

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel

FAITH THAT BREAKS BOUNDARIES

The perseverance and faith of the desperate Canaanite woman in today's Gospel is all the more striking because of the rebuff that she initially receives. Jesus' treatment of her is, at first sight, one of the most disturbing things in the Gospels. At first, he ignores her, then he insists that his mission is restricted to Israel. Finally, he rebuffs her with a heartless image about not throwing the children's food to dogs.

Instead of taking offence at what the image implies for her and her people, the woman seizes upon it and, with superb wit, turns it to her own advantage. Certainly, food prepared for the children is not intended for domestic animals. But children eat untidily. That provides opportunity for pet dogs under the table to gobble up the scraps that fall.

Developing the image in this way, the woman boldly challenges the restriction of Jesus' messianic mission to Israel alone, and wins from him recognition that he is Messiah not only for the Jews but also the One 'in whose name Gentiles (non-Jews, like herself) will place their hope' (Matthew 12:21).

The boundary-breaking faith of this woman of Canaan foreshadows the great mission to the nations of the world, upon which, at the end of the Gospel, the risen Lord will send the infant Church (Matthew 28:16-20).

But the woman also stands in for women of faith of all times, including our own, who challenge outworn structures and restricted vision that can cause the Church to lag behind the outreach of God's grace.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2020

FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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. 8

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

16 August 2020
Wk 20 Yr A/2

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org/>

Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison
Administration: Ms Anne Bowden
Ms Di Bolitho
Sacristan Mrs Elaine Smyth

Presbytery 67658211
Office Hours:
Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am
westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au
St Joseph's School
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079



WEEKEND MASSES Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm
**72 people only in the church
Mon: **No Mass Tues: **No Mass
WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: **12 noon MASS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS
Thurs: 9am St Bernard Fri: 9am St Pius X
Sat: 9am Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

CONFESIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Elizabeth (Betty) Perry, Max Kennedy, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Lionel Grattan, John French, Margaret O'Callaghan,

Anniversaries: Heighton Betts (29/7), Toni Lillicrap (29/7), Eric Graham (3/8), John Jackson (8/8), Jack Sampson (9/8), Stan Hobbs (16/8), Andrew Tickner (20/8).

Deceased: Michael Scott, Pauline Connor, Br Bernard Murphy, Tony McDonald, Mary Sampson, Terry Smith, Norma Jurd, Thomas Brown, John Albert French, William Coulston, William Grima, John Killen, Eibhlin Killen.

Sick: Sr Kathleen Price (SJM), Kim Myers, Max Kennedy, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kiely, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, Dudley Ryan, Trisha Aquino, Paul Steer, Baby Jack Smith, Noel O'Brien, Bill Press, Karen Guillermo, David Owens, Yvonne Tarrant, Terry Lee, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Greentree, Janice Rizzi, Richard Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Judy Cumins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



CRACKERS TAILS

Doctor Bloom who was known for miraculous cures for arthritis had a waiting room full of people when a little old lady, completely bent over in half, shuffled in slowly, leaning on her cane.

When her turn came, she went into the doctor's office, and, amazingly, emerged within half an hour walking completely erect with her head held high.

A woman in the waiting room who had seen all this walked up to the little old lady and said, "It's a miracle! You walked in bent in half and now you're walking erect. What did that doctor do?" She answered, "Miracle, shmiricle. **He gave me a longer cane.**"

COMING EVENTS

26 August Mass in thanksgiving for health care workers
30 August First Holy Communion Mass
20 Sep Marriage Preparation Course, Gunnedah Parish



'God's love is too deep for words to express' (1870)



SPECIAL MASS TO PRAY FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The mass on **Wednesday 26 August** at 12 noon will be offered in thanksgiving for all health care workers who are keeping us safe at this difficult time. Everyone is welcome to join us in prayer for their ongoing safety and wellbeing. Please let others know about this mass if they would like to attend. The normal restriction of 72 people will need to be observed, however it is hoped this mass will give many people an opportunity to join us in prayer.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS: will be celebrated at St Patricks on **Sunday 30 August at 9am**. This year we have six children receiving this most important Sacrament. As a parish we celebrate together this special occasion. Please keep our Children in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Good Shepherd Sunday, Your ongoing prayers for priestly vocations, and support to the clergy in retirement and in training through contributions to this appeal is greatly appreciated at these difficult times. *Please return envelopes from last week placing on either collection plate/box.*

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: National Emergency Appeal for Lebanon In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. To read more about the appeal, and to make a donation, please visit:

www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon or call 1800 101 201 during business hours: 8am-5pm, AEST.



COVID-19 UPDATE: Masses are continuing in line with current COVID-19 restrictions. **ONLY 72 PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ATTEND MASS AT ANY ONE TIME AT ST PATRICKS.** It is preferable for you to register with the Parish Office. **PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH AND LEAVE YOUR NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS AND PREFERENCE TIME FOR MASS ATTENDANCE** (Saturday evening or Sunday). **The parish phone is not always attended so please only call if you do not have email.** If not registered you may still attend mass, however you

MUST leave your name and contact details on the sheet upon entering and can only enter if less than 72 people have registered on the entry sheet already. ****Masks** are currently strongly recommended however not mandatory at the time of print.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - **YOU MUST - *REGISTER TO ENTER

- *SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING
- *KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

COLLECTIONS: The Parish continues to be financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you to those parishioners who are continuing their planned giving by direct debit or other means. The option of electronic transfer or direct debit is always available, and preferable. Collections will be gratefully received by placing both first collection and second collection (envelopes/loose) into the relevant slot in the box at the back of the church or alternatively they may be placed in the plates as offered by the collectors. Please do not touch the plates.

CHURCH READERS/COUNTERS If you have recommenced your Mass attendance and wish to resume your volunteering as readers or counters, please advise the office and we will establish procedures.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE: Are you or someone you know considering marriage? The next course will be held on at St Joseph's Gunnedah Parish 20 September 2020. Please contact our office.

Sat Cleaning Roster: 22/8/20 K O'Brien & J Cunningham

29/8/20 J Hutt and J Moran

First Collection
Second Collection

WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 Acc 001023642
WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 Acc 001041198