

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

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.

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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Breaking Open the Word

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today's Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today's southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won't be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew's Jewish audience, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel', and, later, 'It is not fair to take children's food and throw it to house-dogs'. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the 'children', rather than on gentiles ('house-dogs!'). Jesus' derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, 'Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'.

Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman's great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew's Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman's request being granted. Her daughter is healed.

From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

Fr Michael Trainor

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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Weekday Mass Feasts:

Thursday Memorial of St Bernard, p1953

Friday Memorial of St Pius X, p2257

Saturday Queenship of Mary, p1959

How do Vigil Masses Work? Because of changing demands that modern life place upon working households, shift work, etc. renewing the ancient tradition of Vigils enable an additional opportunity within a 24 hour period to attend a solemn liturgy like Sunday Mass. In the Jewish culture, **the next day began in the evening**. We might recall the haste in which Jesus was removed from the cross? It was because on Good Friday, the Sabbath was to be observed beginning on the Friday evening. So Saturday night Mass begins Sunday's celebrations. Like Christmas Eve, vigils help lengthen our observance of important celebrations!

PARISH ACCOUNT DETAILS:

1st Collection: Priest upkeep

'The Roman Catholic Archbishop'

BSB: 086006

A/C #: 985196641

2nd Collection: Parish upkeep

'The Roman Catholic Archbishop'

BSB: 086006

A/C #: 673418807



You can head to our website and securely donate online. Simple and easy.

SCAN ME



Card facilities at the back of the Church for your convenience.

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Intentions for the sick

Kevin Bell

Pamela Sistrunk

Bonnie Brown

Mary Sheehan

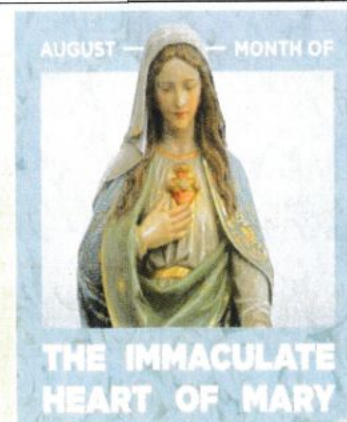
Andrew Azzaro

Tess Howden

Trevor Clark

Dennis Denoual

Bill Makely



NEWS, EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: DID CHRIST ESTABLISH A CHURCH?

Our exploration of the Catholic Faith continues Sunday 1045-1130am looking at **what evidence could help someone determine whether Christ established a Church?** Your presence supports this mission of growing and sharing the faith.

MARY? While Catholics give worship alone to God, there is an honour and respect that we have for Mary that imitates Jesus own love for His mother. Jesus insists that the Saducees fail to understand the scriptures by not grasping that Moses, Jacob and Abraham are all alive to God. St Paul insists they are like a crowd of saintly witnesses in heaven cheering us on in our race at home. St Paul insists that we are to **go to our brothers and sisters for intercession**, who's relationship and love for us **continues into eternal life**.

As one Christian St Maximilian Kolbe put it: **do not be afraid of honouring and loving Mary. You will never love her more than Jesus does!**

If our life-project is to imitate Jesus, than we should imitate Jesus in the special love and honour He has for His mother.

WATER TANK MURAL ARTWORK BLESSING



From outside the Church and towards the basketball court, you can see 3 water tanks that are present due to the fire safety requirements of the parish school property. A grant enabled a student-lead collaboration of designing artwork captures much of the beauty of God's creation in the hills region. The kangaroo and pouch gives a nod to the parental figure of **St Joseph**, with both the carpenter's mallet and lilies. **St Emilie** is depicted as a Quenda with her distinctive French Bonnet, the sisters who first taught in the parish school. **St Mary Mackillop** is depicted with the Kookaburra's distinctive brown, white and blue that recalls the Josephites habit, its laugh reminding of the serene joy that she maintained in challenging conditions. Surrounded by **Sacred Hearts**, these school patrons look to a central magpie upon who's coat appears **Jesus** face in the centre.

NEW WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR KIDS (OR GRANDKIDS) THE GIFT OF PRAYER



If you've struggled incorporating prayer into kid's bedtime, the **Theo App** might be a new approach to try. Very well made. It does have a subscription, but the 7 day free trial is worth checking out! I've had many parents share with me about their success with this app.

Also **Superbook** is a great **free** Bible video series for kids that has at least 9 seasons. You can find these on YouTube and the Superbook Bible App, which also includes games & profiles of Bible characters. **Hallow** has lots for both kids and adults alike with free and subscription levels.

Need to check a question? Don't just rely on Google. Try **Magisterium AI**, directly drawing on over 30,000 Church documents and scholarly works in its database to help you answer your questions. A similar one is **Catholic Chat**, which drawing heavily on the Catechism and using similar sources allows you to pitch the answer at the level of children, or perhaps a more scholarly level. **Truthly** is another faithful one.



Ordinary Time

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm @ Sacred Heart

Sunday - 7.30am @ Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chidlow

9.30am @ Sacred Heart Mundaring

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday 8.30am

Wednesday 8.00am

Thursday 8.30am

7.00pm Men's prayer group

1st & 3rd wk of the month

Friday 9.00am Whole School Mass

6.30pm Adoration, Confession

7.00pm Vigil Mass Assumption

Saturday 8.30am Assumption

9.00am Rosary & Cenacle

Reconciliation:

Friday 9.00am (Sacred Heart)

Saturday 9.00am (Sacred Heart)

1st Wednesday of the month 12-1.00pm

(Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chidlow)

Parish Cuppa:

Mundaring: 1st Weekend of the Month

Chidlow: Following each Sunday morning Mass ALL WELCOME!

For information about Baptism or other sacraments please visit our website, email or phone the parish.