

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 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.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 66:2-3,5-6, 8

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,
(*All bow during these two lines*)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The Canaanite woman who "changes" Jesus

Biblical Reflection for 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

The stranger of the crumbs - one of the nicest characters in the Gospel - stages the most powerful tool to change life: not with ideas and notions, but through the encounter. If we change little in the course of existence, it is because we no longer know how to encounter or encounter badly, without accepting the gift that the other brings us.

Jesus was a man of encounters, in each encounter he achieved a reciprocal fecundation, he ignited the heart of the other and himself and came out transformed, as in today's gospel. A woman from another country and another religion, in a certain sense, "converts" Jesus, makes him change his mentality, makes him cross over from Israel, opens his heart to the hunger and pain of all children, whether they are of Israel, of Tyre and Sidon, or of Gaza: the hunger is the same, the pain is the same, the same love of the mothers. No, she says to Jesus, you did not come for those of Israel, you are the Shepherd of all the pain in the world.

The disciples also participate: '*Answer her, so she leaves us alone.*' But the position of Jesus is very clear and abrupt: I was sent only for those of my nation, for my people. The woman, however, does not give up: help me! Jesus replies with an even rougher word: One does not take bread from children to throw it to dogs. The pagans, by the Jews, were called "dogs". And here comes the brilliant response of the mother: it is true, Lord, yet the little dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table. It is the turning point of the story. This image enlightens Jesus. In the kingdom of God, there are no children and no, men and dogs. But only hunger and children to satisfy, even those who pray to another god.

Woman, great is your faith! She who does not go to the temple, who prays to another god, is a woman of great faith for Jesus. Her great faith lies in believing that in the heart of God there are no children and dogs, that He feels pain for the pain of every child, that the suffering of a child counts more than his religion. She does not have the faith of theologians, but that of mothers who suffer. She knows God from within, she experiences him in unison with her mother's heart, she feels him pulsing in the depths of her wounds. And he knows that God is happy when he sees a mother, any mother, happily embracing the flesh of her flesh, finally healed.

Let your wish be granted. Jesus overturns this mother's question, reciprocates it to her: It is you and your desire that you command. Your faith is like a womb that gives birth to a miracle: let it happen as you wish.

In this story, a dream of the world to make ours, is born: the earth as one big house, a table full of bread, and around many children. A house where no one is despised, no one is hungry anymore.

Ermes Ronchi

(Readings: Isaiah 56, 1.6-7; Psalm 66; Romans 11, 13-15.29-32; Matthew 15, 21-28)

ST PAUL'S PARISH

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Loretta Meilak

St Paul's School Principal: Mrs Maria Mercuri

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St Paul's Parish strives to create an environment where children are safe, respected and cared for.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Friday: 10.30am to 3.30 pm.

MASSES:

Weekends: Saturday: 6:00 pm (vigil),
8.00pm (Neo Catechumenate)

Sunday: 9:00am, 10.30am (Italian),

Weekdays: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10.00 am.

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays - 11am and 6.45pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: 1st & 3rd Sunday of month-9am Mass

ADORATION: First Friday of the month: 10.30 am to 12pm

BAPTISMS: Sundays at 12.00 pm.

BAPTISM PREPERATION MEETINGS: Once Monthly

MARRIAGE PREP MEETINGS: Wed 8pm or Sat 4pm

WEDDING REHEARSALS: Mon or Fri – 8pm

COMMUNION TO THE HOUSEBOUND: Thurs & Fri.

COMMUNION TO SICK at Bupa & Northern Gardens:

every 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: 2 times a year (Lent & Advent).

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10am

THE WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

Mary, Assumed into Heaven, we venerate you as the Queen of Heaven and earth.

As you tasted the bitterness of pain and sorrow with your Son on earth, you now enjoy eternal bliss with Him in Heaven.

Loving Queen, intercede for us in our needs.

(Mention your request)

We praise Jesus for giving us such a loving mother.

O Queen Assumed into Heaven, pray for us. Amen.



O Blessed Mother Assumed into Heaven, after years of heroic martyrdom on earth, we rejoice that you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in Heaven by the Holy Trinity.

Lift our hearts with you in the glory of your Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity.

Teach us how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven. Make us realise that death is the triumphant gate through which we shall pass to your Son and that someday our bodies shall rejoin our souls in the unending bliss of heaven.

From this earth, which we tread as pilgrims, we look to you for help.

In honour of your Assumption into Heaven, we ask for this favour:

(Mention your request)

At the hour of our death, lead us safely to the presence of Jesus to enjoy the vision of God for all eternity together with you.

O Queen Assumed into Heaven, pray for us, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

JOKE OF THE WEEK:



THANKSGIVING – DIRECT DEPOSIT BANK DETAILS

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 67541 0884

Account Name: St Paul's Catholic Church.

JULY THANKSGIVING OFFERING: \$1744.00

Presbytery: \$ 460.85

Thanks for your support in these challenging times.

WE PRAY FOR

We pray for those in our local community who are **sick** and vulnerable: may they see in us the followers of a God who heals and serves.

Let us pray for those who have died recently, Elio Mignanelli, Domenic Taverna (Funeral Mass Mon., 11am), and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, that they may enter the peace of God.

STEWARDSHIP:

"For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." - Rom 11:29.

God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. We are called to be good stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone.

REFLECTION: CANAANITE WOMEN IN OUR LIVES

O woman, great is your faith! Matthew 15:28

What is remarkable about Jesus' interaction with the Canaanite woman in today's gospel is that he did not send her away. The disciples wanted him to do so; she was not one of their people. She had no right to ask a favor of their Jewish messiah. But Jesus did not send her away. He tested her and marvelled at her response. Jesus looked beyond gender and race, he saw into the human heart.

Each of us has our own community where we feel comfortable. It may be based on skin color, social class, gender, political party or nationality. But these are not of ultimate importance. Can you and I look beyond our own group and marvel at the faith of others? Perhaps today God will send a "Canaanite woman" into our lives. Will we recognize the offer of grace, or will we send her away?

Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we may show our gratitude for God's great gifts through our active participation in the ministry of God's Church.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Acceptance

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. George Bernard Shaw

VOCATION VIEW

We pray for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life from our community. Lord hear us.

Mary MacKillop's compassionate heart.



NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE



'Walk with him and trust': Alex Chow ordained to the diaconate. Last Saturday, on the Feast of St Mary MacKillop, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli ordained seminarian Alexander Chow as a deacon for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Alex worked for many years as a chemical scientist before pursuing his calling to the priesthood, and says his parents' strong example of faith has been integral to his own prayer life and vocation. 'I think with God nothing is too late... It might take time but God is patient with us.' In the lead up to his ordination, and as part of National Vocations Awareness Week, *Melbourne Catholic* caught up with Alex to learn about his journey so far-----

Ten Hail Marys for vocations. 'We are encouraged to pray for vocations,' writes Fr Denis Stanley. 'We are invited to pray that many will be inspired to be open to mystery of their vocation story, to trust the voice of the Lord breaking into their lives and to listen to any encouraging voice helping them to ponder the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. But is that all? And when we pray for vocations, what are we praying for?' Fr Denis explores the mystery of what a call from God to serve his people means this National Vocation Awareness Week-----

Archbishop Peter thanks VMCH staff for Celebration Week. This year, National Aged Care Employee Day 2020 (ACED 2020) falls on Friday 7 August, with the call going out to every community across the nation to honour aged care workers and volunteers and say 'thanks for caring'. To honour their staff and volunteers, VMCH are hosting Celebration Week, where each day VMCH is celebrating staff from across their service areas: Disability Services, Retirement Living and Affordable Housing, At-Home Aged Care, Volunteers, and Op Shops and Residential Aged Care-----

On 8 August we celebrated the feast day of **St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint**. Mary grew up in Melbourne and was very aware of the hardships and difficulties endured by the poor. She witnessed the needs of the society of her time and tried to address them. Mary was both an educator and a social worker and as a result of her dedication and commitment, orphanages and homes for the destitute were established. We remember at this time Mary MacKillop, the woman who gave of her whole self in order to serve God and others. Here are just some of the ways that Mary MacKillop helped her community.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Intercede for us.