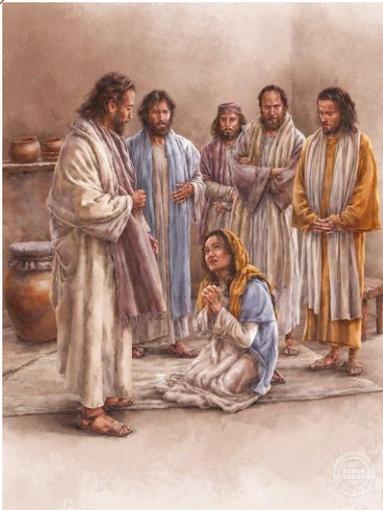




Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 20th August 2023



God's love, mercy and salvation are for everyone. Although the Israelites were known as God's chosen people, the story of their beginning, their time in exile, slavery and rejection is also a story of God's love for the whole of humanity. Each of our readings this Sunday approaches this truth from a different perspective.

The prophet Isaiah (**First Reading**) exhorts us to act with justice and integrity. He foresees a time when anyone who loves and follows the way of the Lord will be part of the salvation covenant.

The **Psalm** is a song of praise ringing with this truth, telling of a time when all nations will share in the loving light of God.

Paul, writing to the early Gentile church in Rome, describes his conviction that their personal conversion and belief in God will help to fulfil God's promise to bring salvation to everyone, and not just to the chosen people. (**Second Reading**)

Today's **Gospel** presents an uncharacteristically abrupt Jesus initially rejecting the pleas of a desperate Canaanite woman. And yet it is this woman's determined faith and sense of humour that challenges Jesus to step beyond the boundaries of his initial mission, thus revealing the truth that his salvation and healing is for all people – no exceptions.

Let us pray that we will be able to recognise and have the courage to respond to faith expressed in surprising places. We ask too that we will each play our part in revealing God's love to the world

Mass Intentions:

Sun 20 Aug	✠ 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Fr John Boland Int
Mon 21 Aug	St Pius X, Pope	10:00am	<u>NO MASS</u>
Tue 22 Aug	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10:00am	<u>NO MASS</u>
Thu 24 Aug	St Bartholomew, Apostle	12:00pm	Patsy McGuckin RIP
Fri 25 Aug	Feria	10:00am	<u>NO MASS</u>
Sat 26 Aug	Feria	10:00am	<u>NO MASS</u>
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Britta B Quisumbing RIP 10 th Ann
Sun 27 Aug	✠ 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	

* Livestream Mass

We Pray for:

The Sick and the Housebound in our parishes

We pray especially for: Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Jane Blayney, Dympna O'Connor, Liz Salmon, Elizabeth Le Juge de Segrais, Winifred Winstone, Lucy Chapman, Hilary Sweetman, Michael Earls. **We commend them to God's healing.**

The Recently Deceased & Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently or those whose anniversaries occur at this time including: Tim Murphy, Vincent Paul Keen, Fr Mark Leenane, Michael Briggs, Teresa Treacy, Elizabeth Anne Keenan, Paul Galea, Fr Theo Raaijmakers, Helen Campbell, Becky Lambert, Veronica Aligwo, Franca Agwara, Wally McNeela, Fr Richard Ward Marriott.

Eternal rest granted onto them oh Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp

is sponsored this week for the lives sadly lost off of the coast of Cape Verde

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