



Ordinary Time Summer 2020

We gather together in our homes to join in prayer with all members of our Parish Community.



Eighteenth Wednesday of Ordinary Time

5th August 2020

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.

Matthew 15:21-28

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



Today's Gospel (Mt 15: 21-28) presents us a unique example of faith in Jesus' encounter with a Canaanite woman, a foreigner to the Jews. The scene unfolds while He is on the way to the cities of Tyre and Sidon, northwest of Galilee: it is here that the woman implores Jesus to heal her daughter who, the Gospel says, "is severely possessed by a demon" (v. 22). Initially the Lord seems not to listen to this cry of grief, so much so as to solicit the intervention of the disciples, who intercede for her. Jesus' apparent detachment does not discourage this mother, who insists in her invocation.

The inner strength of this woman, which enables her to overcome every obstacle, is found in her *maternal love* and in her *confidence* that Jesus can hear her request. And this makes me think of the strength of women. With their fortitude they are able to obtain great things. We have known so many of them! We can say that it is love that moves faith, and faith in turn becomes the reward of love. Her heartrending love for her daughter induces her "to cry: 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David!'" (v. 22). And her steadfast faith in Jesus enables her not to be discouraged, not even when faced with His initial refusal; so the woman "knelt before Him, saying: 'Lord, help me!'" (v. 25).

At the end, in face of such perseverance, Jesus remains in admiration, almost astonished by the faith of the pagan woman. Therefore, He consents saying: "'O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire'. And her daughter was healed instantly" (v. 28). **Pope Francis**



CONGREGATION
OF THE MOST
HOLY REDEEMER

Parishes of
Saint Mary (Woolton) & Our Lady of the Annunciation (Bishop Eton)