



Gospel Mt 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret 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.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

A *pagan* woman approaches a Jewish man and she begs Jesus to heal her daughter.

Jesus gives a dismissive answer to the woman: 'It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the house dogs.' The children are obviously the Jewish people.

This remarkable *pagan* woman stands her ground and engages in a verbal joust with Jesus! She argues: 'Yes, Lord, but even the house dogs get the crumbs that fall from their master's table.'

Jesus recognises *her* faith and the daughter was healed. This story was put in the Gospels to show how Jesus extended his saving mission to non-Jews in Pagan territory.

That is Good News for billions of non-Jewish people over the course of history since then and into the future. That is why we are truly 'Catholic', which, as you know, is the Greek for 'world-wide'.

We could pause for a moment to celebrate this Canaanite woman as the first 'Catholic'!

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The Living Word

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

16 August 2020

First Reading Is 56:1.6-7

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(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.)

Second Reading Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

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.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

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SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Mon 8:30am, Tues 7:00pm, Wed 8:30am, Thur 8:30am, Fri 7:00am,
Sat 8:30am. Public Holidays 8:30am

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: 21st Ordinary (A) Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20.

Fr Stan writes ...

Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all. What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter? When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. This week let us invite our own family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer our prayers.

Dear friends, from this weekend I will be in isolation preparing for my hip replacement surgery on 28th August. During my absence, the parish will be in good hands with the help of Fr George and Fr Anthony. I humbly ask you to remember me in your prayers.

Our Flame Gift Shop is OPEN! Check out the great selection of cards and gifts for all occasions. Come in and visit us and see our range of sacramental and general gifts. There is something for everyone. All proceeds benefit our parish!



HELP is NEEDED to transport good quality church furniture and other items for our next container for the Papua New Guinea Missions.

The day is set for Saturday 22nd August.

If you are strong and willing to help, please call Jason Hodges on 0421 059 858

Parent Line: 1300 1300 52

Many families are in the midst of or are facing serious challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and need extra support but don't know where to start. Parent Line can help parents by providing support and strategies to manage. Call us 7 days a week on 1300 1300 52.

COVID-19 Update

The NSW Government has recommended parishioners **wear face masks** when attending religious services as an additional safeguard to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

Church attendance numbers are limited to a maximum of 100 people, providing there is a four square metre space around each person, with the exception of people from the same household.

All parishes must ensure that their churches are not left unattended when their doors are open and must keep written records with names and contact details of everyone who comes into the church at any time and these records must be kept for at least 4 weeks.

We welcome into our Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism

Lachlan Robert Jones and S. A. Nethari Mikaela Rathnayaka

and congratulate their families.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Barbara Kortynski, Dorota Gorzkowski.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Victor Pau Woo, Frank Lukas, Ronald Madafiglio, Buena Delos Santos, Gina Rubino recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Orlando Dalumpines, Rosalina Cruz, Jose Siochi, John McAndrew, Zeina Hassarati, Donato Mallari, Leonard Charlier and the deceased members of the Di Tano, Smith, Shewan, Holland, Granger, Spora, Kearins, Zammit and Zahra families.

Prayer for the end of the virus

Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.