

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time A - 16 August 2020

First Reading *Is 56:1.6-7* A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 *Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4*

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading *Rom 11:13-15. 29-32* A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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 *Mt 4:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 15:21-28* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday 9.00am to 12 noon. Tuesday & Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm

PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Parish Priest: Fr Isidore Enyinnaya. **Ph:** 0451 140 471. **Email:** pp.nerang@bne.catholic.net.au
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Administration Assistant: Gurli Pennings **Tim Horvat:** Parish WHS & Safeguarding Officer

Dear People of God

The readings of today, especially the first and second reading tell us that God does not reject nor abandon anyone who attaches him- or herself to God in faith. Scripturally, the Jewish people of Israel were regarded as God's chosen people and so they regarded themselves to the exclusion of other people – the foreign nations. The Israelites were distinguished as Yahweh's people. In the book of Exodus, God told the Israelites through Moses, "If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations – for the whole earth is Mine. And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5-6; see also Deuteronomy 10:15 and 14:2).

St Paul, in last Sunday's second reading summarised the privileged position God accorded the Israelites: "They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They were descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed!" (Romans 9:4-5). And so, the Jews felt God was only for them, because God "has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel. He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws" (Psalm 147:19-20). The rest were pagans: they did not know the true God; they worshipped idols and were involved with all sorts of filthy practices. This could explain why Jesus, in today's Gospel reading, showed an apparent reluctance in attending to the Canaanite woman's plea for help. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel", he told the woman.

Was Jesus discriminating against her? I don't think so, because Jesus himself said "... whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me" (John 6:37^b - 38)... So, Jesus rejects no one, he drives no one away, Rather, he does all he can to draw out from us the faith that can move mountains, making the impossible, possible. As in the case of the Canaanite woman who through faith won her battle with the devil tormenting her daughter and destabilising the peace and joy of her family, Jesus only wants to know how much we trust him; how we can persevere; how we can disregard all forms of class, gender, and racial discrimination to persist until we win through God's favour, our battle with evil forces and situations that tend to torment us and steal our joy and peace.

This woman from this pagan district, the region of Tyre and Sidon, despite her background and sinful environment was never blind to the power inherent in Jesus. For her, Jesus is the last bus-stop in looking for a solution to her problem; she's looking nowhere else; she believed Jesus could and would solve her problem because Jesus is all-powerful and ever compassionate. St Paul, in today's second reading tells us that "God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind". Jesus wants people to understand their unworthiness and how he desires to show mercy to them if they show unflinching faith in him.

The woman understood that. She was a foreigner and not one of the lost sheep of the house of Israel - which could be interpreted as not among the children that Jesus came to save. In fact, Jesus likened her to a dog. But she still attached herself to Jesus and would not let go until she received her blessing. Sometimes people stop following Jesus; stop going to Mass on Sunday (our Sabbath) or leave the Church when they feel insulted or discriminated against. Is that not a trial of their faith? In today's first reading, the Lord says: "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". Are not our churches houses of prayer, where God has promised to make us joyful by answering our prayers?

How about perseverance in prayer displayed by this woman who was despised by the people? Do we persist in prayer - Praying Until Something Happens (P.U.S.H)? As the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "the spiritual tradition of the Church has retained the symbol of prayer as a battle of faith and as the triumph of perseverance" (CCC # 2573). According to Pope Francis, "wrestling with God" is "a metaphor for Prayers". Let's end with his story: "Once I heard an elderly man — a good man, a good Christian, but a sinner who had great trust in God — who said: "God will help me; he will not leave me alone. I will enter Heaven; limping, but I will enter".¹

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

¹ POPE FRANCIS, *General Audience*, Library of the Apostolic Palace. Wednesday, 10 June 2020.

CHURCHES

St Brigid's Church
39-49 McLaren Rd
Nerang Q 4211

St John's Church
Windabout Rd
Beechmont Q
4211

SCHOOL

St Brigid's
Primary
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DAVID SEWELL
Principal

MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

Week Day Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7.00 am

Wednesday 5.45 pm

Saturday Morning 9.00 am

Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the
Third Saturday of the month at 9.00am

The next Anointing Mass will be to be advised

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 8.30 am and 10.30am

Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am,

Saturday at 8.30am.

Divine Mercy Prayer Thursday 7.30 am

Adoration Thursday 6.00-7.00pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church By appointment only

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont 4th Sunday of each month

Next Mass at St John's 23rd August 2020



COVID-19 EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Dear Parishioners

With the further easing of COVID-19 restrictions we are now able to have more people (within reason) attend Mass. We will be resuming our usual schedule with a few exceptions as outlined on the previous page. However, the Government's social distancing guidelines will still apply.

All parishioners who wish to attend any or all of the weekday or Sunday Masses must now ring or email the office to have their name included in the list for that particular day. If you wish to attend daily and/or weekend (Sunday) Mass your name can be listed for the entire month of August if you let us know and then you do not have to contact us until the end of August to re-register for the following month. Unfortunately many people are under the assumption that they do not need to register but it is a requirement of the Archdiocese that we must comply with.

Please note I have added an extra Mass on Sunday at 10.30am. Please all those who would like to attend the 10.30 Mass should ring the Office Mon and Tuesday 9.00am to 12.00pm

With the new cases reported in Queensland we ask for your prayers.

IN EMERGENCIES or HOSPITAL CALLS

For Robina Hospital - Burleigh Heads Parish on 5576 6466

For Pindara Hospital - Surfers Paradise Parish on 5572 5433

For John Flynn Hospital - Coolangatta-Tugun Parish on 5598 2165

University & Gold Coast Priv Hosp-Southport Parish 5510 2222

Religious Education in State Schools

We are calling for anyone who is interested in teaching religion in State Schools especially Gilston State School on Friday mornings from 10.00-11.00am to contact the Coordinator for Religious Education Helene McCowan on 55394374 to undertake the necessary training.

SHALOM WORLD TV

Please Watch Inspiring and faith filled Christian television programs.

Shalom World's main website: <https://shalomworld.org>

Shalom Media: <https://shalommedia.org>

Shalom Media Store: <https://shalommediastore.org>

TO DOWNLOAD THE APP <https://shalomworld.org/watchon/apps>

TO SUPPORT US <https://payments.shalommedia.org/tvdo...>

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Subscribe: <https://www.youtube.com/c/shalomworld>

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SCHEDULE

Meeting dates for Confirmation are:

15th August 10.10am

16th August 9.30am

6th September 9.30am

17th October 10.10 am

24th October 3pm to 5.00pm Retreat

25th October 9.30am to 10.30am continuation of Retreat

30th October 6.00pm Confirmation night

Meetings for First Eucharist are:

30th August 9.30am after Mass

12th September 10.10am after Mass 11th October 10.10am after Mass

1st November 10.10am after Mass

2nd November brief meeting only

7th November 10.10am after Mass

14th November 10.10am Retreat

15th November 9.30am to 10.30am continuation of Retreat

21st November 6.00pm First Eucharist

22nd November 8.30am First Eucharist

We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus

We pray for the recently deceased: Elizabeth Walhain

We pray for the departed whose anniversaries occur at this time: Don Evans and Michael Ware, Leesa Halverson and Danny Lyon

We also remember their families—may they be comforted in their loss by this Community of Faith.

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Noela Hopkins, Michelle Kurz, Peter Doring, John Sweeny, Daryl Williams, Ava Mansfield, Shirley Jean Carr, Kath Fisher, Brenda Dale, (Baby) Paris Organ, Maureen Bourke, Patricia Smith, Maureen & Paul Humey, Valda Silvy, Joan Gordon, Amanda Gordon, Shelly Ryan, Sandra Miller, Nona Maguire,

Our prayers are also offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing Homes.



New Planned Giving Envelopes are available for collection in the Church now as well as receipts for the last year.

If you are not currently in the Planned Giving Program, please see Fr Isidore or telephone the office.

INSTALLATION OF CAMERAS IN THE CHURCH

With the COVID 19 restrictions and lockdown still in place, we would like to continue our live streaming to reach out to members of our community who may not be in the Church with us and also to make available to those who participated at the Mass an opportunity to watch the Mass and listen to the homily again if they so wish.

Installing cameras for professional video recording and uploading to the internet will also benefit the Church and families who would like to live stream the funeral of loved ones to relatives and friends who may be unable to attend. The same applies to weddings, graduation ceremonies, celebration of the sacraments like baptisms, first Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, and Anointing of the sick. Grand-parents and sick relatives and friends would not miss out completely. There are other uses and benefits as well which could accrue from the Church having fixed cameras in place.

If anyone feels touched to support this project, please do not hesitate to talk to me about how you could help.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIALS as at 9th August 2020

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 598.05 For Clergy Support (Greatly affected by COVID 19 Crisis)

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1165.25 For Parish expenses such as administration & maintenance of all our buildings & properties.

We appeal to all our Parishioners and friends who are not on planned giving already to consider switching over to planned giving or find another means of supporting the Parish and our ministry financially. We will send to parishioners the planned giving forms on request. I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Be assured of our prayers, and of your divine rewards.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

August 16, 2020 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time "For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29)

God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. We are called to be good stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone. www.archstl.org/about-stewardship/bulletin-inserts/weekly-bible-reflections