



*Readings for
this week:* Isaiah 56:1,6-7
Romans 11:13-15,29-32
Matthew 15:21-28



*Readings for
next Sunday:* Isaiah 22:19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20



Liturgical Jottings

Liturgy and Nature II

While we express our concern for God's creation, there is real need to bring these concerns into Christian spirituality and our regular worship. New Mass texts provide prayers for creation and events that affect the earth, human activity and our wellbeing. The Roman Missal (2010) in the section for various needs and occasions include Masses such as at seedtime and after the harvest, in times of earthquakes, for rain, fine weather, an end to storms, in times of bushfires, drought, floods and cyclone. More recently added are Masses for time of pandemic (2020) and for the care of creation. (Vatican, 2025) with the Collect: Father, who have in Christ, the firstborn of all creation, called all things into being, grant, we pray, that, docile to your Spirit's breath of life, we may lovingly care for the work of your hands. ... Amen.

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Looking at the Readings

All three readings and the responsorial psalm for this Sunday mention foreigners, converted pagans and/or peoples of all nations. The writers' intentions appear clear. The message of God, God's care and promises go out to all peoples. To the Israelites in Isaiah's day this concept was a challenge: God accepting foreigners to his Temple. St Paul understood his mission to preach Christ to the Gentiles who also enjoy the promise of God with the Paul's own people. These promises, and covenant will never be revoked. Pope Benedict XVI reminded us of the continuing old covenant when he wrote, quoting the Catholic Catechism of the Church "the Old Covenant has never been revoked" (CCC 121).

Matthew's Gospel was firstly written to his own church community consisting of converted Jewish people. Matthew broadened their understanding of Jesus mission through his dialogue with the Canaanite woman. Jesus praised her persistence and her faith. Secondly the gospel is relevant in our time when the church and Christians encounter people of other cultures, languages and races. We are able to sing the responsorial psalm with faith and hope: "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." (psalm 67:4)

Sunday ClipArt

The image for this week depicts the faithful people offering praise and sacrifice that are acceptable (Is 56:7) in the temple of God.

By Steve Erspamer © 1992 Archdiocese of Chicago.

Quote of the Day

Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy. *Henri Nouwen*

On the Lighter Side

An entrepreneur opened a new funeral parlour in town for people of no specific faith. He called it: "Di-Agnostic Services."

How do you know that atoms are Catholic? They have mass.
Be grateful for laughter — it burns up calories without exercising



 Please email or contact the office to add names to the prayer list	For those who have died and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Theresa Elmecker
	Our sick and their carers	Maree Young, Sue McDonald, Mary Vraca, Kim Mann, Russell Parsons, Rita Fairchild, Harney McKinnon

ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 23rd August 10:30am

Commentator: Anne Marie Nihill
 Reader: Debbie Worm
 Gospel Procession: Catherine O'Toole
 Gifts: D Corrigan & P Moroney
 Eucharistic Minister: Ross Kelly
 Screen Operator: Lou Worm
 Music Operator: Trish Warnett
 Money Counters: L & D Worm

Sunday 30th August 10:30am

Commentator: Carol Coulston
 Reader: Sheila Gregg
 Gospel Procession: Angela Lombardozzi
 Gifts: L Mercuri & C Bannan
 Eucharistic Minister: A Ciavarella
 Screen Operator: Deb Turvey
 Music Operator: Trish Warnett
 Money Counters: E Worm & C Coulston

Saturday Mass times for 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month

6:00pm (Oct – Mar)

5:00pm (Apr-Sep)



We thank all of our volunteers for their assistance during Mass

NOTICES

Names on Prayer List: Please email or contact the office to add names on the prayer list.

Gluten Free Hosts: Please Trish or Fr Uday know if you require gluten free hosts.

Wills & Bequeaths: There is an information sheet on the table in the Narthex regarding Wills and Bequeaths. Please consider your Parish when you are considering your Will.

Rosters: for July and August are available in the Narthex.

Faith Sharing Group: all welcome to attend a 'The Meeting in the Spirit' group on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th August at 6:00pm in the Presbytery.

Baptism Preparation Meeting: Wednesday 2nd September at 5:30pm in the Church. Please contact the Parish office to book in if you would like to attend. The final meeting for the year will be on Wednesday 2nd December at 7:00pm.

Two Week Mass Timetable Week Commencing 19th August

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 19th August 9:15am
 Friday 21st August 9:15am

Weekend Mass

Sunday 23rd August 10:30am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 26th August 9:15am
 Friday 28th August 9:15am
 1:30pm (funeral)

Weekend Mass

Sunday 30th August 10:30am

Monthly events

Anointing Mass every 1st Wednesday Mass at 9:15am

Italian Rosary every 2nd Friday at 2pm in the Church

Reconciliation every 1st Saturday of the month (30 minutes before Mass)

Shared lunch: 4th Sunday of the month in St Mary's Hall

Eucharistic Adoration every 1st Friday of month at 5:30pm in the Church

Ladies Cuppa & Chat

1st Wednesday of each month at 2pm in St Mary's Hall. All welcome.

The next one will be on Wednesday 2nd September

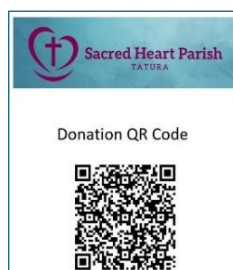


Plate Collection and Envelopes

Collections for last week was \$716.00

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the parish.

May God bless you always.



Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration on the first Friday of the month at 5:30pm in the Sacred Heart Church. All welcome. The next Eucharistic Adoration will be this coming Friday 4th September



O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.

Matthew 15:28

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH DEBUTANTE BALL 2027

St Augustine's Parish is seeking expressions of interest from young people wishing to participate in the **2027 Debutante Ball**. If you are interested, please register your expression of interest with the Parish Office by **1 September 2027**.

Contact the Parish Office:

- **Phone:** (03) 5852 1026
- **Email:** kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

For further information, please contact **Alana Brennan** at brenpk1@gmail.com

Sandhurst Formation Institute Forum (this Friday & Saturday): Parishioners are encouraged to register for the Sandhurst Foundation Institute Forum on this Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd August in Shepparton.

Please consider supporting this important diocesan initiative and register for both days. To register go to:

<https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3081-register-for-sandhurst-formation-institute-2026>

Faith That Reaches Out

The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that God's love is for all people. The readings show how faith and mercy cross every border. Isaiah speaks of God's house as a place of prayer for every nation. Paul tells us that God's gifts are never withdrawn. The Gospel shows us a woman from outside Israel who trusted in Jesus and was heard.

These passages show the wide embrace of God's plan. No one is left out if they seek Him with faith. The Canaanite woman's courage in asking Jesus for help teaches us to keep praying, even when it seems hard. Paul's message tells us that mercy is for all, and Isaiah's vision points to a future where every person is welcome to worship.

On the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, the readings remind us that faith, trust, and hope unite people from every land. God's love reaches past barriers of culture, history, and nation. His call is the same for everyone: come, believe, and be made whole.

The readings for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A show that God welcomes all who follow Him. They also teach about faith, mercy, and perseverance.

- **God welcomes all people:** Isaiah speaks of foreigners being accepted if they follow God's ways. Jesus helps a Gentile woman, showing that God's love is for everyone.
- **Faith moves Jesus:** The Canaanite woman does not give up. Her strong faith leads Jesus to heal her daughter.
- **God's mercy is for all:** Paul explains that God's mercy is not just for one group. He shows kindness to everyone, even when they fail.
- **Persistence in prayer:** The woman keeps asking Jesus for help. Her persistence shows the power of not giving up in prayer.
- **Obedience to God matters:** Isaiah says those who keep God's covenant will be accepted. Following God's ways leads to blessings.
- **God's promises never change:** Paul says God's gifts and call last forever. His love and plan stay the same.

God does not turn away those who seek Him. Faith and perseverance open the way to His blessings.

Prayer

Lord, You welcome all who seek You with faith. Help us to trust in Your mercy and never give up in prayer. Teach us to open our hearts to others, just as You do. Strengthen our faith so that we may follow You with confidence. Thank You for Your love that never fails. Amen.

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Child safety officer Debbie Turvey on 0407 804 317.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura

PO Box 110 Tatura VIC 3616

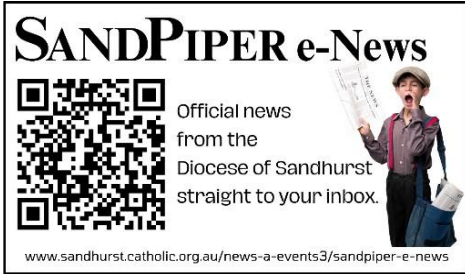
Phone: 0436 112 232

Email: tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website: <http://www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au>

Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Parish Tatura

DIOCESE NEWS – 16/8/2026



Discover Catholic Podcasts and events happening across Australia – retreats, pilgrimages, workshops and more.

Visit www.CathEvents.org.au to find opportunities to grow in faith and community. Event organisers can also list their events for free, helping more people connect and participate.

The latest Along the Track can be found on our website under the heading of **Sharings / Along the Track**

Diocese Website: <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au>

Diocese Facebook Page: Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst



Donation QR Code



INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028

“We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!” — Pope John Paul II More than a one-time event, Eucharist 28 is a national journey of renewal, beginning in our own hearts and parishes. This Easter, we saw our churches filled with new life as many were welcomed into the faith. The invitation now is to keep that flame alive: to encounter Christ in the Eucharist every week as we prepare for a global celebration of the Eucharist and a Papal Mass celebrated in Sydney by Pope Leo XIV. Find out more and register at eucharist28.org

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

Thanks to generous supporters, every contribution during August will be doubled.



Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering: Caritas Australia & Catholic Religious Australia warmly invite you to participate in the **Season of Creation Gathering: Listen, Reflect, Act**, a national online event on **3–4 September**. The Gathering offers inspiring keynote speakers and practical workshops to help participants deepen their faith and respond to the call to care for our common home. Learn more & register: www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

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.

Woman, you have great faith.

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.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Breaking Open the Word

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today's Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today's southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won't be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew's Jewish audience, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel', and, later, 'It is not fair to take children's food and throw it to house-dogs'. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the 'children', rather than on gentiles ('house-dogs'!). Jesus' derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, 'Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'.

Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman's great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew's Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman's request being granted. Her daughter is healed.

From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

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

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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