

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 15:21-28
Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.

Today's Gospel contains an exchange between Jesus and a Canaanite woman in which Jesus appears to exercise racism and elitism to a degree which shocks us to the core. But is this what is really taking place! Is Jesus a victim of inherited prejudice and an unquestioning acceptance of Jewish supremacy? Or is he demonstrating effectively what happens when we fail to reach out in love to all mankind: when we fail to realise that it is God's will and the will of Jesus, His beloved Son, for us to grow in universal love and care as opposed to self-love, racism and the false notion of selected supremacy! What happens is that a child remains suffering in torment while a loving mother is forced to watch on in helpless anguish.

Jesus demonstrates clearly throughout his ministry that he didn't care a fig for the man-made laws of separatism and elitism. Instead of the suspicion, distrust and outright contempt shown against other races, as well as towards women, Jesus offers trust, respect, tenderness and understanding. Jesus always sees into the truth which lives in the heart. He sees into the heart of the Canaanite woman. He sees her love for her tormented child. He sees her willingness to suffer insult for the sake of her child. And he sees her unflinching faith in him as her child's only hope.

'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Jesus, may we grow and mature daily in universal love and care, away from self-love and elitism' in the knowledge that it is your will that we do so.

Jesus, when you look into our hearts, may you see only love and faith. May we grow in the courage and fortitude of the Canaanite woman, willing to suffer outrage for the sake of love, never failing in our faith in your love.

This weekend we say farewell to Fr Roni. We have been blessed to have Fr Roni in the parish for the past year. We thank Fr Roni for sharing the gift of his priesthood with us and pray God's blessing on him as he takes up his new appointment in the Three Patrons.

'Building Parish Life' – a talk by Mr David Wells in St Columb's College, Buncrana Road, Derry on Tuesday 29th August 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm. An international speaker and author, David Wells has worked with parishes and dioceses internationally, encouraging and inspiring people to share the Joy of the Gospel, through the lens of building parish life. This is a free event. Booking not required. You are invited to attend this talk, to be inspired and equipped for the work of building parish and discerning the way forward in changing times in our parishes. For more information on the event, contact Tony Brennan, Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator, on 028 7126 2302 or email tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Malachy Bradley
Denis McCallion
Susan McGuinness
May they rest in peace

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,248
Parish Development: £916

Thank you for your generosity

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Majella Quigley
Margaret Lewis
Hugo Carlin
John Feeney
Christina McDaid

May they rest in peace

Readers for 26th/27th August

06.15 pm	Roisin Rice-Cutter
07.30 pm	Oran Gartland
09.30 am	Kate Doherty
11.00 am	Claire O'Kane
12.30 pm	Roisin McGarrigle
07.00 pm	Marian Boyle

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

Graihagh Megan Sleight
Zoe Leigh Alice Boyle

To book a Baptism contact the
Parish Office 02871 262894

Please remember: Godparents (1 male
and 1 female over the age of 16)

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Cathedral Funds: £5
Flowers: £20
St Vincent de Paul: £40
St Thérèse: £20
Hungry Children: £5
Trócaire: £60

Bishop Daly - A Man for all seasons. An exhibition, celebrating the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly will be on display until Saturday 26th August 2023. The exhibition is in the Conference Room above the Sacristy. Opening times Monday to Saturday from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Everyone is very welcome.

Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood – That those called to serve the Church as priests will treat everyone with the compassion Jesus shows to the woman in today's gospel because, as St Paul tells us in the second reading, "...God desires to show mercy to all mankind."

We pray, during this Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood, for our own diocese, for our deacon, Stephen Ward, as he prepares for ordination next month, for our seminarians, for those who are hoping to begin their formation this year, and for all those discerning a vocation at this time. Mary, Queen of Priests, pray for them.

Rosary on the Coast will be held again today, Sunday 20th August at 3.00 pm on Benone Strand, Limavady.

ACCORD NI Marriage Preparation Courses (6.30pm – 9.30pm Monday and Tuesday) - the following dates are available 25th/26th September, 16th/17th October, 6th/7th November, 27th/28th November, and 11th/12th December. Courses can be booked online at www.accordni.com. All courses are virtual.

Blessing of Bikes – St Aengus’ Church, Burt, Co. Donegal: All bikers are very welcome to the annual blessing of motorbikes and scooters on Sunday, 17th September, at 1.00 pm. There will be a short service in St Aengus’ Church at 1.00 pm, followed by the blessing of the bikes. During the service, prayers will be said for all our biker friends who have died since this time last year. Names can be emailed to gerardsweeney@ymail.com. A collection will be taken up for the RNLI. After the blessing, there will be a run to the RNLI Station at Ned’s Point, Buncrana. Light refreshments will be available for all. A Mass will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart Church, Derry Road, Strabane at 11.30 am, on the same day. The Mass will be in remembrance of all deceased bikers. We will leave immediately after Mass to go to St Aengus, Burt.

Mary’s Meals: Thanks to everyone who walked or donated or helped in any way with the **Mary's Meals 'Two Bridges' Walk** which took place on Sunday 6th August. A total of £2,011 was raised which is enough to feed 103 children for a whole year. Mary's Meals provide a school meal to over 2 million children every day in 18 of the world's poorest countries. If you would like to find out more, please see: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

The Net – July/August 2023 edition is now available in parishes as well as on the Diocesan website. For coverage of faith related stories just email editorthenet15@gmail.com.

St Eugene’s Cathedral is monitored by CCTV cameras and by two live streaming cameras. Live streaming can be viewed online at www.churchservices.tv, www.watchmcnmedia or the parish website. The Diocese of Derry Privacy Notice is displayed on the parish website and Cathedral notice board, or you may obtain a copy from the Parish Office.

Safeguarding Notice: If you have any concerns with regard to the Safeguarding of children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596500793 or at mariegormley@derrydiocese.org or contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of **Northern Ireland**) 101 or Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090 and ask for the Duty Social Worker.