The best prayer reminds us that we have to get down and get dirty and work to raise up all of God’s people. This type of prayer has the possibility of helping us place our lives in context and reminding us that while we have to earn our place in heaven, it is earned through acts of generosity and sacrifice. Often these people, some who do not share our faith, are touched by this kindness.

This story also tells us of the power of intercessory prayer. The woman goes through her ordeal not for herself but for her daughter. The power of her insight and quick wit turns the situation around. She domesticates the racial slur and argues that if she is to be consigned to a dog, then she will be a red-blooded, front-line, mother’s dog, one that is ready and willing to defend her family’s honor. The Pharisee is quick to define himself, and the Gentile woman is quick to define herself. The power of her insight and quick wit turns the situation around.

Until quite recently in many cultures around the world events or experiences that had no ready explanation were put down to evil forces. This was certainly true in Jesus’ day. Diseases, physical deformities, mental illnesses, accidents, bad weather patterns and defeats in battle were attributed either to God’s vengeance or the work of a demon. Although we no longer hold this to be true, we still learn a lot about a parish by how it responds when tragedy strikes. This is the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work and we pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

**COMMUNION ETIQUETTE**: Out of consideration for the community, please do not receive Communion from the Cup if you are unwell. If you receive Communion on the tongue please ensure that you fully extend your tongue for the ease of the minister.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Is 56:1-6-7**

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4 (R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!**

**Second Reading: Rom 11:13-15. 29-32**

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

**Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:23**

All glory, 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.

**Memorial Acclamation:**

We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

**Reflection by Richard Leonard**

One bright Sunday morning, everyone in the town got up early and went to the local church. Before Mass started, the town people were sitting in their pews and talking about their lives, their families.

Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from the devil incarnate. Soon everyone was evacuated from the Church, except for one elderly lady who sat calmly in her pew, not moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that Satan was in her presence.

Now this confused Satan a bit, so he walked up to the older lady and said, ‘Don’t you know who I am?’

‘The woman replied, ‘I sure do.’

Satan asked, ‘Aren’t you afraid of me?’

‘No, certainly not’ said the woman.

Satan was a little perturbed at this and queried, ‘Why aren’t you afraid of me?’

‘The woman calmly replied, ‘Because I’ve been married to your brother for 48 years.’

The woman calmly replied, ‘Because I’ve been married to your brother for 48 years.’

Until quite recently in many cultures around the world events or experiences that had no ready explanation were put down to evil forces. This was certainly true in Jesus’ day. Diseases, physical deformities, mental illnesses, accidents, bad weather patterns and defeats in battle were attributed either to God’s vengeance or the work of a demon. Although we no longer hold this to be true, we still hear this line from some people today.

The Syro-Phoenician woman considers herself cursed for having a daughter who is tormented by a demon. It is very unlikely that her daughter is possessed by the devil. She probably had a chronic illness that could not be cured. Furthermore, the woman is also considered cursed by others because she is a Gentile, a non-Jew. In fact, this story is unsettling and rather unflattering to Jesus on several levels.

Because of her ethnicity and religion the disciples do not think she should ask for anything from Jesus. He seems to concur with them. If it wasn’t for the woman’s courage and persistence, she would never have got what she wanted. And by Jesus referring to them as dogs, he seems to agree with the contempt with which the Jews held the Gentiles.

Again it is the woman’s quick wit and faith which turns the situation around. She domesticates the racial slur and argues that if she is to be considered a dog, then she is not a wild one but of the house variety where she should be able to enjoy the leftovers. The power of her insight and the rightness of her cause catches Jesus off-guard, her daughter is healed and everyone is taught a lesson about how the Kingdom of God breaks through in the most extraordinary ways.

This story also tells us of the power of intercessory prayer. The woman goes through her ordeal not for herself but for her daughter. Her faith in Jesus is the vehicle by which someone else’s life is enriched. So too for us. As Christians many of us regularly tell others, whom we know are in need, that we will pray for them. Often these people, some who do not share our faith, are touched by this kindness.

When we make our prayer intercessory, either at home or in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, it can be our finest hour. We can learn a lot about a parish from its intercessions. It can be the time when we forget about ourselves and our needs for a while and ask for the needs of someone else, even if we don’t know them. This type of prayer has the possibility of helping us place our lives in context and reminding us that while we have a seat at the world’s table, others are at our feet scavenging for scraps.

The best prayer reminds us that we have to get down and get dirty and work to raise up all of God’s children to the places of honour which everyone deserves.
PARISH NOTICES

**Parish Baptism:** Baptisms are now permitted with a maximum of 80 people which includes celebrant. For more info, ring the Parish office 4771 4461

**Parish Hoy:** Cancelled until further notice.

**Cathedral Parish Women’s Group:** Meeting cancelled.

**Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Reflection Program:** Deferred

**Sacred Heart Cathedral 2020 Sacramental Program:** Sacred Heart Cathedral 2020 Sacramental Program’s commencement date is deferred.

**The Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Office** is still open from Monday to Friday 9:30am to 5pm. For all enquiries, please contact 4771 4461 or email: cathedralparish@tsv.catholic.org.au.

**Cherish Life Townsville:** The next meeting for Cherish Life Townsville will be on the **31st August 2020, 7:30pm** in Aitkenvale Library.

**Baptism this Week:** The parish warmly welcomes Eva Grace Miller who will be baptised in St Mary’s Church, West End and Rackal Mitch Flores who will be baptised in Sacred Heart Cathedral this Sunday.

**Mass Livestream:** Sunday Mass from the Sacred Heart Cathedral will continue to be Live Streamed for the community. You can find the stream here: [https://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathTSV](https://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathTSV). Prayer resources and other important information can be found: [www.tsv.catholic.org.au](http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au/COVID-19)

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Cathedral Parish is planning to commence the next program for adults wishing to begin their journey into full participation in the Catholic Church as part of the RCIA program. The Parish is asking for nominations into the program or advice on who the Parish may contact to enquire about interest.

The Parish is also asking for expressions of interest from parishioners willing to become part of the team who will conduct the program.

Cathedral Parish is also planning to set up a Parish Family Group Program which will be aligned with the Passionist Family Group Program. This program has been very successful in other parts of Australia and facilitates families coming together in a range of activities, always within a faith setting. I invite families who are interested to please advise the Parish Office so that we can keep them informed of progress.

FATHER ROD WARD, ADMINISTRATOR - SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for:

Polly Betts; Brian Keogh; John Mehedy; Susan Alexander, Rosa Maria Santos, Chase Rafael Payne, Kevin Coyne, Fr Colin Mason & Frauke Knobl.

O Almighty, everlasting God, eternal salvation of those who believe, hear our prayers on behalf of your ailing servants for whom we implore the aid of your mercy, that with health restored to them, they may offer thanksgiving to you. Amen

* Please be advised that the parish office requires individual and/or family permission for inclusion in the public prayer list under the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012.
All Churches of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish
Sunday mass collections from 08 / 09 August 2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday Mass Collections</th>
<th>Cathedral 10am</th>
<th>Cathedral 5pm</th>
<th>St Mary’s</th>
<th>St Francis</th>
<th>St Joan of Arc</th>
<th>St Patrick’s</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>$260.40</td>
<td>$94.05</td>
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<td>Second</td>
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<td>$497.50</td>
<td>$112.50</td>
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Thank you to all parishioners for your ongoing financial support of our parish and its good works. Your generosity helps continue the important ministries and services provided across the many worshipping communities in our Parish - Centred in Christ. Missions – Maintenance – Ministries

**Alpha Online Youth Series:** Join us for 8 weeks of Online Alpha. Every week we meet online to watch a video and have discussions about life, purpose and faith. During week 6 we go away on an Alpha weekend to continue Alpha, experience spirituality and deepen friendships through various activities like hiking, fishing, swimming, games night, campfire and many more activities. If you are aged between 15 and 25 years old, live in or beyond Townsville and want to explore questions about life, purpose and faith with other young people register for Alpha. Email youth@tsv.catholic.org.au to register and receive more information. Alpha starts Tuesday, 25 August 2020.

**Catholic Youth Commission, Townsville Diocese:** Bishop Tim is establishing a Diocesan Youth Commission and is looking for members. If you love God, care about young people, live in or beyond Townsville and enjoy working in a team to create and develop vision and strategies you may want to put in an Expression of Interest. Email youth@tsv.catholic.org.au to receive an Information Pack and register for an information session (dates: 18/08/20 or 29/08/20). For more information contact our Youth Office – 4726 3262. Closing date: Friday 4 September.

**Volunteers Needed:** Mater hospital is seeking expressions of interest to become a volunteer. Volunteering at Mater is a truly rewarding experience as we strive to ensure that Mater remains an organisation of compassion and excellence. We are looking for people who enjoy talking to and helping others. If you are active, caring, friendly, sensitive to the needs of others and wish to give to your community then becoming a volunteer at Mater may just be the thing for you. Training is provided for this unique and rewarding role. If you feel this is for you please contact Dave de Witt on 0497 262 476 or email at david.dewitt@matertsv.org.au

**Grace Upon Grace Retreat:** The House of Prayer invites you to join us from the 24th of September to 30th September on a 6 day retreat 'Grace Upon Grace'. Live in accommodation available. For more information please contact House of Prayer 4728 9861 or houseofprayer@tsv.catholic.org.au

**Hospital Admission:** Dedicated priests and trained volunteers visit as many of our sick parishioners as possible in all our hospitals. If you are admitted to hospital remember to ask staff to mark your religion as 'Catholic' if you would like the ministry of a priest or Catholic hospital visitor.
Guiseppe Sarto was born into a poor family in 1835. From this humble beginning he was eventually elected pope in 1903. He took as his motto, “To restore all things in Christ”. Pius X was remembered for many things including advocating the frequent reception of holy communion and the admission to it of children from the age of about seven; reform of church music and encouraging the use of Gregorian chant; the reform of Canon Law; the reorganization of the Roman curia; and the separation of church and state in France. He also promoted Bible reading for all Catholics and encouraged the use of clear and simple homilies. He found some aspects of the Vatican’s wealth and ceremony distasteful. Before his death in 1914, Pius X wrote in his will, “I was born poor, I have lived poor, and I wish to die poor.”

Prayer in this Time of Crisis
Almighty and all-merciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds, in who, there is no shadow of death, save us in this time of crisis: Grant wisdom and courage to our leaders; watch over all medical people as they tend to the sick and work for a cure; Stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation; If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open. By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear, that hope may never die and the light of Easter, the triumph of life, may shine upon us and the whole world. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

For those who care for the sick
Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick. When they diagnose, give them patience. When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection. When they work to heal, give them strength. When they comfort, give them consolation. When they are tired, give them rest. When they are discouraged, bring them your hope. May we welcome and respect them as we support one another in this time of trial.

For those seeking a cure for the virus
Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.

Continuing restrictions:
- Social distancing and hygiene
- Tracking, tracing, rapid response
- COVID safe business plans in place

The Canaanite woman persisted because of her strong belief that Jesus would cure her daughter. Use the words below to find out what Jesus said.

granted wish faith Woman Let great