



Parish Office Hours: 9:30am - 2:30pm

(Monday, Wednesday & Friday)

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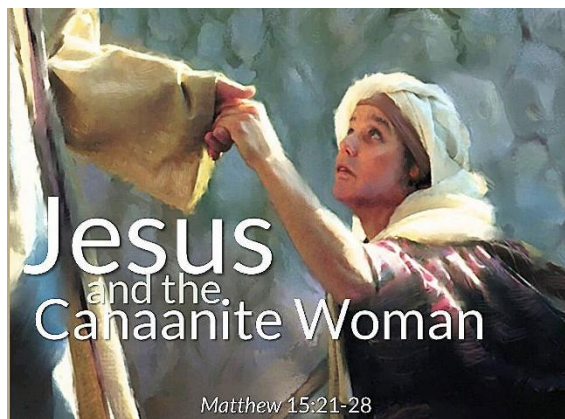
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year A

15th/16th August 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.



The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus asking for help for her “tormented” daughter. She voices her petition in a way similar to others who came asking for Jesus’ help, “Have pity on me, Son of David!” She may not be Jewish, but she is even calling him by the messianic title. When others used this title, they received a favourable response. But to the woman’s desperate request, Jesus’ is initially silent. Even his disciples want him to do something. Their request, “Send her away” (or as some have it, “dismiss her”), may suggest they wanted Jesus to drive out the demon and heal the daughter. But Jesus gives two responses, one to the disciples and the other to the woman. Both are discouraging.

To the disciples he says, in effect, “She is not one of us [i.e., of the house of Israel]. She’s not one to whom I have been sent.” Sounds exclusive to me; hardly what we usually get from the universal Savior our faith professes. Would he exclude certain groups of people from our worship assemblies? Would the newcomer to our country find a warm welcome in his church? Would he favour the benefactors over the welfare mothers and their crying infants in the back row? Would he want teenagers to dress according to code? Does he hear the prayer of someone who hasn’t prayed in thirty years as much as he does the devout nun in a monastery? Does he confirm the notions of those exclusive Christians who see all others as “infidels” of one kind or another? Not a very

helpful notion during these days of religious strife, border incursions and terrorist threats against “others.” We don’t need more sounds of exclusivity in our faith. We don’t need to sound like we are professing faith in a God who is on “our side” against “them.”

To the petitioning woman Jesus speaks about taking the food of the children, the Jews, and “throwing” it to the dogs. Are we talking “pearls before swine” here? What kind of back-hand

response was that? I would have preferred just the opening and closing part of the story: a desperate mother asks Jesus’ help, she acknowledges his messianic prerogative, and he rewards her by curing her daughter. There – isn’t that what we have come to expect in these miracle stories? I’d rather not deal with the messy matter in the middle. Unfortunately, I didn’t write this gospel, Matthew did. We’ll have to work with what he gives us. But as preacher today, I wouldn’t sugar coat or ignore the rough edges of the story. Those who will hear the gospel proclaimed will not fail to miss the peevish or exclusive sounds of Jesus’ statements. For sure, they will be thinking, “Let’s see how you handle this one preacher!”

The woman reminds us that we too have come to Jesus through the Jews and the gentiles. We share the same life journeys; we see the hope this journey gave our ancestors in their wait for salvation. We are reminded we have no claim to priority with Jesus. With the woman and her daughter, we are recipients of grace---all has been freely bestowed on us. What we see with this gift of sight is the God Jesus reveals to the woman; a God who would draw us close, sees our distress and helps us. The woman also teaches us perseverance in prayer. We pray not to have God finally relent to our persistence. We persevere in prayer because we know through Christ, we have a hearing before God. Our prayer keeps us expectant and ready to recognize God’s help when it does arrive.

Blessings, Father Morgan.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION – OLHC NANANGO
Saturday 15th August 9am

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Friday 14 th August	Cooyar	6pm	Vigil
Saturday 15 th August	Blackbutt	5pm	Vigil
Sunday 16 th August	Kumbia	8am	Liturgy
	Nanango	8am	Mass
	Kingaroy	10am	Mass

First Reading	Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Responsorial Psalm	O God, let all the nations praise you.
Second Reading	Romans 11:13-15,29-32
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!
Gospel	Matthew 15:21-28

WEEKDAY MASS OF 20TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Thursday 20 th August	Blackbutt	9am	Mass
	Kumbia	5:30pm	Mass
Friday 21 st August	Kingaroy	9am	Mass
	Nanango	12pm	Mass

TWENTYFIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 22 nd August	Blackbutt	5pm	Liturgy
	Kumbia	6pm	Vigil
Sunday 23 rd August	Nanango	8am	Mass
	Kingaroy	10am	Mass

PARISH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Death Anniversaries: Ann Mangan, Helen Oberle, Lily Lopena, Rosella Cruz, Clement Gentry, Olive Seng.

Prayers for the sick:

OLHC Parish - Amelia Cole, Greg Knaggs, Damian Wyvill, Bruce McCarthy, Shirley Warner, Wendy Smith, Kyle Sutherland (Perrett), Kylie Lane, Chris Stevens, Luke Colahan.

St Mary's Parish - Denise Mann, Liz Mamczur, Ellie Spicer, Joe Smoothy, Judy Stanton, Jo Saunders, Michael Carroll, Therese Hanley, Teresa O'Sullivan, Juliette McCorley, Bruce McCarthy, Rikie Brinkman, Bernice Mahoney, Julianne Cross, Megan Manthey, Brian Smith, Lisa Kennedy.

GENERAL NOTICE

If anyone is missing containers, plates etc. from Fr Stanley's Birthday Party in Nanango, please contact the office or collect from the Nanango Meeting Room on Sunday.

Date Claimer: OLHC Nanango

There will be a Working Bee at 8am on Saturday the 29th of August 2026. Please bring along general gardening tools, water bottle and hat. Volunteers are also needed to help clean up the Meeting Room. Morning tea will be provided.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN – 22-23 AUGUST 2026

22-23 August 2026





Help form tomorrow's priests

With your gift, you help prepare future priests for ministry, fostering faith, humility, collaboration and service, at a time when leadership in the Church matters deeply.



2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
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WEB: catholiccampaign.com.au
PHONE: 07 3324 3200

EMAIL: giving@bne.catholic.net.au

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Gabrielle Cavanagh is celebrating her 95th birthday this weekend. A cake will be provided by family after the 10 o'clock Mass in Kingaroy. All welcome to stay and wish her well.

MARY McKILLOP TALK – OLHC NANANGO

This Sunday, the 16th of August, Carrie Locke will give a talk about her recently released book on Mary McKillop. It will be straight after Mass for about half an hour. It will be held on the meeting room verandah behind church.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Supporting the persecuted: Help rebuild a Cathedral in the Philippines

In 2017, Christians in the city of Marawi in the southern Philippines faced brutal persecution from Islamist militants. More than 800 people were killed, and thousands of families were displaced. During the five months of violence, the Cathedral of St Mary was bombed, desecrated and destroyed.

Nine years on, there is a growing desire for healing and reconciliation. The poor and faithful people of Marawi have asked for our help to rebuild their beloved cathedral so they can once again gather, pray, and be witnesses of Christ in this Muslim-majority region.



To learn more or provide your support, please scan the QR code or visit:
aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject