

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 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.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2020

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

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.**



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.



Please pray for: Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 16th August 2020 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sunday, 16 Aug	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 16 Aug	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 17 Aug	12.35 pm	Monday, 20th Week – Ordinary Time
Tuesday, 18 Aug	12.35 pm	Tuesday, 20th Week – Ordinary Time
Wednesday, 19 Aug	12.35 pm	St John Eudes, priest (Optional)
Thursday, 20 Aug	12.35 pm	St Bernard, abbot, doctor (Memorial)
Friday, 21 Aug	12.35 pm	St Pius X, pope (Memorial)
Saturday, 22 Aug	No Mass	Queenship of Blessed Mary (Memorial)


Regular Confession Times in St Benedict's Church:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)

Mass at St James' Church, Forest Lodge:

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm
Sunday: 8 am, 9.30 am & 11 am
Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am
Saturday (morning): 8.30am

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the **Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office** on ph 02 9390 5812.



Entrance Antiphon:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Communion Antiphon:

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

Saint John Eudes – was born in France in 1601 and had an outstanding education before his ordination as an Oratorian priest. After years as an effective preacher, he concluded that the best way to bring Christ to the poor was to form educated, zealous priests. So, John Eudes founded four seminaries, the Congregation of Jesus and of Mary (the Eudists) to direct seminaries, the Institute of Our Lady of Charity to care for girls, and fostered devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Saint Bernard – was born near Dijon, France in 1090. He joined the impoverished, reformed abbey of Clairvaux at the age of 21. Soon became the founder and abbot of Clairvaux and pioneered the reform and expansion of the Cistercian Order. A prolific writer on theology and spirituality, an eloquent preacher and an adviser of popes and kings. He is remembered as the most influential churchman of his age, for his inspirational leadership and for his devotion to the humanity of Christ and to the Blessed Virgin. Saint Bernard died at Clairvaux on 20th August, 1153.

Saint Pius – was born Giuseppe Sarto at Riese, Italy in 1835. Elected pope in 1903 after being bishop of Mantua and patriarch of Venice. In pursuit of his motto, 'to renew all things in Christ', he initiated reforms of the liturgy and of canon law and took stern measures against 'modernist' trends in theology. His efforts to avert world war were frustrated. He is remembered for his poverty and for his promotion of liturgical participation, especially of frequent communion, to which he admitted young children. Saint Pius X died in Rome on 20th August 1914.

ACBC National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 – is being offered as a free online event for registered participants. The program will be delivered in 4 pre-recorded 1 hour sessions; each offering input from a variety of speakers and musicians, along with Q&A for group discussion or individual reflection. The aim of the gathering is to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission. The Program is available from Saturday 15th August. Go to – www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

***Sunday 30th August is Social Justice Sunday, 2020** – please see next weekend's bulletin for this year's Social Justice Statement theme and further details.

JRS Appeal for Foodbank Donations

The Jesuit Refugee Service mobile foodbank is a huge and growing operation. Since 1st April, they have collectively fed more than 5,000 women, children and men who have lost jobs, been excluded from Federal Gov't financial support and cannot return home. In one week alone, JRS fed more than 800 people. Their stocks of rice, pasta, oil, tuna and long life milk are **running low** and they need our help. Please visit – <http://jrs.org.au/how-to-help-refugees-and-people-seeking-.../> to learn how you can help. Food drop off points are around Sydney, including Two Wolves Cantina, Cnr Broadway & City Road. And this short video shows what happens to food donations that are made – <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=293160638622911>

Saturday 15th August 2020 also marks the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day at the end of WWII – 75 years since those wonderful images of people dancing for joy in the streets. The bells rang out from our bell tower and all others around the country in celebration of the end of WWII in the Pacific, on this day, 15th August (feast of the Assumption) 75 years ago! There are parishioners still living in the parish and around Sydney who were at Mass in St Benedict's Church on this day. One of those parishioners, now in his nineties, recently recalled this moment and said he'll never forget hearing our bells ring on 15th August, 1945. See the next page for a few nice pics.

A VOCATION VIEW: 'There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge; that is curiosity. There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others; that is vanity. There are those who seek knowledge to serve; that is love.' *Saint Bernard of Clairvaux*

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – this feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century as the 'Falling asleep of the Mother of God.' It was adopted in Rome in the mid-seventh century and was renamed the 'Assumption' in the next century. It celebrates Mary's passing over, body and soul, from this world into the glory of her risen Son.

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary – this feast was established by Pius XII in 1955. Since 1969, it has been celebrated on 22nd August to emphasise its relationship to the Assumption; taken up into glory, Mary became the queen of heaven and earth.

Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – Here is the link to this Sunday's Mass – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (16th August 2020) – <https://youtu.be/kfwv2ps06IA>

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Parish Safeguarding Volunteer Online Induction Training, Working With Children Check & Code of Conduct St Benedict's Parish, Chippendale (Broadway) requires all of our volunteers to complete the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer online training, obtain a Working With Children Check and sign a Code of Conduct. It is MANDATORY that volunteers in all parishes comply with the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office training. Please contact Julie in the parish office on 8204 4378 or email – enquiries@stbenedicts.org.au to obtain the link to the online training and required forms which will be sent to you via email. Thank you.

