

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom / and healed all who were sick / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Woman, you have great faith.*

Jesus left Caesarea and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him, 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

✠ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Reflections on the Gospel

## FAITH THAT BREAKS BOUNDARIES

The perseverance and faith of the desperate Canaanite woman in today's Gospel is all the more striking because of the rebuff that she initially receives. Jesus' treatment of her is, at first sight, one of the most disturbing things in the Gospels. At first, he ignores her, then he insists that his mission is restricted to Israel. Finally, he rebuffs her with a heartless image about not throwing the children's food to dogs.

Instead of taking offence at what the image implies for her and her people, the woman seizes upon it and, with superb wit, turns it to her own advantage. Certainly, food prepared for the children is not intended for domestic animals. But children eat untidily. That provides opportunity for pet dogs under the table to gobble up the scraps that fall.

Developing the image in this way, the woman boldly challenges the restriction of Jesus' messianic mission to Israel alone, and wins from him recognition that he is Messiah not only for the Jews but also the One 'in whose name Gentiles (non-Jews, like herself) will place their hope' (Matthew 12:21).

The boundary-breaking faith of this woman of Canaan foreshadows the great mission to the nations of the world, upon which, at the end of the Gospel, the risen Lord will send the infant Church (Matthew 28:16-20).

But the woman also stands in for women of faith of all times, including our own, who challenge outworn structures and restricted vision that can cause the Church to lag behind the outreach of God's grace.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time / A

## FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain,*

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

✠ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v 8

**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

16 August 2020

# THE SAVING WORD



## SECOND READING

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.*

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

✠ The word of the Lord.



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Parish Priest:  
Secretary:

Fr Vic Ignacio MS -  
Ms Bern Press

02 6746 1133  
Mon & Tues 9.00 - 11.00am  
Friday 9.00am - 12.00pm



16th August 2020 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Please Pray For Those Who Have Died

#### Recently Deceased:

**Deceased:** Walely O'Donnell  
**Anniversary:** Dorothy & Harold Mann; Jack Tinson; Marj Thomson; Beryl Meredith; Sheila McNamara; Anthony T O'Donnell; Ena O'Donnell; Victorino Ignacio; Jesse Ignacio; Patricia Mason; Joe Gigg; Bill Norman Jr; Bill Norman Sr; Ron O'Dwyer; Dominic Bower; Eric Robinson; Lorna Matheson; Alan Reading Sr; Helen Hill; Anne Gae; Elouise Harrison; Bernie Howard; Clare Perkins; Tiny Stockdale; Margaret Heath; Sue Schumaker; John Egan; Eleanor Heyman; Maureen Penfally; Roy Smith; Cas Reading; May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God Rest in Peace. Amen.

#### And for those who are ill:

David Seiler; Rila Looney; Bobbie Paton; Fr John Willis; Judy Purcell; Fr John McHugh; Molly, Joel & Charlie Imeson; Clare Currie; Bill Gleeson; Billy Godden; Ros Turton; Gavin Sewell; Ian Gallagher; Michael Guyer; Fiona Nolan; Gail Martin; Wendy Brown; Sue Thomson; Lucy Gigg; Father Pat O'Neill; Tom Sanderson; Colleen Hyatt; Michael McCormick; Dan O'Donnell; Marie Dalton; Jack Dunn; Colin Gallagher; Andrew McManus; Ivy Taylor; Joan Greenlee; Rosalyn Chan; and all the members of the Parish who are ill.

#### Roster

22/8/2020 R: W Rheinberger  
EM:  
G:  
23/8/2020 R: D Davidson & M Corbould  
EM:  
G:  
C: D Ryan & T Verweken

#### Coming Events

- Social Justice Sunday 30th August
- Christen Mass - Monday 14th September with Mass at 5.00pm, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Peter's Pence Collection - 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi

### Coronavirus

#### The following must be observed at all Masses:

1. Please sign-in on the log-sheets every time you enter the church.
2. Sanitise your hands, observe physical distancing and sit on allocated seats
3. **No congregational singing, only Father to sing;** no Sign of Peace.
4. Printed bulletins are for single use only and must not be reused by other people
5. One single line during Holy Communion.

#### Saints to Remember

St John Eudes - Memorial - 19th  
St Bernard - Memorial - 20th  
St Pious X - Memorial - 21st  
The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Memorial - 22nd

#### Priests Retirement Foundation Appeal and Good Shepherd Appeal

Clergy Education and Retired Clergy Collection have been combined into one collection which will be conducted on 9th August 2020 to coincide with the conclusion of National Vocations Awareness Week. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please stipulate if you wish for your donation to go to one particular fund otherwise it will be split 50/50. Envelopes on the back table.

#### Visiting the Sick and Infirm

Please feel welcome to take a copy of the details in reference to Father Vic and Special Ministers of the Eucharist visiting Parishioners who are sick in hospital or are "house bound". This notice is available on the table at the back of the Church. If you have any further question please speak with Father Vic.

Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. Rebuke him, O God, we humbly beseech thee; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the diving power, cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



#### Memorare

Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for me on Calvary. Remember also the care you have always taken to keep me faithful to Christ your Son. After having done so much for your child, you will not now abandon me. Inspired by this consoling thought, I come to cast myself at your feet in spite of my infidelities and ingratitude. Do not reject my prayer, O merciful Virgin, but intercede for my conversion, obtain for me the grace to love Jesus above all things, and to console you by a holy life, that I may one day see you in heaven. Amen.

Our Lady of La Salette reconciler of Sinners  
Pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to thee.

Planned Giving \$335.00+ \$0.00 = \$335.00

First Collection \$409.80