

What do we do when we pray, we cry out to God, and it seems that God is silent? 'Never give up.'

In today's gospel we meet a mother who refuses to give up—because she knows that Jesus is her only hope." She comes to Jesus pleading for her daughter, who is suffering terribly. At first, Jesus seems to ignore her.

Then He appears to reject her request. Many of us might have walked away hurt or discouraged. But she doesn't. Instead, she kneels before Jesus and simply says, "**Lord, help me.**" Those three words are among the most beautiful prayers in the Gospel. They come from a heart that trusts completely in God's mercy.

When Jesus tests her faith once more, she responds with great humility: "Even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from their master's table." She is not demanding anything. She simply believes that even the smallest touch of Christ's mercy is enough.

Jesus is moved by her faith and says, "Woman, you have great faith. Let it be done for you as you wish." Her daughter is healed immediately.

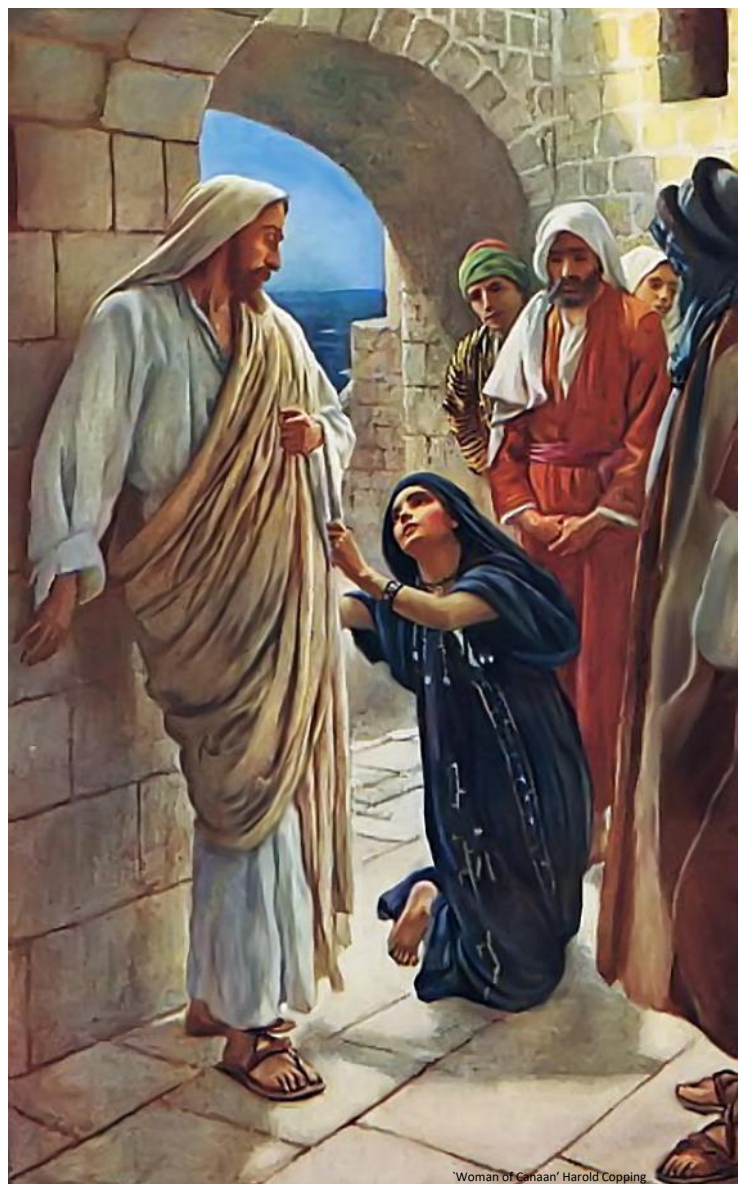
This Gospel reminds us that God sometimes seems silent. We pray for healing, for our children, for our families, for peace, yet the answer does not always come when we expect. Jesus invites us to persevere, not because He does not care, but because He is helping our faith to grow deeper.

There is a simple saying: "**God's delays are not God's denials.**" The Canaanite woman teaches us never to stop trusting, even when the answer is delayed.

She also teaches us humility. The greatest prayers are often the simplest: "**Lord, help me.**" When we come before God with humble and trusting hearts, He never turns us away.

Today, let us bring to Jesus the needs of our families and the burdens we carry. May we have the perseverance of the Canaanite woman, the humility to trust in God's mercy, and the confidence that the Lord hears every sincere prayer.

Fr Thomas



'Woman of Canaan' Harold Copping

Tragic loss of a child - Layla De Haart

OLQP Parish, especially with our OLQP Primary School families and staff team, holds the family of 9 year old Layla De Haart in loving prayer. Layla just recently received her first Eucharist here in her Parish in the presence of mum and dad, two little brothers and community. Last weekend Layla suffered life threatening injuries whilst away on a property west of Sydney. Following an emergency medical flight and life support care at Westmead, the injuries proved too much to come through. Very sadly, Layla has now so prematurely passed from this life. As a number of people of our parish know personally, there are no adequate words to describe the grief of parents who so powerlessly lose a young child from their present life, family and embrace. It would be special and appropriate if some parishioners could commit to long term prayer for this precious family. May the prayers of Layla herself now also be with her family, her classmates and her community. God, our source of all life, help us to trust that you can bring to wholeness all that is incomplete, vulnerable and overwhelming in this chapter of life that we know. Please hold Layla in love and safety - and bless us to hold each other gently through every joy, question, heartbreak and pain. Amen.

"This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." (Michah 6:8)

Safeguarding - keeping our young and vulnerable safe in our community.

Faith B4U...

WANTED

Helpers to assist SRE catechists in the classroom.

We need help on:

Wednesday at 9.00 a.m. AND 2.30 p.m.

If you can assist with either of these classes, please contact the Parish Office Ph.9631 8135.

Married Couples' Retreat

Married couples are invited to a special retreat day, Reflect, Renew & Reconnect, on **Saturday 5 September 2026** at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown. The day runs from **8:30am–4:30pm** and includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch.

Couples will explore topics including Expressions of Love, Living Your Vocation of Marriage, 7 Principles of Making Marriage Work, Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit, and a Couple Prayer and Commitment Ceremony. Cost is \$45 per couple. Places are strictly limited. Bookings are essential. Register now at parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/

Our Spiritual Journey: Struggles, Stuckness & Challenges

Have you ever struggled in your relationship with God? Ever felt like God wasn't there?

Found it difficult to pray?

In this workshop, Deacon Jeff will explore our spiritual journey, with a particular focus on helping us to understand struggle, stuckness and the challenges we face.

Location: **St George Preca Centre**

Saturday 29th August, 10 am morning tea, with a 10:30 am start (about 1½ hours).

Repeated on Wednesday 2nd September, 7 pm supper, with a 7:30 pm start.

Positions vacant

• **Senior Development Manager** – Diocese of Parramatta

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Chantel Adrien, Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boisset, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Charlie D'Anastas, Kathleen Davies, Jeanette Dib, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Mary Ghantous, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Martin Portelli, Jeizek Reyes, Benjie Santiago, Barbara Stanton, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Melissa Zerafa, Muna Zora

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission

Sam Borg, Rita Cavasinni, Barry Collins, Vincenzo Palucci, Francesco Ramundi, Mary Thekkinieth

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. *Funeral details are correct at time of print, but it's best to not make this your only source.*

Angelo Borg – 18 Aug @ 11am, Georgette Farah, Khalil Kesrouani, Teresa Mercieca, Denyse Nicolas, Carl Sharpe,

Veronica Wilson – 21 Aug @ 11am

"Fanning the Flames of Faith across Generations" (2 Timothy 1:5-6)

The Emmaus Prayer Community Invites you to an afternoon of Praise, Worship, Talk on Faith, Legacy and Stirring of Spiritual Gifts, followed by Fellowship.

Speaker: Deacon Charles Hyson

Date: Sunday 23 August **Time:** 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Place: St. George Preca Centre

Come and be encouraged, renewed, and strengthened in your faith, pass your faith to the next generation and foster a Spirit of Grace, Renewal, Friendship and Growth.

Everyone is Welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please feel free to share this invite.

Enquiries: Desiree 0478765772

Men's Group

On Saturday, August 8th, the OLQP Men's Group held its first public display of faith. It was a true blessing to have over 40 men attend to recite the Holy Rosary in front of the Mother Mary statue outside the front of the church. We meditated on the Joyful Mysteries and their fruits, incorporating prayers to help us be the men Christ calls us to be.

We look forward to our next Rosary in the coming months and invite more men from the parish to join us.



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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ

Bishop Vincent Presents: Vatican correspondent Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué: 26 August

Bishop Vincent, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, warmly invites all to a special public lecture featuring two of the world's most respected Vatican journalists, Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué. Hear their insider's account of the historic transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. **Wednesday 26 August, 6:00–8:00pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta.** All are welcome. Register at parracatholic.org/oconnellpique

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Centenary Jubilee Celebrations at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa

Come join us as we give thanks for the past 100 years and entrust the future to the loving care of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

Date: Sunday 13th September

Time: Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10am start. The celebration is to conclude at approximately 3pm.

The day will begin with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program. Parish bus groups are encouraged.

An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall from 8:30am – 6:00pm.

To RSVP and for more information visit: www.schoenstatt.org.au

Transport may be available for a cost, please let the parish office know if you are interested.

MET Natural Fertility

Sympto-Thermal Method (STM) Initial Instruction via Teams.

Tuesday 27 August, 7:30-8:30pm. The most important symptom alerting women to ovulation is used in all methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP). The Sympto-Thermal Method includes measuring your basal body temperature, which also confirms ovulation! This method is 99.6% effective in postponing pregnancy and helps couples identify the best time to achieve pregnancy! If you would like to refresh your knowledge and skills or begin NFP then this is the session for you!

To register visit parracatholic.org/natural-fertility

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

20th Thursday St Bernard, abbot, doctor

21st Friday St Pius X, pope

22nd Saturday The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lost Property

If you have lost jewellery or cash, please contact the Parish Office.

All other items can be found in the lost property basket in the Narthex (main entry area of the church).

Parish Office 9631 8135 / parishoffice@olqp.org.au.

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah

56:1, 6-7

2nd Reading

Romans

11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel

Matthew

15:21-28

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah

22:19-23

2nd Reading

Romans

11:33-36

Gospel

Matthew

16:13-20

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - 9:15am (except January

- Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Mass for Peace - all welcome - followed by Anointing of the Sick - 1st Saturdays 9:15am (except January)

Memorial Mass - all welcome - and offered for recent losses and 1st/2nd anniversaries - 2nd Saturdays 9:15am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church:

Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 6:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Parish Office Hours: 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 4pm Monday to Friday

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