



08 September 2024

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time –B  
(Day of the Girl – Child)



### Introduction:

In today's first reading, Isaiah reassures the exiles that God has not abandoned them, signs of His coming are evident when the deaf hear, the mute speak, the lame walk, and the blind see. The Psalm echoes this, proclaiming God's faithfulness in providing for His people. This promise is fulfilled with Jesus' coming. Ironically, in today's Gospel, Jesus heals a deaf mute in pagan territory, highlighting the disbelief of the chosen people who had become deaf to His message. As we celebrate the Nativity of our Blessed Mother, she exemplifies openness to God's Word, recognizing His signs, and courageously cooperating in His plan of salvation.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35: 4-7a  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 146: 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10  
**Second Reading:** James 2: 1-5  
**Gospel:** Mark 7: 31-37

### Prayers of the Faithful

**Celebrant:** Compassionate Father, through the birth and life of our Blessed Mother, Mary, You show us how we are called to be a part of Your plan of salvation. Through her intercession, we place before You our petitions as we pray: *Gracious Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Pope, Bishops, Priests and Religious – that they may teach and guide the faithful to be open to receive God's Word and courageously bear witness to their faith ...*(brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For world leaders and those in positions of authority – that they may actively work for the protection and empowerment of the girl child ...*(brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For the sick and those physically and mentally challenged – that in their helplessness and suffering they may experience the consoling love and healing touch of God through those who reach out to them ...*(brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For all Christians – that as we celebrate the Nativity of our Blessed Mother, we may we may seek to imitate her example of faith in God's Word and complete surrender to His will ...*(brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For the girl child, that age-old harmful attitudes and prejudices towards them may cease, thus giving a new lease of equality in growth to girl children... ...*(brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord

In silence, we bring to the Lord our personal petitions ... *(longer silent pause)*... We pray to the Lord

**Celebrant:** We thank you Father for listening to all these prayers we make in faith, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

–[www.liturgycentrebandra.org](http://www.liturgycentrebandra.org)