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|  **~ GOSPEL REFLECTION ~*****Immaculate Conception Parish*** P O BOX 600 Tumut Catholic Community Collection amounts for January 2016 ~PARISH NEWS~ ~ PARISH NEWS ~ |

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 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. 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 from her mission. She begs Jesus to help her and receives an explicit refusal in a confronting image that names his people as “the children” and hers as “the dogs”. She accepts his statement as a challenge and bests him in the exchange: “even the dogs eat the crumbs….” Jesus’ horizons are expanded by the persistence and insight of this 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. 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 violence or war or lack of access to the means to flourish.

***An excerpt by Sister Veronica Lawson***



**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. Luke Verrell (Assistant Priest)**

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

 **Anna Quinn**

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**‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

 **Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

 **Sunday: 10am (Children’s Liturgy)**

 **‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Tuesday: 6pm**

**Wednesday: 10am (School Mass)**

**Thursday & Friday: 8am**

**Saturday: 9am (every fortnight - Thursday: 11am BUPA Liturgy**

**Saturday: 9.40am BLAKENEY LODGE Liturgy)**

 **‘ROSARY’**

**Saturday at 8.45am**

**Exposition at 8.30am (1st Sat of month)**

 **‘RECONCILIATION’**

 **Saturday at 5.15pm**

 **‘LITURGY MEETING’**

 **Tuesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

 **‘PRAYER GROUP’**

 **(Rosary & Divine Mercy)**

 **Wednesday: 2pm in Chapel**

  **‘CONTACTS’**

 **Care Group: Anne Huebner 0406490415**

***Gospel Acclamation***

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

***Responsorial Psalm***

O God, let all the nations praise you!

 ***Entrance Antiphon***

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

 ***Gospel Acclamation***

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Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

 **20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

 **Year A**

 **August 20th 2017**

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 19th & 20th August   |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm |  Sunday 10am |
| Acolyte |  Christine Kelly |  Mark Hogan |
| Reader |  Anita Mason |  Kirsty Beavan |
| Commentator |  Maureen Cook |  Liz Boxall |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Caitlin Larter |
| Musicians |  Maureen Norman  |  Anna Quinn |
| Altar Servers |  Chloe Turnbull & Lily Webb | Annabelle Sturgess & Genevieve Mason-Elliott |
| Church Care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LINEN Maria Cobden | Group 4: The Dobbie Family |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 26th & 27th August  |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | 10am |
| Acolyte |  Peter Malone |  Anne Huebner |
| Reader |  First Eucharist |  Kath Rosetta |
| Commentator |  First Eucharist  |  Trish Matthews |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Pat Spannagle |
| Musicians |  Anna Quinn |  Patricia & Monica |
| Altar Servers | Darcy Halloran & Charlotte Kelly | Ashleigh Oriel & Kayla Crane |
| Church Care | Group 5: Sandra, Maria & Margaret Dean  |

 Feast Day

 R O S T E R S

 Feast Days

**We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith:**

 **MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Edward, Marcy & Clem Malone, Frank Stanfield, John Callister, Imelda, Bede & Francis McInerney, Teresa Butler, Joan Stockwell, Emmet Donovan, Rudi & Filomena Comai, Hassel McGrath, Noel Cook, Leo & Elvie Holt, Lionel & Tereasa Holt, Hugh Oliver, Pat Malone, Jim Whitaker, Matt & Edith Downing, Con & Ennis Twomey, Pauline Shedden, Bob & Sheila Wortes, Robert & Gertrude Tuncks, Ron & Pauline Hamilton, John Hourigan, Brian Gee, Alan & Angela Guthrie, Artie & Dulcie Piper, Tom, Kevin, Ruben & Harriett Arentz, Kevin Hawthorn, Kevin, Marie & Ray Cowan, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Alfred & Bridget Claffey, Ken Gee, Frederick & Mabel McInerney, Tom & Sam Sturt, Anna Do, Stan Kenny, Tom & Dorothy French and James Kelly.

 21st August: Saint Pius X 24th h August: Saint Bartholomew  **~** **~** **~**

Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’ *Martin Luther King Jr.*

  **~PARISH NEWS~**

 **SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST** will be celebrated at our Vigil Mass next Saturday 26th August. Please pray for all candidates and families. **PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT – January to June 2017** is available for parishioners to view. Please take a copy. For any further questions contact Mark Hogan on 0417020370 or Christine Kelly. **PARISH STREET STALL** thank you to everyone involved in making our stall a profitable one, a very special mention to John Casey for the generous load of wood supplied for the raffle and to Tiffany for her grateful time in organising this fundraiser. Results will be published next weekend. **CATHOLIC VOICE** August edition is now available for your collection. **PASTORAL STATEMENT from Archbishop Christopher Prowse** detailing two significant public issues concerning the church. Please take a copy to read. **PARISH INVITATIONS** parishioners are invitedto celebrate Archbishop Francis Carroll’s Episcopal Golden Jubilee on Tuesday 5th September at Archbishops House Canberra. Caritas Australia has extended an invitation to a thanksgiving luncheon on Thursday 14th September 2017 at Braddon. For more information on these events please read flyer on notice board in church foyer. **MANY THANKS** this weekend toourVigil Mass altar servers Chloe & Lily

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