



SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST, 2026 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 15:21-28)

The Gospels are written in Greek and much of the language of the Gospels has to be understood against a Greek philosophical background. Today's Gospel story culminates in the healing of a "daughter" who may be a little girl or even a young woman. Her mother, the main character in the story, is known to Matthew's community simply as a Canaanite woman, or in other words an indigenous woman. To some early Christian communities, she is Justa, so that we might reasonably call her daughter Justina.

Justa comes to Jesus as he moves from Jewish territory into, or close to, non-Jewish territory. In the language of liturgy, she laments loudly and persistently for her daughter, for Justina is "severely tormented by a demon". For the ancient Greeks, the antithesis of demonic possession or torment is human flourishing or well-being (*eudaimonia*). *Eudaimonia* means having a good guardian spirit as opposed to a malevolent spirit that impairs a person's well-being and sense of self. Justina's well-being is in jeopardy. Her distraught mother is an outsider to the "house of Israel" who is nonetheless familiar with Israel's prayer of lament. She is a woman alone in public space, risking ridicule and rejection to find healing for her daughter. Her plea, "Mercy *me*", reveals the depth of her identity with the suffering of her daughter.

The immediate response to her plea is silence: Jesus "does not answer her a word". Is he ignoring her cry for help? Is he simply stunned, taken aback at the vehemence of her request? Is he rendered speechless by the simple fact that she would cross the boundaries of gender and ethnicity in this way? Is he in awe at her courage and faith from the outset?

All we know is that he says nothing and that the disciples tell him to send her away. He responds by defining the limits of his mission rather narrowly: he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Justa is not deterred by this rejection. She begs Jesus to help her and receives an explicit refusal in a confronting image that names his people as "the

children" and her people as "the dogs". She accepts his statement as a challenge and bests him in the exchange: "even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table".

Jesus' horizons are expanded by the persistence and insight of this courageous and faith-filled woman. Justa's great faith is affirmed and her daughter is healed. Justa is vindicated and Justina restored to a state of well-being or *eudaimonia*.

Justina has her counterparts across the globe, especially in these troubled times of widespread conflict. The challenge for us is to be Justa in our times for the sake of all in the Earth community, human and other-than-human, whose well-being or *eudaimonia* is impaired by illness or fear or lack of access to the means to flourish. We might well cry out on behalf of our planet, "Mercy *me*".

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for those who have died recently and for

**Aref Abboud, Lucianna Agostino
and Maria Trang Nguyen**

whose anniversaries occur at this time.
May they rest in peace.



Is synodality slow?

Synodality may seem slower than top-down decision-making, but it often leads to deeper, more lasting renewal. What is discerned together is more likely to be embraced together.

First Reading: Isaiah 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.

The Word of the Lord.

(R). Thanks be to God.

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: Romans 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.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: 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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven, *(All bow)*
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Communion Antiphon: Ps 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy;
In him is plentiful redemption.

HOSPITALITY

All parishioners are invited to stay awhile after the

5pm and 9.30am Masses this weekend.

Stay to enjoy a Cuppa, catch up with friends,
get to know and welcome more parishioners,
offer to help serve tea/coffee, clear up afterwards.

**EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF
MOST REV STUART HALL AS BISHOP
OF THE MILITARY ORDINATE OF AUSTRALIA.**

Saturday 29 August 2026

11.00am – 1.00pm

**St. Patrick's Cathedral,
1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne.**

Those unable to be at the Cathedral in person
can watch online at the Archdiocesan You Tube
channel and or on free-to-air TV via C31
(channel 44 on digital TV).

Let's keep Bishop-elect Hall in our prayers as he
prepares to take up his new ministry.

**MARY MACKILLOP TODAY FUNDRAISER
AUCTION AND FUNDRAISING LUNCH**

Date: Sunday 30 August 2026

Time: 12.00pm – 4.00pm

**Location: Mount St. Joseph Girls' College,
133 Maidstone Street Altona Vic 3018.**

**Price: \$55 per person
2 course Meal & Dessert, BYO drinks**

RSVP: by Friday, 21 August 2026

**Tickets: Use the QR code
or call the Sisters of St. Joseph
Regional Office on 9861 9500
to book your tickets. See also
flyer on the church noticeboards**



COMMUNITY FAIR

**Annunciation, Corpus Christi & St. Augustine's
(Three Schools, One Community)**

Saturday 14th November 2026, 10am to 4pm

There will be rides, entertainment, Stalls,
yummy food, Face Painting

**Location: Corpus Christi School,
380 Geelong Road Kingsville 3012**

Save the Date

2026 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

**A special collection will be taken up at all Masses
this weekend, August 22 and 23.**

**Your contribution to this annual campaign goes
towards a number of good works in the Church.**

Campaign envelopes and brochures are available in
the churches explaining the approach to fundraising
in the Parishes across the Archdiocese of Melbourne
to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese.

A tax-deductible gift (Archbishop's Charitable Fund)
will support -

- Priests' Retirement Foundation,
- Corpus Christi College Building Fund,
- CatholicCare Victoria - Chaplaincy Program
- Melbourne Overseas Mission,
- John Pierce Centre,
- University of Divinity for the Catholic Theological College,
- Annual grants to Catholic community agencies and community service organisations.

Non-deductible gifts (Religious Projects Fund) will
support -

- The Archbishop's Evangelisation initiatives
such as the Australian Catholic Youth
Festival and World Youth Day.
- Seminarian Education.

Any unallocated or loose collections will go to
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious
Projects Fund.

Donations can be made

- By completing the tear-off pledge card
attached to the campaign envelopes and
placing it, along with your cash, cheque or
credit card details, in the envelope and put
the envelope into the collection plate this
weekend or by posting the envelope to:

Archbishop's Campaign

PO Box 146

East Melbourne Vic 8002

Please make cheques payable to:

The Archbishop's Campaign

- via the QR code,
- via cash into the collection plate,
- online,

melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

Receipts will be emailed to all donors making
donations of \$2 or more who provide an email
address, regardless of whether they are making a
tax-deductible donation. If you don't have an email
address, a receipt can be sent to a postal address.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan

PHONE: 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au

ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.melb catholic.org/yarraville

SAFEGUARDING: Pat Mc Laughlin

patmac766@gmail.com

PARISH CHURCHES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

For email copy of Bulletin



Click QR Code

LITURGY TIMES

TUESDAY MASS

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi...11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

SAVE THE DATE: SEOULFEST

- One year to go to

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

Thursday 20 August 2026 at 6.30pm

St. Patrick's Cathedral East Melb.

Join Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli and hundreds of young people from across the Archdiocese as we launch our pilgrimage to South Korea.

The evening will begin with Six30 Holy Hour with Adoration and Benediction in St. Patrick's Cathedral, followed by food, music and celebrations in the Cathedral grounds.

Share this event with young people in your community for your invitation can open the door to a life-changing encounter with Christ.

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre,

St. Joseph's by the Sea,

at 16 Esplanade Williamstown

Upcoming events include ongoing spiritual programs, monthly twilight sessions, and multi-day directed retreats running through to late 2026. For more information, please call (03)9397 6012 or email admin.sjbts@sosjspirit.org.au

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to parishioners at Annunciation, Corpus Christi and St. Augustine's for your regular donation of food items placed in the churches each week.

In addition to **non-perishable food**, (cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits), items such as **shampoo, soap, deodorant, washing powder/liquid, toothpaste and brushes** are also needed and appreciated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians 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 people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK

15th & 16th August 2026

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Peter Matheson

9.30am Andrea Wilberger
Sam Polzella

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Joe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Paloma Kelly

9.30am..... Phillip Marques

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Hong Nguyen

COUNTING: John Ryan

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

22nd & 23rd August 2026

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Greg Buhagiar

9.30am Pat McLaughlin
Sam Polzella

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Julianna Barr

Edith Fletcher

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Maree Ryan

9.30am..... Agnes Hopmans

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Imelda Gibson

COUNTING: Phillip Marques

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements