

## NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare & Bert Broekhuysen, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Ross Hay, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Rick Christensen, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Pat Anderson, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Leo Kop and Barbara Kirk.

**CONDOLENCES:** Sincere condolences to the Pollock family after the passing of their beloved Matriarch Jessie on 8 August at the age of 105. Jessie's funeral was very well attended by her family and many friends on 16 August. May she rest in peace.


**MASS TIME CHANGES:** There will be no 9:15am Masses next week on Thursday 24 and Friday, 25 August as Fr George will be attending Clergy Meetings in Canberra. **Bodalla Thursday Mass time has changed to 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:00am.**

**EVANGELISATION PROGRAM:** Next **Tuesday, 22 August** following 5pm Mass Parishioners are invited to Marg Croese's home (19 Costin Street, Moruya) to watch and discuss the next episode of **The Chosen**.

## NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE:

**VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK:** **August 24 – 31** has been nominated as Archdiocesan Vocations Awareness Week. Join us as we begin the week with a special prayer vigil on Thursday, 24 August at St Christopher's Cathedral from 6-7pm. More Vocations information can be found at [www.facebook.com/cgvocations](http://www.facebook.com/cgvocations)

**YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We have now ended the **Year of Walking Together** (8 August 2022- 8 August 2023) and the Archbishop launched the **YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - "IT SEEMED GOOD TO US AND THE HOLY SPIRIT" (Acts 15/28)** on 15 August. This next year is to focus on the work of the Holy Spirit in all of us. The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelisation. This belief involves examination of the charisms of the Holy Spirit in our lives of faith. What Holy Spirit gifts do we discern in our own lives and the lives of others to project forward the mission of the Church in the world of today?



**YEAR OF THE Holy Spirit**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, Grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolations. Through the same Christ Our Lord

AUGUST 2023 - AUGUST 2024

# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537  
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: [moruya@cg.org.au](mailto:moruya@cg.org.au)

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm

**Mass Times:**

**Moruya:** Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

**Tuross:** Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am

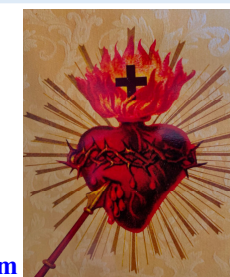
**Reconciliation:** Sat @ Moruya: 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-9:00am before Mass

4:15pm-4:45pm before Mass

**Devotions:** Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** 40 mins before weekday Mass

**Schools:** St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

**Caring Groups:** Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- YEAR A -

August 19 & 20 2023

## Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman

**“Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish”**

All three readings today speak of the expansive and universal nature of the “kingdom of God” in contrast with the protocol of the day which demanded that salvation should come first to the Jews and then to all the people of the earth. Although God set the Hebrew apart as His chosen race, He included all nations in His plan for salvation and blessed families of the earth in Abraham (Gen-12:1-3). By declaring through the prophet Isaiah (the **first reading**) **“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples”** God reveals the truth that in His eyes there is no distinction among human beings on the basis of race, caste or colour. The long-expected messianic kingdom was intended not only for the Jews but for all nations as well. In other words, we all belong to one another and hence, there is no place for discrimination among God's children. Today's **psalm** rejects all types of religious exclusivity: **“Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. For you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth, so that your saving power may be known among all the nations”**. In the **second reading** {Paul admits that although the Jews were the chosen people, most of them denied the promised Messiah and consequently God turned to the Gentiles who received mercy through their faith in Jesus. In the **gospel** story, Jesus demonstrates that salvation was meant for the Gentiles as well as for the Jews by healing the daughter of a Gentile woman as a reward for her strong faith. Thus, He shows that God's mercy and love are available to all who call out to Him in faith.



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**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.

**Communion Antiphon:** I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

**Prayer after Communion:** Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

**O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.**

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading Is 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

**All: 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 Rom 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

**All: Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel Mt 15:21-28

P: The Lord be with you

**All: And with your spirit**

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

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

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



## THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) **Trustful persistence rewarded:** Jesus first ignores both the persistent cry of the woman and the impatience of his disciples to send the woman away. He then tries to awaken true faith in the heart of this woman by an indirect refusal, telling her “*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*”. But the woman is persistent in her request. She kneels before him and begs “*Lord, help me*”. Now Jesus makes a seemingly harsh statement “*It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs*”. The term “dogs” was a derogatory Jewish word for the Gentiles. Dogs were regraded by the Jews as unclean, because they would eat anything given to them, including pork. The woman noticed, however that Jesus had used the word *kunariois*—the word for household pets—rather than the ordinary Greek word for dogs—*kuon*. She also observed that Jesus had used the word for dogs in a joking way—a sort of test of the woman’s faith. So she immediately matched wits with Jesus. Her argument runs like this: Pets are not outsiders but insiders. They not only belong to the family, but are part of the family. While they do not have a seat at the table, they enjoy intimacy at the family’s feet. Hence the woman replied “*Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table*”( v. 27) expressing her faith that Jesus could and would heal her daughter. Jesus was completely won over by the depth of her faith, her confidence and her wit and hence responded exuberantly “*Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish*”. We notice that the woman was refused three times by Jesus before he granted her request and finally, the fourth time, her persistence was rewarded and her plea was answered.

2) **We need to persist in prayer with trustful confidence:** Although the essential parts of prayer are adoration and thanksgiving the prayer of petition plays a big part in most people’s daily life. We have so many spiritual and temporal needs, which we cannot provide for by ourselves. Christ himself has told us to ask him for these needs: “*Ask and you shall receive*”. Asking with fervor and perseverance proves that we have the “great faith” we need to receive what Christ wants to grant us in response to our requests. We must realise and remember that we do not always get exactly what we ask for, but rather what God knows we need, what He wants for us and what is really best for us. What we need most are the peace and security that come from being in harmony with God’s will for us. As Christians, we also know that our particular request may not always be for our good, or for the final good of the person for whom we are praying. In that case, the good God will not grant what would be to our, or their eternal harm. But if the prayer is sincere and persevering we will always get an answer—one which is better than what we asked for.

3) **We need to pull down the walls of separation and share in the universality of God’s love:** Very often we set up walls which separate us from God and from one another. Today’s Gospel reminds us that God’s love and mercy are extended to all who call on him in faith and trust, no matter who they are. In other words, God’s care extends beyond the boundaries of race and nationality to the hearts of all who live, and God’s house should become a house of prayer for all peoples. It is therefore fitting that we should pray that the walls which our pride, intolerance and prejudice raise, should crumble. Next, we have to be grateful to God for all the blessings we enjoy. As baptised members of the Christian community, we have been given special privileges and easy access to God’s love. But we also have serious responsibilities arising from these gifts. One of these responsibilities is to make clear to others, with true humility and compassion, that God’s love, mercy and healing are for them also because they too are the children of God.