

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

CANBERRA INNER NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (CINCC)

PASTORED BY THE CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (SSS)

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A | 15-16 AUGUST 2026



GREAT IS YOUR FAITH! BE IT DONE FOR YOU AS YOU DESIRE

BY DON SCHWAGER

www.dailyscripture.net

Do you ever feel "put-off" or ignored by the Lord?

This passage (Mt 15:21) describes the only occasion in which Jesus ministered outside of Jewish territory. (Tyre and Sidon were fifty miles north of Israel and still exist today in modern Lebanon.) A Gentile woman, a foreigner who was not a member of the Jewish people, puts Jesus on the spot by pleading for his help. At first Jesus seemed to pay no attention to her, and this made his disciples feel embarrassed. Jesus does this to test the woman to awaken faith in her.

Jesus first tests the woman's faith

What did Jesus mean by the expression "throwing bread to the dogs"? The Jews often spoke of the Gentiles with arrogance and insolence as "unclean dogs" since the Gentiles did not follow God's law and were excluded from God's covenant and favor with the people of Israel. For the Greeks the "dog" was a symbol of dishonor and was used to describe a shameless and audacious woman. There is another reference to "dogs" in Matthew's Gospel where Jesus says to his disciples, "Do not give to dogs what is holy" (Mt 7:6). Jesus tests this woman's faith to see if she is earnest in receiving holy things from the hand of a holy God. Jesus, no doubt, spoke with a smile rather than with an insult because this woman immediately responds with wit and faith - "even the dogs eat the crumbs".

Seek the Lord Jesus with expectant faith

Jesus praises a Gentile woman for her faith and for her love. She made the misery of her child her own and she was willing to suffer rebuff in order to obtain healing for her loved one. She also had indomitable persistence. Her faith grew in contact with the person of Jesus. She began with a request and she ended on her knees in worshipful prayer to the living God. No one who ever sought Jesus with earnest faith - whether Jew or Gentile - was refused his help. Do you seek the Lord Jesus with expectant faith?



**ARCHDIOCESAN
ASSEMBLY
2026**

Archdiocesan Assembly Festival Week: 17-21 August
There will be NO MASSES in our churches during this week.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse invites all to participate in the upcoming Archdiocesan Assembly, which will focus on listening to the Holy Spirit. All are warmly encouraged to take part in this shared journey of faith and discernment.

<https://www.cgevangelisation.org.au/assemblyfestival/>

CHURCHES

ST PATRICK, BRADDON

SUN	8:00 am	Mass
	10:00 am	German Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)
TUE-FRI	12:10 pm	Rosary
	12:30 pm	Mass
FRI	11:30 am -	Adoration &
	12:30 pm	Confession

ST BRIGID, DICKSON

SUN	9:30 am	Mass
	5:00 pm	Vietnamese Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)
		Maronite Mass (Last Sunday of the month)
TUE-SAT	8:40 am	Rosary
	9:00 am	Mass
WED	8:00 am -	Adoration
	11:00 am	
	5:00 pm -	Adoration
SAT	8:00 pm	
	9:30 am -	Adoration &
	10:00 am	Confession
	5:30 pm -	Confession
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Healing Service takes place after the Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

SUN	8:30 am	Mass
TUE-FRI	8:15 am -	Adoration
	9:10 am	(Confession during Adoration every Friday.)
	9:15 am	Mass
SAT	8:15 am	Novena to Our Lady of the Perpetual Help
	8:30 am	Mass
	5:15 pm -	Confession
	5:45 pm	
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Anointing of the Sick is within the Mass at 8:30 am every 1st Saturday of the month.

Recitation of the Rosary takes place after the 9:15 a.m. Mass, Tuesday to Friday.

ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

SUN	10:00 am	Mass
FRI	11:00 am -	Adoration
	11:45 am	
	11:45 am	Mass

Confession is every Friday, 11:00 am to 11:40 am. Anointing of the Sick takes place every 1st Sunday of the month at 11:15 am.

HOLY ROSARY | BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

SUN	9:30 am	Rosary
	10:00 am	Mass
	5:00 pm	Mass
TUE-FRI	5:30 pm	Mass
SAT	4:00 pm -	Confession
	4:30 pm	
	5:00 pm	Vigil Mass
FRI	6:00 pm -	Adoration
	7:00 pm	

READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Psalm 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1,6-7

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 66(67):2-3,5-6,8

℟: O God, let all the nations praise you!

SECOND READING

Romans 11:13-15,29-32

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 15: 21-28

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Psalm 129:7

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Juanito Gatpandan, Eugenia Moranta, Gertrude Fletcher, Peter Evans, Barry Murphy, Margaret Sullivan, Jeong-Bok Kim, Cecily Ferguson, Estelle Smith, Sienna Moore, John Kenna, Amanda Johansson, Fr. Troy Joseph Bobbin PP,

IN LOVING MEMORY

Salvaña Baylin, Sr. Veronica Dunphy, John Mowbray, Denis O'Brien, Raymond Hawkes, Maria Vassallo, Carmen Abinoja, Lloyd Vibar, Late Mary Philomena Pakkianatha, Jaime J. Nery Jr. For Maria's Soul, Deceased of the Nguyen Family, Jose Luis Prates Leal, Jose Rico, Trinidad Alviz

*"Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon
them. May the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God, rest
in peace. Amen."*



SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Cindy Mason, Peter Bergin, Una Bell, Mairead Thomas, Colleen Brackett, Cecily Ferguson, Maggie McKeown,

Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin for two weeks.

Saturday, 15 August: The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation in Australia

- Watson: Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady – Friday, 14 August at 5:30 pm followed by Eucharistic Adoration.
- Dickson: Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady – Saturday, 15 August – Mass at 9:00 am followed by Marian Procession.
- O'Connor: Morning Tea for the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady – After the 8:30 am Mass on Saturday, 15 August. Parishioners are warmly invited to a morning tea in the Parish Centre. Please bring a plate to share.

CENTRAL CANBERRA, BRADDON & DICKSON

- **RCIA program facilitated by Fr Vergel SSS every Thursday at 6:00 pm. Venue: St Brigid's Parish Hall.** Adults who are interested about learning the Catholic Faith or desire to be Catholic may enlist themselves for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) by contacting our email innernorth@cg.org.au.
- **Altar Server Training at St Brigid's & St Patrick's.** St Brigid's and St Patrick's are seeking new altar servers. A three-night training course will be held on Mondays, 7, 14 and 21 September at 6:30pm. Attendance at all sessions is required for induction and rostering. To register your interest, email Hugh at hajones1981@outlook.com.
- **Cana Youth (Years 7–12) – Saturdays, 5 & 19 September, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm following the Vigil Mass. Venue: St Brigid's Parish Hall. There will be no youth group during the Archdiocesan Assembly.**
- **Healing Service – St. Brigid's.** The service will take place after the 9:30 am Sunday Mass on 23 August. *Please note that, this month only, it will be held on the fourth Sunday.*

ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

- **Junior Schola Cantorum – Rehearsals every Saturday 9:30 am.** Choral training for ages 8–16, preparing for the 2028 Eucharistic Congress in Sydney. Based on the Royal School of Church Music and Jubilate Deo programs. Morning tea provided. Register at: <https://linktr.ee/stjoseph.choristers>
- **Choral Vespers – Sunday, 23 August 4:00 pm.** Join St. Joseph's Choristers for an hour of sacred choral music with Benediction, followed by afternoon tea. Come and Sing Session at 3:00 pm. RSVP here <https://linktr.ee/stjoseph.choristers>
- **Unpacking the Short Saying of Jesus – Next Session: Thursday 20 August.** For more information, contact Anna.Wierzbicka@anu.edu.au

BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

- **The Eucharist in the Life of the Church – The Eucharist and Devotion – Mondays, 17, 24 & 31 August, 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm. Venue: Parish Centre.** Register at innernorth@cg.org.au. For more information, contact Roger Paul at rpaul2572@gmail.com | <https://tinyurl.com/EucharisLifeChurch2026>
- **The Craft Group.** Offering friendship, company and cuppa on Wednesdays (except 3rd Wednesday) from mid-day in the parish centre. All welcome!
- **Scripture Reflection** for the following Sunday is held each Wednesday in the parish centre from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. All welcome.
- **ACU Noon Masses.** Starts with adoration at 11:15 am every Tuesday and Wednesday at the Signadou Chapel (during Semester period)
- **ACU Alive BBQ & Praise Night for Young Adults.** Thursday, 13 August at 6:00 pm at the ACU Signadou Chapel.
- **Cana Kids (Years 4–6) – Sundays, 6 & 20 September, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm following the 10:00 am Mass. Venue: Parish Centre. There will be no Youth Group during the Archdiocesan Assembly.**
- In memory of Sr Veronica Dunphy, all are welcome for morning tea at Ganggang Cafe, Downer, on Wednesday, 19 August, 10:30 am.

FROM THE OFFICE

- **Institute for Synodal Evangelisation's Fourth Formation Forum: "What Do We Believe?" – Tuesday, 15 September 2026, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Venue: Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre.** Explore the meaning of the Creed, its role in uniting Christians across generations and cultures, and how it continues to shape our faith and daily lives. Online: us06web.zoom.us/j/87199525802 (Meeting ID: 871 9952 5802) | Cost: Free (registration required) | Register: tinyurl.com/35vs84jZ | Enquiries: institute@cg.org.au.
- **Novena – Archdiocesan Assembly 2026.** This Novena invites us to pause, listen, and place ourselves together before God. Over nine days of sustained prayer, our desire is to seek the power of the Holy Spirit in renewing our hearts, deepening our listening, and strengthening our communion as a local Church. www.cgevangelisation.org.au/novena/

"What we love we shall grow to resemble."

~Saint Bernard of Clairvaux



YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT A LOT...

First Collection

(Supporting all the priests of the Archdiocese)

A/C Name: **Central Presbytery Fund**, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account: 00029248
Reference: Your parish location, name and intention (e.g., Campbell Smith 1st collect)

Second Collection

(Maintenance/upkeep of the Churches, staff salaries, liturgical needs, insurance, etc.)

~ **Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon**: A/C Name **Canberra Central Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013150, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Joseph, O'Connor**: A/C Name: **St Joseph's Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00012798, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Thomas More, Campbell**: A/C Name: **St Thomas More Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00014869, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **Blackfriars, Watson**: A/C Name: **Blackfriars Parish Watson**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013341, Ref: Name & Giving Number

You are all invited!

Ordination to the
Permanent
DIACONATE
of
DON GOMEZ

by Archbishop Christopher Prowse
5:00 p.m. | Wednesday, 19 August 2026
St Christopher's Cathedral, Canberra



PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

The CINCC is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the center of all of our thinking and action.

Parish Safeguarding Officers:

- **Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon**: Barbara | CanberraCentral.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **St Joseph, O'Connor**: Noel | OConnor.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **St Thomas More, Campbell**: Margie | Campbell.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **Blackfriars, Watson**: Nicole | Watson.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

Please send any concerns or enquiries to the above parish email addresses. You may also contact Maria Hicks, Manager of the Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS), at ipss@cg.org.au or 02 6239 9806.

CONNECT WITH US...

Fr Renoir Jr. Z. Oliver, SSS (Moderator)
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WWW.CGINNERNORTH.ORG.AU

Parish Secretaries:
Kathie Guillesser and Cerisse Gomez
E: innernorth@cg.org.au
M: 0416 823 447 or 0412 128 038
P: PO Box 900, Dickson ACT 2602
Office Hours: Monday Closed
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00am–1:00 pm



"BE WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE
AND YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE"
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

The CINCC acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.