

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 15th - 16th August 2020

First Reading: Is 56:6-7

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

R/ O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading: Romans 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:23

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

Gospel: Matthew 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Canaanite woman crossed every cultural line to achieve her aim.

It takes courage approach God in prayer in times of dire distress and moments of despair; even when it seems pointless to pray and seeing that previous efforts put in prayer yielded no result. It takes courage to approach God even when sin has moved us away from the region of grace. People's opinion about us should not deter us from approaching God. Jesus called her, "woman of great faith" because she withstood the pressures around her and did not give up. Unlike Peter whom Jesus called "man of little faith" because he couldn't withstand the pressure from the sea.



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A Lesson of Faith from a Canaanite Woman

In the world of the Old Testament there are diverse points of view about fundamental issues. One was the relation between Israel to other nations. Over time, Israel came to identify themselves as a people set apart and distinguished by their belief in One God, the creator of all, to whom they were bound in a covenant. Sometimes this led to separatism and suspicion of others, at other times evoking hospitality. "When a stranger comes to your home, love him as you love yourself. Remember that you were once strangers in Egypt." (Lev 19:34)

A theme that developed through the prophets was Universalism. "My house will be called a house of prayer for all people." (Is 56:7). God's intention was clear: anyone who respected the spirit of the Covenant would be welcome in God's house.

Sometimes it was a stranger, or someone outside the faith boundaries who drew attention to the boundlessness of God's mercy.

The event described in Matthew's gospel did not start off as one of Jesus' best days. After days of teaching and healing many, and receiving negative responses to his mission from people of his own heritage and their leaders, Jesus and his disciples withdrew into a territory in which he would be considered an outsider. Here he was interrupted by a Canaanite woman who had sought him out, begging him to heal her daughter.



Jesus first seemed to ignore her and his disciples, frustrated by her persistence, told him to send her away: Jesus did not. Was he using this opportunity to teach his disciples about the nature of their mission? Jesus began to converse with the woman, "It is not right to take the food of children and give it to dogs!" To refer to Canaanites as dogs was not uncommon at the time, but a judgmental slur no matter who said it. But ultimately the result of the ongoing conversation and the persistence of the woman revealed to Jesus her genuine humility, selfless courage, trust in him and depth of love for her child. "But even dogs, sir, can eat scraps from the master's table!" From then Jesus could pierce through the outer coverings of gender, race and religious separatism, recognising the depth of her faith in him and share with her the healing power of a loving God. "Woman, great is your faith. Let your wish be granted!"

During his ministry, Jesus experienced and taught about the universal love of God through encounters with faith-filled people who stirred the divine compassion dwelling in his own heart.

This raises challenges for us today. Ultimately the purpose of Jesus' mission was to re-connect human beings with their God – not by talking about love but like the Canaanite woman, living it, whatever courage or sacrifice it might take.

Office Hours:
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Assistant Priest:

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Deacon:

Yosef Meda, SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

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Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary),

Tony Eley, Gerard Grant,

Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,

Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna and

Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O'Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

Parish Mass Schedule

Zoom Live Stream Masses

Monday – Friday at 9.10 am

Sunday at 10.30 am

Please call Fr Jan for
Zoom ID on: 0400469540

**For other
Online Mass
Schedule
see next page**

Congratulations

30 Years of Priesthood

Last Wednesday, the 12th of August, Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD celebrated his 30th ordination anniversary. With him we thank God for his life and missionary-religious vocation; for the years of priestly ministry to God's People in Hong Kong and Australia, and recently in our Sacred Heart Parish. We pray that with God's grace he will continue to be a servant to His People, spreading God's love and mercy to all. Our best wishes to Aloysius in the years to come!

Salamat merayakan ulang tahun imam!

Vatican Says Baptisms that Used a Modified Formula are Not Valid

Catholic News Service

Changing the words of the formula for baptism render the sacrament invalid, said the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Specifically, a baptism administered with the formula "We baptise you..." instead of "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" is not valid because it is the person of Christ through the minister who is acting, not the assembly, the congregation said.

Social Justice Statements



In a tradition reaching back to 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops release major social justice statements each year in time for Social Justice Sunday. Through this tradition they contribute to the development of local Catholic Social Teaching. The statements encourage the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. They remind us of the social dimension of the mission of the Church.

Previously Social Justice Sunday was celebrated on the last Sunday in September. From 2020, Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated in Australia on the last Sunday in August.

The 2020-2021 Social Justice Statement is entitled **To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today**.

It can be found on:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2020>

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Masses

Channel 44 (31): Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday at 8:30am

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Pray for Victims of Beirut Explosion

Pope Francis: "Let us pray for the victims, for their families; and let us pray for Lebanon so that, through the dedication of all its social, political and religious elements, it might face this extremely tragic and painful moment and, with the help of the international community, overcome the grave crisis they are experiencing."

Caritas Australia has committed to provide immediate response in the form of crucial financial support as part of its already established Middle East Regional Appeal. Additionally, through its in-country staff and partners in Lebanon, the wider Caritas network is working to deliver: Food and water;

Hygiene kits including masks and soap; Material for shelter repairs and the clean-up of debris; Medication and other health services.

Currently Caritas Australia supports two programs in Lebanon, including a Protection program supporting shelters for women and children who are survivors of gender-based violence, and a Humanitarian program supporting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities. Donations can be given through the following link; <https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/middle-east-emergency-appeal> or by ringing 1800 024 413

Prayer for the People of Lebanon

God of Compassion,

You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve. We pray for the people of Lebanon in this time of disaster.

Embrace those who died so suddenly and console those who grieve for loved ones.

United in solidarity with our Lebanese sisters and brothers we pray:

For healing and strength for those injured and suffering That the international community will respond with generosity and compassion

And that stability and peace will be restored in Lebanon.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

- Jo Brady RSJ Caritas Australia

Sacred Heart Bulletin

The Sacred Heart Bulletin is available online and if you would like to have a copy emailed to you, please send an email to: sacredheart3072@gmail.com or call the office on 94803398 to be added to the email list.

Feast of the Assumption of Mary to Heaven (15.8)



In celebrating Mary's Assumption we are acknowledging much about God's relationship with us as human beings.

We are acknowledging Mary's faithfulness to God's mission and the Church's mandate to teach in the context of the signs of the times.

We profess that Mary was conceived and born without original sin. She lived a life in radical harmony with God's Will despite

the difficulties she experienced. Her fiat to the angel's message was no isolated action but the pattern of her life. Her concern for the needs of others embraced not only her duty to an aging relative, but doubtless, to others as noted in Cana. Her Magnificat suggests she was versed in scripture. She pondered the words of the prophet; she was courageous in suffering; she stood by her dying Son and became mother to the emerging Church. Mary played a vital role in God's plan of salvation for all humanity. Like her Son, Mary came to the end of her earthly life and actually died. What son, if he could, would not want to take such a mother, body and soul, to be with him in the kingdom of heaven and so preserve her from the corruption of the tomb?

Following the atrocities of WWII and the Holocaust, our world needed a radical shift in its valuing of the dignity of all human persons. On the 1st November, 1950 Pope Pius XII, issued his Apostolic Constitution defining the dogma of the Assumption. He proclaimed:

The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin, Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.

This affirmation of the dignity and destiny of the human person was a timely reminder that no material gain, no social engineering and no philosophical or political ideology should outweigh our respect for the dignity of every human being and humanity as a whole.

The Catholic Church continues to seek to promote the Mission of God within the 'signs of the times'. In the past decades a sign of the times is a growing concern among many nations that climate change and destruction of earth's environment will ultimately destroy humanity's home. In a timely encyclical, Laudato Si, Pope Francis calls humanity to care for our common home. God's dream is that we hold human life as sacred and that we respect all creation. For some this may be no more than an emerging awareness but Pope Francis emphasises that it is a matter of urgency. As in post WWII time we see once again that our contemporary world's concerns and events, our signs of the times, influence both the content and timing of Church teaching.

We are on the pilgrimage of life. Day in, day out we are embraced by our loving God, enthused by God's Spirit, nourished by Jesus, the Christ, inspired by the example of life that led to Mary's Assumption, and encouraged through our Church community. How blessed we are!

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
*Anthony, Lopisoni Amato,
Peter Bourke, Maria Crocco,
Nicola D'Orazio, Charlie Fragiaco,
Anthony Joseph, Stephen Meese,
Kim Maguire & Bronislawa Slobodzin*

Those who have died recently
Jozef Brygier and Luigi Lambraia

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat



This reflection- retreat offers a prayerful way for believers preparing to celebrate as World Day of Prayer for Creation (1st September), proclaimed jointly by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholome & Pope Francis from the Vatican and from the Phanar, 1st September 2017. This seven-day reflection reinforces the officially sanctioned ecumenical celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Creation. For more information see:

<https://www.catholic.org.au/organisation-documents/catholic-earthcare-australia-1/2291-1-june-2020-7-days-creation/file>

Resources for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Please share these online resources with your families.

The first resource contains the [Sunday readings](#) and is for families to share.

The [family resource](#) is designed for families with young children.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Livestream Masses on Saturday, the 15th of August, for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary can be found on these websites:

Melbourne, 8am: <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/mass>

Sydney, 9am: <https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>

Natural Fertility Awareness Week from 17th to 23rd August – Are you wondering how you can find out more about your reproductive health during these times of isolation and social distancing? Billings LIFE has the answer!! For more information check the website: www.fertilitypinpoint.com and start to take control of your life.

Collections

1st Collection: \$100.00

2nd Collection: \$100.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!

