



## *St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception*

**Avondale Parish Bulletin – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

*Vision / Tirohanga*

*Growing in Faith Together / Oranga i roto i te Whakapono*

*Goal / Whainga*

*To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family / Kokiritia te Oranga Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono*



## **Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings: Isaiah 56:1,6-7; Psalm 66; Romans 11:13-15,29-32; Matthew 15:21-28**

### **Gospel Reflection by: Greg Sunter**

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.

**Together Shine in the Mission of Christ**  
**is the theme for this 3<sup>rd</sup> Year (2020) of Preparations**  
**for the Parish Centennial (2021)**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**First Reading** **Is 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.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**(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.

**Gospel Acclamation**

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.

## News and Updates from the Parish and the Diocese:

**To Parishioners of St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Avondale.** As of today, Friday 14 August Level 3 Lockdown will continue until 26 August at 11.59pm. This means there will be no Masses or parish gatherings for any reason until after 26 August next. Let's continue to be faithful, during Level 3 and view the celebration of holy Mass online, remembering each other and all victims of Covid-19 virus in our prayers.

**Cancellation:** Because of the Lockdown in the Auckland area the Social Justice Election Forum planned for 7pm Tuesday 18 August 2020 at St Columba Centre has been cancelled.

### Feast Days during the week:

**19/8 - St. John Eudes, Priest (1601-1680),** was one of the great missionaries of his day in France. He founded the Congregation of "The Priests of Jesus and Mary", whose function was to direct Seminaries and to instruct the people through Missions.

**20/8 - St. Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church (1090-1153).** At age 22 he entered the Cistercian Monastery at Citeaux. His wisdom and holiness prompted Popes and Kings to seek his advice. He was a humble man of intense prayer, as well as a man of action, and founded 160 Monasteries.

**21/8 - St. Pius X, Pope (1835-1914)** He came from a poor family and his parents made great sacrifices to have him educated. He was ordained at age 23 and his outstanding qualities were soon recognized. He was elected Pope in 1903, choosing as his motto "To restore all things in Christ".

**22/8 - The Queenship Of Mary.** Pope Pius XII instituted this Feast on Oct. 11 1954. He declared that the Church has believed in Mary's Queenship from the earliest centuries, and that this belief rests on Holy Scripture and Tradition.

### Recently departed Parishioners (15th August-21st August)

Talita Tonga Mohenoa, Catherine Buckley, Arthur Leslie McCarthy, Veavoni Pita Taeiloa (Baby) Eileen Noella Punch, Eileen Mary Moynihan, Dieuwerker Raeimakers, Lyn Nathan, Eileen Ross, Lajos Lencse, Paul Micaloff, Violet Mary Segedin, James Waksh, Mornington Arthur Brennan, 'Ofa Pau'u Katoa, Amy Patricia Coleman, Jessie Griffen, Victor Sisson, Mary Isadora Sheary, Peter John Collins, Hugh James Meharry, Hazel Ivy Ward, Seddon James McManemin. *May the Lord grant them eternal rest. Amen.*

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|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|
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| Facebook:                | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale">www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale</a>      |                           |
|                          | Account Number for pledge giving: 02-0100-0120958-04   |                           |
|                          | Account Number for mass offering: 02-0100-0120958-05   |                           |
|                          | Account Number for SMACC Building Fund: 02-0108-0339938-04                                   |                           |
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