

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 15:21-28

1. Having met with rejection from the Pharisees Jesus goes to Gentile territory and encounters faith in an unexpected place, in the Canaanite woman. His mission had previously been to his own people. This adds a new dimension to his mission. Have you had occasions when a chance encounter set your life off in a new direction?
2. The initial reaction of Jesus to the woman was one of rejection but her persistence won a response from him. When have you found that persistence was needed to gain what you sought? What did that experience teach you?
3. In our days, welcoming the stranger is a challenge. We are more comfortable with our own. What difference has it made when you were able to offer a friendly welcoming face to a stranger?
4. Who are the 'Canaanite women' who call out for attention today – people in Church or State whose needs are not being attended to?
John Byrne osaEmail jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

MUSINGS: Crumbs from the table

She was a lady like many – the woman of the Gospel today. She would fight for her child. So she took on Jesus, the best known religious figure around. Like someone taking on the Taoiseach over a medical card for a chronically ill child, and not letting him off the hook.

Jesus was testing her. He saw faith, but he wanted everyone else to see it. So he told her she didn't fit into the local religious sphere because she was foreigner, an asylum seeker or a refugee. Or a lone mother who had a bad name. She knew she fitted into the heart of Jesus simply because she was the mother of a sick child. Jesus cured her child and praised her faith. She is another of the unnamed ones of the Gospel. Like the woman of Samaria, the rich young man, the thief on Calvary – she is herself, and she is all of us. She is everyone, man and woman, of faith.

Faith in a surprising God who in Jesus his Son never says no to goodness. Faith that keeps us energetic and alive, not tired, in soul as well as body.

Lord, I believe, strengthen my faith.
Donal Neary SJ

Fear knocked on the door, faith answered. There was no one there. Dr Martin Luther King Jnr

THE DEEP END: Unexpected Encounters

We might wonder why Jesus is so rude and dismissive to the woman in today's Gospel who comes and asks for his help. Does he really call the woman 'a dog'?! Many explanations have been given for Jesus' words with some suggesting that it was an attempt at a first century joke, that he was just 'teasing' (he didn't really mean it!) or that it was an opportunity to test the woman's faith. The disciples also clearly want her sent away.

What happens just before this incident is important. Jesus has just left Gennesaret where the Pharisees have continued to be extremely hostile towards him. Jesus' mission to 'the lost sheep of the House of Israel' is not going so well. So, Jesus 'leaves that place' and goes somewhere that is unfamiliar. What happens in this unfamiliar place is certainly life giving for the woman and for Jesus also. It might be considered a place of new beginnings as Jesus' mission is opened up to those who would have been considered 'unworthy', such as a woman who is also a foreigner. The food rejected by the religious leaders of the time is ending up in unexpected places. It is here that the kingdom grows.

You have to admire the woman's persistence. She is a reminder of people we encounter who have great faith and make a deep impression on us.

We might ask ourselves today: when have experiences of rejection in our own lives led to new possibilities? Where are the unfamiliar places that we must go in order to grow, to embrace new life and new experiences?
Jane Melletmelletj@gmail.com

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES: There will be no 17:45 evening mass on weekdays until the autumn. No Adoration on Mondays and Fridays.

THE MILFORD HOSPICE ANNUAL HARVEST celebrates its 32nd anniversary on Sunday **August 27th** at the University of Limerick. There will be a full programme of activities and entertainment. Donations such as plants, bottles for the bottle stall and homemade cakes along with new items for the Wheel of Fortune will be accepted on the day only. All other goods such as toys, fancy good are being accepted at the Hospice from August 14th. For further information contact 061 485859.

LET'S TALK FAMILY; LET'S BE FAMILY

Following on from the excellent presentation by Cardinal Schonborn on July 13th at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick will launch its preparations for World Meeting of Families with a **FAMILY FUN DAY IN MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE on SUNDAY OCTOBER 8TH**. All welcome (including food stalls, music, sport, film and family fun activities for all generations).

Let's talk Family; let's be Family. Save the date – October 8th

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

The National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday September 10th 2017. Coach departs from the Salesian Convent at 8.30am. Those who wish to travel should phone 085 7491270 a few weeks in advance.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES: This time next year we will be in the final stages of preparation for World Meeting of Families in Dublin. However, we want this to be more than a three day wonder - this is our opportunity to create and develop family ministry in every parish in our diocese! So we want everyone to know about and engage with the one year preparation plan that is being rolled out. The planners have listened well to the hundreds of people consulted across the country and decided on a few key points: All this will be launched in Knock on August 21st at a great celebration. We would like to have lots of Limerick families there - **let us know if you are going! Please call the Diocesan Office on 061 315856 immediately to check if any final free bus places are still available for families!** (Families must book themselves, and under 18s must remain in the care of parent/guardian for the pilgrimage).

Parish Website

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at *Church Sacristy* Tel: 325288

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays

09:00-12.30 Sunday

Mass Times: Weekends

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00

Saturday 09:45

Baptisms: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15



MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 19 th	18:00	Tom & Maureen O'Brien (A) John Garvey (A)
Sun 20 th	10:00	Eileen Quill (A) Mella Hurley (A)
	11:30	Jim & Rose Hurley (A) Jim & Lillie Daly (A)
Mon 21 st	10:00	-
Tues 22 nd	10:00	Jerome Murphy (A)
Wed 23 rd	10:00	-
Thurs 24 th	10:00	-
Fri 25 th	10:00	-
Sat 26 th	9.45 18:00	- Noel Murphy (A) Gerard Goodwin (A) Bill Norton (A)
Sun 27 th	10:00 11:30	Nancy McElligott (A) Michael Brosnan (A) Jean Guerin (A) John Langford (A)