

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.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

20 AUGUST 2023

GOD OPEN TO NEW WAYS

For the people of Israel, Isaiah's words about all nations coming to worship in Jerusalem would have been a source of great disquiet, consternation, and surprise. Surely, they were the chosen people and as such stood apart from the nations that surrounded them. It is perhaps difficult for us to imagine their horror at the idea that Gentiles would have the effrontery to worship in the Lord's own temple in Jerusalem. Isaiah goes further and points out that all this will happen with God's blessing.

Paul speaks at a time when Gentiles had come to accept Jesus, but many Jews had not. His problem was to work out how this possibly fits into the tapestry of God's saving plan. He came to see that by means of Israel's non-acceptance, a way was opened for the Gentiles. This would serve as a prompt for other Jews to accept Jesus and so pave the way for the general resurrection of the dead.

The Canaanite woman shouting out to Jesus clearly unhinged the disciples. In the first place, they were in Gentile territory, in the second place she was advertising to all and sundry that Jesus and his companions were Jewish, in the third place Jesus seemed to be turning a deaf ear to the woman's request. Ultimately both the disciples, and Matthew's readers must come to terms with the fact that faith, and God's response to it, recognises no boundaries. The loving mother's persistence and faith will have its just reward.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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.**



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www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION AND DEVOTION

Weekday Mass: Monday - 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days);

Tuesday to Thursday - 7:30am (followed by Holy Rosary); Friday - 5pm

Weekend Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday - 8am, 9:30am, 6pm

CCC Mass: Sunday at 12noon (English/Cantonese)

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday 4pm-5pm

First Friday Devotion: Monthly at 4pm

First Saturday Mass and Devotion: Monthly at 9am

Exposition and Benediction: First weekend of the month at all Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday 4pm-4:45pm and Saturday 4:30pm-5:15pm

SCAN OUR
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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

20 Aug 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Death Anniversary: Simon Heng, James (Jimmy) Radburn

Deceased: Sr Zita Barron, Alan Olmes and Ken How, Selwyn Jackson, Don Raffin, Peter McNamara, Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott and Stewart families; Geoff & Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Brayon

Sick: Terence Cahill, Noelene Wilkinson, Barbara Hall, Dennis Ho, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

St Pius X Aug 21, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug 22, St Bartholomew Aug 24

PARISH NEWS:

- Welcome to all school families participating in our Eucharistic celebration this weekend!
- **Thank you for your generosity, we raised \$5039.75 towards the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) August Appeal.** Through your support we can continue with our mission to provide care for the most vulnerable in our community. Envelopes still available in the church foyer
- **The Archdiocese Father's Day Appeal** will happen on Sunday 3rd September in support of the Priests' Retirement Foundation - caring for our retired priests, and honouring their lifetime service to our community.
- **Next Baptism Info Evening:** Tuesday 5th Sep at 8pm in the Parish Office Meeting Room.
- Next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Sat 2nd Sept at 7am in the Haseler Centre.
- If you know a parishioner who would like to receive **Holy Communion at home** because they are sick and/or unable to go to Church, please contact the parish office: Ph 9874 2533.
- **RCIA PROGRAM:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of Christian formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. If you know anyone who is interested to participate in this program, please encourage them to contact the parish office: Ph 9874 2533 or Email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au. There is no pressure or

obligation to those enquiring to become Catholic. Register now for 2023-2024 program!

- **UPCOMING READERS TRAINING** by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Liturgy Office on *Sat Oct 7 and 14, 9am-12pm at the Haseler Centre (Parish Hall)*. To register go to: <https://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/ministry-training-formation/> For info contact the parish office.
- **If you wish to offer a Mass for the sick, deceased or other occasions**, please collect a 'Mass Offering' envelope in the church foyer. Please include the date, time (any of our usual parish Mass times), and the name of the person who you wish to pray for. You may tick the box 'For Publication' if you wish for the name to be in the parish bulletin for 2 weekends.
- **If you have left something in the church** (e.g. bible, sunglasses, water bottles, etc.), please check the **LOST PROPERTY** tub in the church foyer/main entrance. Thank you.
- **The Angels - Messengers from a loving God:** A Catholic quarterly magazine on the knight-hood of St Michael, Holy Angels, and Divine Mercy. Vol 14 Issue 3 2023, now available in the church foyer for only \$5. For more info visit: <http://stmichaelthearchangel.info/index.shtml>

PARISHES FOR MISSION DAY! - Sat 2nd Sep, 10am-4pm, Haseler Centre. Join us for **Parishes for Mission Day** and together we'll receive spiritual, theological and practical formation about the mission of Jesus Christ, and consider how our parish can be strengthened as a dynamic centre of evangelisation.. Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea provided. **Thank you to those who have registered. Last day to register Aug 23!** Attendees need to show their ticket on the day. Cost: FREE. : <https://www.trybooking.com/1081807> . Donations welcome.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **Leading to the 75th Anniversary celebration of St Michael's Meadowbank**, they will have a 3-week series talk on: "Angels and Demons" by Dr Robert Tilley on the 1st, 8th & 15th Sept, 7pm-8pm (no booking required). On Friday 22nd Sept, the 75th Anniversary Celebration of St Michael's, there will be a Dinner Dance at 7pm in Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club. If interested contact 9809 3536. For information on how to register, collect a flyer in the church foyer.
 - **Didaskō Adult Faith Formation:** The Parish Renewal Team together with the University of Notre Dame Australia will deliver a series of 5 **online short courses**, each consisting of three evening sessions. The monthly topics include:
 - * 2023 Thu Oct 5, 12 & 19, 7:30pm-8:45pm: Introduction to Philosophy
 - * 2023 Thu Nov 2, 9 & 16, 7:30pm-8:45pm: The Scriptures
 - * 2024 Mon Mar 4, 11 & 18, 7:30pm-8:45pm: Foundations of Theology
 - * 2024 Mon Apr 15, 22 & 29, 7:30pm-8:45pm: Introduction to Christology
 - * 2024 Thu May 9, 16 & 23, 7:30pm-8:45pm: Moral Theology
- Cost (per short course): \$35 per person (plus booking fees);
\$100 per Parish Group for an in-person gathering (plus booking fees) See poster for details.

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office (02) 9390 5810 or E: safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.