

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 16 August 2020

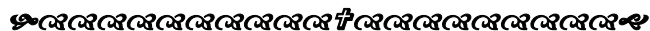
‘Women, You Have Great Faith!’ The Canaanite woman in today’s Gospel enjoyed no status in the eyes of the Jewish people of her time. She was someone to be scorned and ignored. Yet, in her deep love for her daughter and her great faith, she is a model of the true disciple of Jesus. She reminds us that what identifies us Christians most fundamentally is our faith, our hope and our love.

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!



Congratulations to Ariadne and Riccardo Massimo Losinno who we recently welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep Ariadne and Riccardo and their families in your prayers.

Please remember in your prayers the children of our parish and their families as they prepare to make their First Reconciliation through the Parish Sacramental Program over the coming Saturdays



COVID-19 Update

The NSW Government has recommended parishioners wear face masks when attending religious services as an additional safeguard to help combat the spread of COVID-19.



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Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online & receive the Spiritual Communion.

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Saturday 8.30am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 9am Mass

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,
Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our First Reconciliation Sacrament will go ahead as planned – however there will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

First Reconciliation- Saturday 8, 15 and 22 August at 2pm
First Holy Communion- Sunday 1, 8 and 15 November at 11am

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information
sacraments@stambrose.org.au



**Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.**



Recently Deceased: Lorna Redolfi, Michael Picone, Luis De Marques, Giuseppe Scarnecchia, Maria Teresa Nguyen, Peter Le

Anniversaries: Giuseppe, Luigina and Antonio Anello, Silvestro Bonanno, Vladimir Susic, Elinda & Jack Tumminello, Frank MacCarthy, Michele Lancuba, Peter Rahme, Olva & Jack Jacono, Dianne Druitt

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Terry Tully, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Antonino Restuccia, Iris Moreno, Desti Manalu, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Luke, Alejandro Sotelo, Victoria Haguina, Hendra Kurniawan, Boris Slaminka, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy & McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Maria Manno, Joseph Borg, Yuan Sheng Ye, Theresa Tan's mum, Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznic, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

VASA UPDATE

VASA volunteers have been continuing to care for older housebound people in our area. As some of the restrictions have been eased, we are taking some of them shopping each fortnight in our volunteer's cars. The regular shopping service using the Council Community Bus is not permitted at the moment. We have built up trust with these vulnerable people over some years. Those whose relatives live far away, know they can call on a VASA volunteer for help with transport to medical appointments when needed. They appreciate a friendly chat when we can visit them or otherwise over the phone. We had a Morning Tea last month with very limited numbers and the noise of the conversations was wonderful to hear!

VASA would welcome anyone who could help with transport either occasionally or on a regular basis. If you feel you would like to start some volunteer work in the community please ring for a chat.

Kerry 97363686

Trish 87651295

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

During the 10:30am Mass on Friday 21 August, our Parish will have the opportunity to celebrate God's healing through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Elderly. Fr Brian will move through the Church anointing each person in their seat making it easier for those who are less mobile.

Please invite any friends, neighbours and relatives as they may not know about it if you don't tell them. VASA may be able to assist with transport.

All parishioners are welcome to come to this Mass and pray with and for those seeking physical, mental, emotional or spiritual healing in this Sacrament.

Please ring Trish 87651295 or Kerry 97363686 if you have any questions.

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. CCareline is here to help. Call 131819 Monday - Friday 8am to 6pm.

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS
COMPLETING SAFEGUARDING PAPERWORK****Working With Children Checks**

When returning your **safeguarding K I T paperwork to the parish**, please include your WWC number printout so the parish can verify you as a volunteer who has been cleared to undertake voluntary work at St Ambrose parish.

In order for the parish to process your verification with the NSW Working With Children Office **we need your date of birth.**

Please write your date of birth on the WWC printout along with a contact number so we can contact you if necessary.

Please return KITS when ALL requirements have been completed.

**PROGRESS OF PARISH SAFEGUARDING POLICY****CLARIFICATION AS TO WHY C O U N T E R S WERE
ORIGINALLY INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF VOLUNTEERS
TO BE COVERED BY THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

You will notice that below that C O U N T E R S have been eliminated from the list of volunteers required for coverage under the Safeguarding Policy....as in some Parishes...COUNTERS and COLLECTORS ARE the same persons...(information acquired from Safeguarding Office)

Many thanks to all those who have assisted me in bringing this essential policy into reality here in St. Ambrose's for the purpose of protecting our children and any vulnerable adults, so that when the audit of our Parish occurs, we can then be listed as a "SAFE" Parish. It is to this end that I have been motivated to accept it and carry it through.

Our volunteers in the particular areas to be covered number as far as I can ascertain number 85. 25 volunteers have completed all requirements, thus being certified by a SALT Certificate from the Archdiocesan Office. 25 volunteers have contacted me to obtain the website on which to complete online training after which the volunteer receives the Salt Certificate. Hopefully the other volunteers have collected their K I T S from the foyer of the Church, as many did not sign, I am not sure that some K I T S were collected for completion.

Could you please let me know if you do not feel able to complete online training. That will give me some idea of the number of people requiring face to face training when it is practical to follow through.

I am required to submit to the Professional Standards Office all the details contained on the following:

1. Volunteer's Form
2. Code of Conduct Form
3. WWCC child protection
4. Online training - Salt Certificate's date

This Safeguarding Policy covers Eucharistic Ministers at Mass, in home or hostel, Collectors, Readers, Youth choir ministers, Parish Secretaries, Catechists, Sacramental Coordinators, Children's Liturgy Ministers

Contact: judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au

Livestreaming

Our livestreaming has proven to be very popular. To ensure it's continuity we're wondering if anyone has a 'spare laptop' that could be donated to the Church.



The minimum specs are

1. CPU – i5 4th gen onwards
2. Ram – minimum 8GB
3. Graphics card

4.

If you have a 'spare laptop' could you please contact the Parish on 97431023 or email admin@stambrose.org.au

Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here-

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Tax Receipts 2019/2020 – thank you to all who have contributed financially to parish and appeals on behalf of other agencies.

Anyone needing a tax receipt for giving to CFW, Project Compassion and or Priests Retirement Foundation please email admin@stambrose.org.au Receipts can be printed out for you and left in the foyer of the church or can be emailed to you. Please include your preference in your email.

JRS Appeal for Foodbank Donations

The Jesuit Refugee Service mobile food bank is a huge and growing operation. Since 1 April, they have collectively fed more than 5,000 women, children, and men who have lost jobs, been excluded from Federal Government financial support and cannot return home. In one week alone they fed close to 800 people, including by providing more than 300 kg of rice, 300 kg of pasta, 300 litres of long life milk, 500 cans of tuna and much more! Regardless, their stocks of rice, pasta, oil, tuna, and long life milk are RUNNING LOW. If you can donate these items we have drop off spots around Sydney here. In the absence of Federal Government support for people in need, we continue to need your help. Please visit: <http://jrs.org.au/how-to-help-refugees-and-people-seeking-.../> and learn how you can support people who have no other means to buy these basics for their families. This short video also shows what happens to food donations that are made: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=293160638622911>

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to

“Take fresh courage.”



This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary's canonisation. During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support MaryMacKillop Today, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works and carry on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross. For more information please visit marymackilloptoday.org.au or call 02 8912 2777

MARY MACKILLOP
today

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Br Julian's Reflection 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“As for the outsiders who now follow me, working for me and loving my name...they'll be welcome to worship the same as insiders...”

Isaiah 56, 1, 6-7

Jesus said: “It's not right to take bread out of children's mouths and throw it to dogs.” She was quick: “You're right, Master, but beggar dogs do get scraps from the master's table.” Matthew 15, 21-28

Today's gospel-reading clearly indicates that Jesus was truly a man of his own time and culture. It demonstrates that he was well aware of the racial and religious prejudices that were very much alive in Jewish society and in the cultures of surrounding nations. Matthew even gives the impression that Jesus was influenced by those prejudices. It matters little whether this story describes an actual event in the life of Jesus or whether it was framed by Matthew to encourage the Gentile members, especially the women, of his fledgling Christian community. It also points to the fact that Jesus, unlike so many of those around him, was sufficiently open-minded to allow his opinions to be modified by the wisdom of others, even by the wisdom of the most unlikely - a foreigner, and a woman, to boot.

This gospel-story of the Canaanite woman is an appealing one, because it relates to experiences that many of us have had. Who among us has not had to deal with the loud and persistent bleating of somebody demanding attention? And hasn't our response been something like that of the disciples: “For heaven's sake, give her what she wants. That will shut her up!”? Moreover, we have all known what religious intolerance and sectarianism feel like. People of my generation will probably remember tensions between Catholics and Protestants in the 1940s and 1950s. As Catholic, primary school students, we used to taunt students attending State schools with: “Catholics, Catholics ring the bell while the Publics go to hell.” Youngsters who changed from Catholic to State schools were labelled by some teachers in State schools as “Weeds from the Pope's garden”. As children, we were told by the Sisters and Brothers teaching us that it was a sin to stop and listen to the Salvation Army band playing in the local park on Sunday afternoons, or to accept “holy cards” from them. Religious prejudice still survives in more subtle, sophisticated forms.

Fortunately, Vatican II ushered in changes that not only led to a marked decrease in religious intolerance, but also acknowledged that God's Spirit had been present in some ways in cultures and religions throughout the history of humanity, and that God wished to embrace all people. Today's first reading from Isaiah states explicitly to the Israelite people who had returned home from exile that God wants to include everyone: “And as for foreigners who now follow me, working for me, loving my name and

wanting to be my servants - all who keep the Sabbath and hold fast to my covenant - I'll bring them to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer” (Isaiah 56, 6-7).

This reading paves the way for the story of the encounter between the Canaanite woman and Jesus that is the focus of today's gospel-reading. It is important to note that this story comes immediately after an argument Jesus had had with the Pharisees when they complained about the disciples failing to wash their hands before eating. After calling the Pharisees hypocrites, Jesus announced to the crowd who had witnessed the argument: “The things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and it is these that make a person unclean. For from the heart come evil intentions...These are what makes a person unclean” (Matthew 15, 18-20). In today's gospel-reading, what comes out of the mouth of the Canaanite woman comes from her heart.

The encounter that she and Jesus had was not for the faint-hearted. In confronting Jesus directly, she broke all the rules of the social etiquette of the time. Women were regarded as unreliable, so had no right to speak out. It was certainly seen as inappropriate for a woman to address a man directly, especially in public. She was a foreigner, and, as such, had no credibility. Worse still, she was a Canaanite, belonging to a nation that had the reputation of being Israel's bitterest enemy. Yet she came out fighting so vigorously and persistently that the disciples urged Jesus to give in to her demands, just for their own peace. In her outburst, she tried to shame Jesus into doing what was regarded as his duty to people who were foreigners. The books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy make repeated references to that duty. For example, Exodus states: “Don't abuse or take advantage of strangers; you, remember, were once strangers yourselves in Egypt” (Exodus 22, 21).

But Jesus seemed to meet fire with fire. After initially ignoring her, he went on the attack with a racially insulting slur: “It's not right to take the food of sons and daughters and throw it to dogs” (Matthew 15, 26). This response reflected the attitude of Jewish men of his time. But the Canaanite woman, refusing to be silenced, ended up besting him in their verbal jousting. Her response came from her heart: “You're right, Master, but beggar dogs do get scraps from the master's table” (Matthew 15, 27). Jesus was humbled into submission, for he recognised in the way she had responded that her words echoed the message he had earlier given to the crowd: “The things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and they are what makes a person clean or unclean.” Effectively, the woman told Jesus that “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” were not all hearing and accepting his message, and that she would take advantage of the scraps they were dropping. That extraordinarily brave woman opened Jesus' eyes, and he came to admire her intense love for her daughter and her deep faith that he could drive away the demons that were troubling the child.

But where do we fit in all this? None of us is ignorant of the rising swell of rejection directed at the refugees of wars and conflict to which many of our countries have contributed, or have ignored by doing nothing. We are familiar with the fear-mongering created by politicians whose popularity at the ballot boxes is increased in proportion to their rhetoric about barring refugees and asylum-seekers. After all, there might be terrorists among the largest number of refugees our world has ever seen. It would be strange if there weren't. But why punish all because of a few? Today's readings prompt us to ask ourselves what kinds of bigotry or racial and religious prejudices do we harbour within our hearts. Do we applaud the fear-mongering of our political leaders as a way of rationalising ourselves into justifying a "me first" stance? Somebody once asserted that the way in which western society and our Church have dealt with the issue of child abuse would be very much better had we invited the women among us to address it. Are we as open to the voice of women as Jesus was to the voice of the Canaanite woman? I leave the final words to Pope Francis who, in a mid-flight interview from Mexico to Italy in 2016 said: "A person who thinks only of building walls - wherever they may be - is not Christian". What do I wall in and whom do I wall out? Today's readings call me to reflect on questions like these.