

Living FAITH

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land
and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A Primary

“A Woman’s Faith”

WE GATHER

God of Courage, Hope and Faith;
As we live Your Word,
help us to be inspiring people of faith,
living every day in hope and love.
We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.

Amen

WE LISTEN

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (15:21-28)

A Woman’s Faith

Jesus left and went to the territory near the cities of Tyre and Sidon. Suddenly a Canaanite woman from there came out shouting, “Lord and Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is full of demons.” Jesus did not say a word. But the woman kept following along and shouting, so his disciples came up and asked him to send her away.

Jesus said, “I was sent only to the people of Israel! They are like a flock of lost sheep.”

The woman came closer. Then she knelt down and begged, “Please help me, Lord!”

Jesus replied, “It isn’t right to take food away from children and feed it to dogs.”

“Lord, that’s true,” the woman said, “but even dogs get the crumbs that fall from their owner’s table.”

Jesus answered, “Dear woman, you really do have a lot of faith, and you will be given what you want.” At that moment her daughter was healed.



For courage
to stand up for what is right.
Lord, hear us.

For hope
that You hear the prayers of our hearts.
Lord, hear us.

For faith
that we can make a difference.
Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...
Lord, hear us.



Living FAITH



WE REFLECT

There are so many people who inspire us. Brave children who share their talents on shows like Australia's Got Talent, Lego master builders, athletes from our favourite sports, front line workers during CoVid. Every person who gave to the Bushfire Appeals and those who have been making meals for disadvantaged families. These people inspire us because of their courage, determination, compassion, love, kindness, talent and faith.

The woman in today's Gospel passage is incredibly inspiring too. Even though we don't know her name, there is so much we can learn from her. She was so full of courage, hope, determination and most importantly faith, that she actually made Jesus pay attention to her even when he didn't really want to. Not only did she make Jesus listen, but she **inspired** him to take action! Normally it is the other way around! That is the thing about faith. Faith doesn't take no for an answer. The more faith we have in God, ourselves and the people around us, the more courage, hope and determination grows within us.

**Who has inspired you lately with their courage, hope and faith?
How can you inspire others with your courage, hope and faith?**

WE ARE SENT FORTH

God of Love,
We give thanks for the many things we have been blessed with.
Help us to know Your voice
as we listen to the Good News and proclaim it for others.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Living Word.
Amen.

***In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen.***

***"Be faithful in small things because it is in them
that your strength lies."***

- *Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version

