



Gospel Matthew 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.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 321 New Missal: 439



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

16 August 2026

First Reading Isaiah 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.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(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

Romans 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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday
Charles Meneze: Tuesday

Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm
Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am
Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

E-mail:

principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,
Avondale Heights

Phone: 9337 4595

E-mail: sisaugustinian@gmail.com

Website: www.asimoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Vlad; George Pinpin; Kimberly Damanik; Kay; Jan; Miecia, Zygyuch; Mellisa; Janice Murray; Rossini Burns; Nancy Green; Mark; Franca; Nazzi & Teresa Demaio; Monica Marland; Zac; Emily & Grace; Susie.

Recently Deceased:

Paulo Raimondo; Giuseppe Marino; Peter Falzon; Joseph Borg; Giovanna Borg; Lolita Couacaud; Vincenza La Spina; Giuse (Joseph); Robert Barnes; Anna Grimaldi; Giuseppa Morda; Sandra Sammut; Vincenzo Vigilante; Lynette Cassar; Caterina Riotto; Gabriele Di Filippo; Giovanni Di Grande; Angela Sammut; Cameron Reyntjes; Helen Grabner.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Paul Cugliari (1st); Ivo Saitlik; Colomba Novella; Richard Cerezo; Martha Phung thi Thi; Charlie Galea; Victor Degabriele; Dominic Cumbo; Bernarda & Francis Grima; Teresa, Emmanuel, Tonina, Phillip Sammut; Emmanuel & Nazarena Farrugia; Adam Hood; Rita & Carmelo De Bono; Joseph Consiglia.

Parish Support Programme:

Pays Wages, Electricity, Cleaning, Insurance,
Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$2,071
Loose: \$1,078

Presbytery: Supports Parish Priest,
Retired Priests & Cathedral. \$1,470

The Kids Bulletin

A fun way for children to learn about our Catholic faith. Weekly updates, please visit thekidsbulletin.com/



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

We congratulate and pray for:
Micah Barbante; Jaime Gamboa.



CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

First Eucharist Children

Our parish prays for the children of St Martin's school preparing to receive the sacrament this month as well as RE class students Derrick, Allegra & Aston.

Mass of Thanksgiving for Fr Matthew Pinson SJ

Everyone is cordially invited to attend
11am English & Vietnamese Sung Mass
23 August at St Martin de Porres Church
followed by refreshments provided by the
Vietnamese Marriage and Family
Enrichment Community.



The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. You can donate via the envelopes on the seats or directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends. Online donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code.



Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region – The Cagliari Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

The Cagliari Project is an initiative of the Australia-Pacific Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco, providing overseas volunteer experiences for Australians and New Zealanders who wish to work with young people in the Asia-Pacific region. We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers for January 2027 departure. Our volunteer placements run for 6-12 months and are centred around working with young people in educational settings. We are currently recruiting for volunteers for Cambodia, Samoa, Timor Leste, Mongolia and the Solomon Islands. We use the skills and talents of our volunteers to contribute meaningfully to host communities. Rather than "helping," we walk in solidarity with young people, creating opportunities for mutual learning and growth.

Applications close October 31st, 2026.

Send us an enquiry - www.cagliari.org.au
or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

Assumption of Mary

15th August

Father in heaven,
all creation rightly gives you praise,
for all life and all holiness come
from you.

In the plan of your wisdom
she who bore the Christ in her womb
was raised body and soul in glory to
be with him in heaven.
May we follow her example
in reflecting your holiness
and join in her hymn of
endless love and praise.

We ask this through
Christ our Lord.

Amen



Christian Meditation 2026

Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus

All welcome: Monday 10 - 11am

Parent's Room in the Church

Term 3: Aug 24; Sep 7.



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays: 2.30pm Rosary

3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

followed by Stations of the Cross, 4pm finish.

Melbourne Archdiocese Vacancies

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for various positions in the Archdiocese.

Further details can be found at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make yourself known to us by completing the New Parishioners Form in Documents and Forms under Recommended Links on our website and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.