



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 recognizes 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.

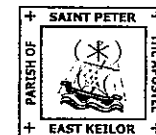
That is Good News for billions of non-Jewish people over the course of history since then and into the future. That is why we are truly "Catholic", which, as you know, is the Greek for "world-wide."

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

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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!

PRAYER FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – FEAST DAY 15TH AUGUST

Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Desmond Wijetunga, Bernadette Camilleri, Gerald Jongebloed, Vincenzo D'Agostino

RECENTLY DECEASED

Joseph Di Natale, Fr Michael Wheeler PE
ANNIVERSARIES

Maria Pham Thi Hue, Dominic Hoang Vi, Simone Bateman, Mary Snelleks, Norm Banner, Henry Wolff

PARISH SUPPORT

We are most grateful for your contributions during this challenging time. Thank you all for your support. Online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C
BSB: 083 347 Account No. 66541 7521
Reference as your first initial then surname, or remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account
BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 53530 4676
Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Thursday 20 August St Bernard
Friday 21 August St Pius
Saturday 22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

COVID-19 STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS

With Stage 4 restrictions still in place, our Parish Office is closed. Parish Secretary, Helena Meredith is working remotely from home. Please email if you need anything or call 9337 4141 and leave a message. We will respond to calls as soon as possible.

Please do not risk a fine by leaving your home outside the permitted hours of 8pm and 5am or travelling more than 5kms from your home. If you have envelopes for the weekend collections, please contact me if they need to be collected, or keep them with you until we are able to open again. Please consider changing to credit card, direct debit or direct online banking. We can assist you with setting this up. May God bless you all.

Fr Arockia Sebastian

CARITAS – LEBANON APPEAL

Caritas has committed to provide immediate response to our brothers and sisters devastated by this disaster. 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.

If you wish to donate, please go to:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/middle-east-emergency-appeal>

THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC CARE

Catholic Care is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's Appeal. You can still donate online at www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal or call 9287 5513.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM COVONAVIRUS



O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

- Prayer originated from
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/pope-francis-prayer-our-lady-protection-coronavirus.html>

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.

All staff and volunteers in our parish of St Peter's, Keilor East, must have a current Working with Children Check.

A Prayer to St Joseph

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life.

Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen.

AVE MARIA COLLEGE YEAR 7 – 2022

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 have been extended and will close **Friday 9th October 2020**. Contact the Registrar on 9331 9308 or via email at registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au