



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
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XX Domenica del tempo Ordinario (ANNO A)

In this gospel, we find another example of the common device used by Matthew to denote the movement of Christianity from a Jewish to a Gentile setting. Jesus has left the Jewish region around the Sea of Galilee and travelled north-west to the Gentile territory of what was ancient Phoenicia in Syria.

Jesus’ fame has obviously spread even here, but the focus of the passage is not the cure but the dialogue. The woman knows full well that Jesus is Jewish as she hails him as ‘Son of David’. His silence in the face of her plea is explained in the next verse—a reference to the messianic mission of gathering all Israel into the kingdom. Jesus’ response sounds harsh, but the woman is quick to seize on his imagery and twist it to her advantage, but with humility. Through her, Jesus reveals a great truth—God’s salvation is available to all. He responds generously with both his praise and his healing power.

(LaChiesa)

Dio viene a noi, ma noi non sempre gli andiamo incontro. Si manifesta in molti modi diversi, ma non sempre viene riconosciuto e accolto dal suo popolo. A volte, tuttavia, viene accolto in luoghi e modi sorprendenti. Nel Vangelo di oggi, vediamo Gesù partire verso un luogo inatteso: la regione fra Tiro e Sidone, abitata da pagani. Il suo arrivo non passa inosservato: gli va incontro una donna cananea, qualcuno, dunque, che non apparteneva ad Israele. La donna è spinta verso Gesù dai suoi bisogni, non dalla fede. Quali siano i suoi bisogni e quali quelli della figlia è chiaro, tanto più che la donna li esprime a gran voce, con una violenta insistenza: implora la pietà di Gesù, grida perché egli la aiuti e, soprattutto, non desiste. La donna, tuttavia, non esprime solo e soprattutto i propri bisogni: riconosce, infatti, Gesù come Signore, come figlio di Davide. Il suo grido di disperazione si purifica così diventando preghiera. Del resto, quando a Messa diciamo o cantiamo: “Signore, abbi pietà”, non ripetiamo, in un certo senso, le parole e la venerazione della donna cananea?
(The Summit)

St. Matthew’s Parish Dinner and Parish Raffle

St. Matthew’s Parish will be holding a dinner to celebrate the feast of St. Matthew on Friday, 18th of September in the parish hall. Tickets are \$25.00 for adults / \$15.00 for children. A raffle will also be held - tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 per book. The raffle will be drawn at the dinner. Entry tickets and raffle tickets are available for purchase before and after weekend masses., or, from the Parish Office. The raffle prize list will be available on the noticeboard in the church foyer.

Melbourne Synod 2026

On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis’ vision of a ‘listening Church’ (*Evangelii Gaudium*, §31). Informed by Vatican II’s teaching, the Church is ‘a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit’ (*Lumen Gentium*, §4). The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026.

Further information is available at : <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

Air conditioners in the church

Work on the removal of the existing split systems and the installation of the new systems will commence in the near future. S&J Mechanical Electrical P/L have been assigned the responsibility of the project. The systems are expected to be installed and running by the end of September. There should be minimal disruption to weekday or weekend mass services. Voluntary donations are welcome.

The sick in our parish: Teresa Lamonaca, John Markis, Miriam Markis, Angela Barto, Sonia Taranto, Evelyn McDonough, Laurence, Monica Zahra, Cathy Taviane, Maria Mallozzi, Aiden Agius, Meldon Richardson, John Bussutil, Elda Taranto, Alfredo Pannunzio, Claudette McAllister, Joe Ranno, John Pannunzio, Maria Lester, Robert, Richard, Rosario Galati, Alice Abella, Estrelita Flores, Anna Boscaglia, Cleo Mallia, Theresa Beard, Remi Infanti, Christine, Geoffrey Harris, Vic Usher, Nidal, Peter.

Upcoming funeral: Nazarena Caruana, Tuesday, August 18 at 12.00 pm.
Felice Nania, Friday, August 21 at 11.00. Rosary followed by requiem mass.
Recently deceased: Nazarena Caruana, Felice Nania, Giovanna Failla, Mario Cutajar, Kelly Theuma, Rose Anne Trani, Geoffrey Harris
Anniversaries: Gabriele Torchia, Carmela Fortuna, Frank Del Borello, Paola Cutello, Rosa Butera, Nicola Butera

Mass times Weekday: Tuesday-Friday: 9.30 am. Wednesday: Novena mass 6.00 pm. Weekend Saturday Vigil mass 5.30 pm Sunday 9.00 am ; Sunday 10.30 (Italian mass) Reconciliation: Saturday: 5.00 pm. Bookings are essential. Contact the Parish Office	Rosters for weekend masses (August 22/23) Lectors: Saturday: 5.30 pm. J. Caparelli Sunday 9.00 am: S. Peake 10.30 am: G. Gamberale Bus driver: F. Inchincoli 
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Archbishop’s Campaign 2026 (August 2– 23)

The Archbishop’s Campaign will commence this weekend. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli invites you to reflect on what a vibrant faith community means for you and your family, and to consider making a personal, recurring monthly gift in support of the vital ministries that serve our Archdiocese. From next week, you will notice campaign materials throughout the parish, including posters, envelopes with tear-off pledge cards, a banner on our website, and content across our social media channels. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks; in the meantime, I encourage you to begin prayerfully discerning your support.

Joke of the day

Faith in theory and action: A man who was walking close to a steep cliff lost his footing and plunged over the side. As he was falling, he grabbed the branch of a tree that was sticking out about half-way down the cliff. He managed to hang onto a weak limb with both hands. He looked up and he saw that the cliff was almost perfectly straight and that he was a long way from the top. He looked down and it was a long, long way down to the rocky bottom. At this point the man decided that it was time to pray. He didn’t pray a long, wordy prayer. He simply yelled out, “*God, if you’re there, help me!*” About that time, he heard a deep voice coming from high up above that said, “*I’m here My son, have no fear.*” The man was a little startled at first by God’s voice, but he pleaded, “*Can You help me? Can You help me?*” God replied, “*Yes, I can My son, but you have to have Faith. Do you trust Me?*” The man answered, “*Yes Lord, I trust You.*” God said, “*Do you really trust Me?*” The man, straining to hold on replied, “*Yes Lord, I really trust You.*” Then God said, “*This is what I want you to do: let go of the limb, trust Me, and everything will be all right.*” The man looked down at the rocks below, then he looked up at the steep cliff above him and yelled, “*Is there anybody else up there who can help me?*”
(frtonyshomilies)

Preghiera di San Matteo Dio nostro Padre, ti ringraziamo per tutti i doni che hai conferito sulla nostra famiglia parrocchiale. Concedici la Sapienza per cercare la tua volontà’ in ogni cosa. Circonda le nostre famiglie con la tua protezione amorosa. Dona salute e gioia ai nostri genitori, sapienza e coraggio ai nostri giovani e fede ed allegria ai nostri figli. Per intercessione di San Matteo, benedici perche’ diventiamo una famiglia piu’ fedele ed amorosa e di cuore e mente unici. Amen	St. Matthew’s Prayer God Our Father, we thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon our Parish Family. Give us the wisdom to seek Your Will in everything. Encircle our families with Your loving care. Give good health and happiness to our parents; wisdom and courage to our youth; faith and cheerfulness to our children. Bless us, through the intercession of St. Matthew, to grow stronger in faith and love, as a family of one heart and one mind. Amen
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St. Matthew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.