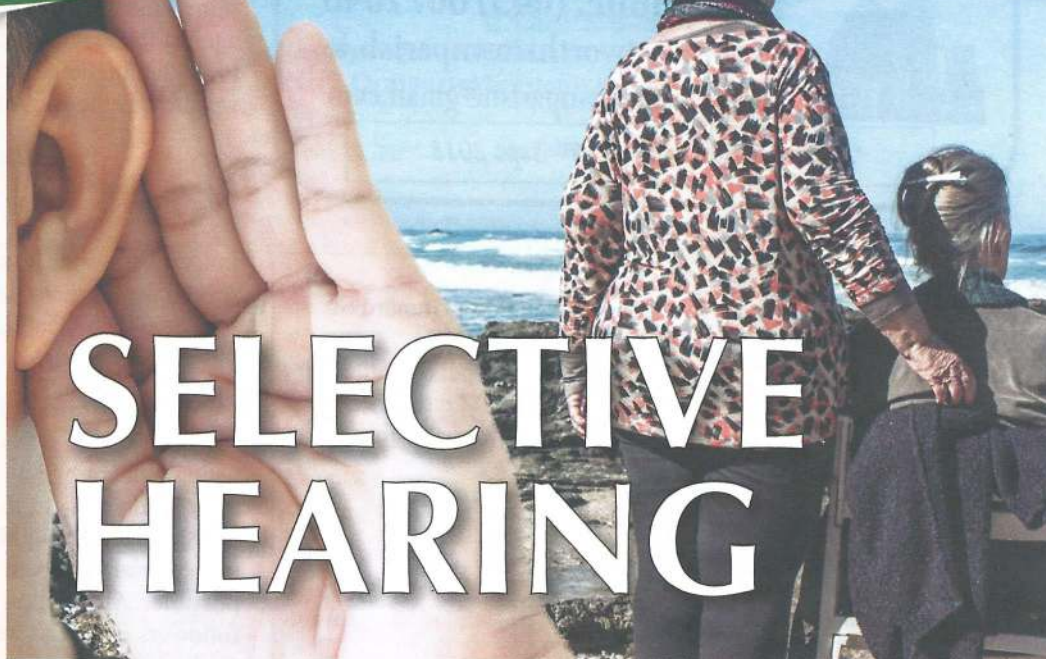
One can only wonder for the man whose ears were closed and tongue was silenced – what was it like when Jesus touched and healed him?

Having been unable to hear, a whole new world of sound and speech is now open to him.

What was closed is now open. This is what happens when Jesus heals us. What was closed is open. So what is closed in us?

Sometimes we're definitely hearing but selectively listening. There are many jokes about males and females with the former being accused of selectively hearing the latter. Or the man who went home with his hearing completely restored by a new device. One month later when the GP said how pleased his family must be with the restoration of hearing – his patient confessed that he hadn't told anyone, just listened to conversations and changed his last will and testament three times!

As the quantity of communication has increased – perhaps the quality has decreased. We increasingly tend to live in echo-chambers of communication, where



## SELECTIVE HEARING

we only interact with people who think like us and, in “social media” terms, we can shield out/mute/block/unfollow/unfriend those we disagree with.

We are resistant and our resistance closes us in on ourselves. We don't want a new world opened to us. Sometimes we are content to keep things just the way they are. It's easier that way as change hurts and we may feel that we have changed enough already.

Our Second Reading names it directly as being judgemental and shutting our eyes and ears to one (usually the poor) whilst welcoming the rich. When we make distinctions among ourselves we close ourselves to the gift that each person is.

Being closed shows itself in stubbornness, addiction, fixations, anger, hostility, restlessness and complacency. We may shut in and shut out, but God is having none of it (First Reading). He opens what is closed and clears what is blocked.

What do we need to be healed? It may be physical of course, but for

many it is healing from the hurts of life. The whole Pandora's box of distress, unhappiness, worries, anxieties and conflicts, needs His touch, and we need to be opened up as we are closed.

Healing from a feeling of distress or unhappiness. Healing from worry about the future. Healing from anxiety about a family member or friend. Healing because of an unresolved issue or conflict that's gnawing away inside.

To all this Jesus says “Be opened”. ■  
– Tom Cox

### Reflection

Imagine that you yourself are the one touched and healed by Jesus. What do you feel?

### Lesson

Jesus makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

### Prayer

Lord of hearing and speech, put your fingers into my ears that I may hear your word. Place your hand upon my lips that I may proclaim the Good News I hear. Amen.

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS



Isaiah 50:5-9  
Psalm 114:1-6,8-9  
James 2:14-18  
Mark 8:27-35

### THIS WEEK (10-16 SEPTEMBER)

- 10 **Mon** St Nicolas of Tolentino
- 11 **Tue** St Deiniol, bishop
- 12 **Wed** The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 13 **Thur** St John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor
- 14 **Fri** THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
- 15 **Sat** Our Lady of Sorrows
- 16 **Sun** 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME