

**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## Not with my word

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*Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his*

*tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. (Luke 1: 57-66)*

Zechariah's refusal to give his new-born son his own name or a name within the family, but instead a name inspired by Heaven marks the end of his muteness. Zechariah was a priest and, as such, had to speak not with his own words but with God's. Let us pray for priests, parents and catechists, so that they always teach the Word of God and not their own.