

## The Faith of the woman of the Canaanite Woman

Weekly Reflections 20th -24<sup>th</sup> November  
2023



### A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (15:14-25; 19-21)

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed.

### Prayer for the Week

Lord, help us to be attentive to the needs of others and the situation they find themselves in. When we meet you finally face to face in Heaven may we be able to say when we saw those in need we gave of ourselves for them without question. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

#### Day 1

Sometimes we are given responsibilities, duties or asked to go things under the guidance of friends, families, coaches or teachers. We can do these tasks well when under their guidance but if they weren't there - how would you feel about continuing them to the same (or better) level of intensity or quality? To do so is difficult because in the first place they aren't there to help us or reassurance that what we are doing is the right thing.

So we need to summon up the desire for strength, courage and intentionality to do complete those tasks by ourselves under our own motivation. We also need faith in our actions and the optimistic hopefulness that everything we do can be achieved.

For your prayer today - take some silent time to reflect on the things we have to do that can only be done by ourselves to change ourselves to make us closer to Christ.

#### Day 2

Lord God, Source of all love, in St Cecilia you gave us a model of faithfulness and hopefulness. Grant that, enlightened by her actions we may remain faithful followers of Christ who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen. St Cecilia, Pray for us

#### Day 3 Strength under pressure

Both Jesus and St Cecilia were persecuted for what God asked them to do.

Lord, Give me the strength when my faith is put to the test - help me to see your vision of the Kingdom to come and my place within it so I can be true to your call. Amen.

#### Day 4 Service

Let us pray for all those families under the stress and strain that life sometimes places upon us. Lord, help them find, in you, an oasis of support where all worries and concerns can be placed into your hands. Amen

### Saint of the week

#### St Cecilia



22<sup>th</sup> November 2023

St Cecilia heard heavenly music when she was married and sang to God when she dying. She converted her husband, Valerian and her brother to the faith. Under a time of persecution when her brother and husband were executed under the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. She used her home as a church and when Roman officials found out they tried to kill her over 3 days and used methods such as trying to suffocate her in a steam bath and other means of torture. She was faithful & hopeful.