



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th / 20th August 2017

Parish Clergy

Fr Gabriel Murray

Parish Office

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS: 9.30 am

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Church)

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

(Greg Sunter)

Parish Community



We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Ada McDonnell, Norma Sullivan, Tom Perrin, Geoff Morgan, Paul Hunter.

ANNIVERSARIES: James Purvey Snr, Peter Mathew, Harry Cooper, Jim Rice, Herbert Hudson, Richard Malez, Flo Mitsch, Sydney Flegeltaub, Jeffrey Amy, Joan Carthew, Iris Pierpoint, Thomas Hunt, Maria Douba, Edna Gibson, Montey Meyer, Werner Pallman, Mavis Hills, Sean Ryan, Kathleen Slattery, Neville Crowther, Bill King, John Worsley, Annie Phillips, Valerie Wynack, Daniel Chandler, Mary Bradford, Jack Doyle, Carmel Onley, Joe Packer, Joyce Doolan, Nan Doughty.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer for the Sick

We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.

May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.

We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 19th/ 20th August

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Confirmation	Leanne Michael Terry Hillman Michael Stephenson
Eucharistic Ministers	Confirmation	Kansas Michael Carey Menz-Dowling Dianne Treacy
Cantor Musicians	Choir	Bernadette and Wendy
Counters: Desmond Lum & Jane Togher		Cleaning Group: Group 1

Sat /Sun: 26th / 27th August

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Anthony Foley Pat Hickman Brian Waters	Bede Hart Rosalie Martin Ray Murtagh
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding Pauline Mulquiney	Dianne and Peter Treacy Gemma Whitehead
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Anne McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Peter Toner & G Bryant		Cleaning Group: Group 2

Prayer for the Confirmation Candidates

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.

Lord kindly on all candidates preparing for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice.

Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them.

As these students prepare for Confirmation, make each of them an instrument of Your love.

Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others and be patient with what we do not understand.

Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that you will continue to guide us and sustain us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

‘ Having faith does not mean having no difficulties but having the strength to face them knowing we are not alone. ‘

Parish News



Weekday Masses

Weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Church at 9.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday as usual.

ALSO: Tuesday at 9.30am—The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. AND

Thursday at 9.30am—Feast of St. Bartholomew.

Confirmation

Congratulations to all who are being confirmed this weekend. Come Holy Spirit!

AGM for Sacred Heart Parish Council.

This meeting will be delayed until the appointment of our new Parish Priest.

Australian Catholics Magazine

Out now please take a copy from Church entrances.

Diocesan Spirituality Day for Women—26 August.

At Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga 9.30am-3.30pm. Registration closes 15 August. Register on line: <https://goo.gl/LTSBaj>

Phone: Margaret Walsh 02 6971 7140, Katherine Klapdor 02 6925 4374.

Natural Fertility Awareness Week 21st – 27th August 2017

Did you know a woman's health is often reflected in her fertility? Learning The Billings Ovulation Method® can alert a woman to underlying health problems.

If you would like to be able to manage your fertility naturally and to monitor your reproductive health accredited Billing Teachers are available to assist you throughout Australia.

ASCEND—DEEP PRAYER MINI COURSE.

How is your prayer life? ASCEND is an amazing and fruitful mini-course on prayer that shows you how to launch a deep and powerful prayer-life whether you are a beginner or a seasoned pro. Coming to Wagga in September. Look for the Posters in

Information re Postal plebiscite vote & Marriage Act from Wagga Wagga Diocese

The Australian Government has announced there will be a postal plebiscite on whether the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act 1961 should be changed to include "same-sex marriage". Ballot papers will be sent out to households on Tuesday, 12 September and all votes must be received back by Tuesday, 7 November. If you are not enrolled to vote, or if you need to update your postal address, go to www.aec.gov.au/enrol/ before the cut-off date of **Thursday, 24 August**. Vote No, to keep marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man.

Feast Days

Monday 21st August —St Pius X

Tuesday 22nd August—Queenship of Mary

Wednesday 23rd August—St Rose of Lima

Thursday 24th August—St Bartholomew

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED.

We are seeking a willing driver (or two) to transport (on a rostered basis) a parishioner from "Riverwood" Retirement Village, West Albury to our 9.30am mass Sundays. Please contact Rom Hayes: 0438 492 040.

Prayer for Our Sacred Heart Parish

God of Love,

Source of all hope and good things;

*You call us in love, to share in the work
and ongoing life of our Sacred Heart
Parish.*

*Bless this parish of ours and lead us to
be confident and joyful in serving those
around us, so that through us, the world
may catch a glimpse of the love you
have for each one of us.*

*Make us instruments of your love to
everyone that we encounter in our
parish community, at home, at work and
in our neighbourhood.*

*Help us to grow in gratitude so that we
can recognise and thank you for all the
good things you have given us.*

*Each day may we come to know you
more clearly, love you more dearly and
follow you more nearly.*

Through Christ our Lord.

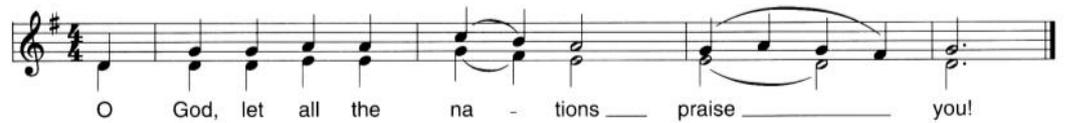
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

20th Sunday of the Year —Year A

Readings: Is 56: 1, 6-7; Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32; Matt 15: 21-28

Responsorial Psalm



O God let all the nations praise you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!



Reflection on the Reading

The Syro-Phoenician woman in today's Gospel considers herself cursed for having a daughter who is tormented by a demon. It is very unlikely that her daughter is possessed by the devil. She probably had a chronic illness that could not be cured. Furthermore, the woman is also considered cursed by others because she is a Gentile, a non-Jew. In fact this story is unsettling and rather unflattering to Jesus on several levels.

Because of her ethnicity and religion the disciples do not think she should ask for anything from Jesus. He seems to concur with them. If it wasn't for the woman's courage and persistence, she would never have got what she wanted. And by Jesus referring to them as dogs, he seems to agree with the contempt with which the Jews held the Gentiles.

Again it is the woman's quick wit and faith which turns the situation around. She domesticates the racial slur and argues that if she is to be considered a dog she is not a wild one but of the house variety where she should be able to enjoy the leftovers. The power of her insight and the rightness of her cause catches Jesus off-guard, her daughter is healed and everyone is taught a lesson about how the Kingdom of God breaks through in the most extraordinary ways.

This story also tells us of the power of intercessory prayer. The woman goes through her ordeal not for herself but for her daughter. Her faith in Jesus is the vehicle by which someone else's life is enriched. So too for us. As Christians many of us regularly tell others, whom we know are in need, that we will pray for them. Often these people, some who do not share our faith, are touched by this kindness.

When we make our prayer intercessory, either at home or in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, it can be our finest hour. We can learn a lot about a parish from its intercessions. It can be the time when we forget about ourselves and our needs for a while and ask for the needs of someone else, even if we don't know them. This type of prayer has the possibility of helping us place our lives in context and reminding us that while we have a seat at the world's table, others are at our feet scavenging for scraps.

The best prayer reminds us that we have to get down and get dirty and work to raise up all of God's children to the places of honour which everyone deserves. (Fr Richard Leonard SJ)



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