

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO  
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER  
ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR 902-366-2927  
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 20, 2023**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer,  
Calvin Harnish, Agnes Casey, Corrine Munroe,  
Gerry Parker, Gelly Parker, Paul Horne,  
Sr. Alma, Marie Parker, Fr. Jonathan

*The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at  
[www.cansoparishes.org](http://www.cansoparishes.org)*

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

**Saturday, August 26** - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*  
- 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - ♥*For the Faithful*

**Sunday, August 27** - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*Robin Keefe*  
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †*Anita Richard*

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

**Thursday, August 24** - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

**COMMUNION CALLS** - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

**REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS - *A Persevering Faith***

*All three readings of today highlight the fact that salvation is a universal reality and a gratuitous gift from God. In order to underscore this fact, Jesus goes to preach outside the Jewish territory of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman, a non-Jew, comes to him begging to liberate her daughter of demoniac possession. Jesus tests the woman of her faith before granting her favour. In the conversation that follows between her and Jesus, she emerges as a model of true faith and trust. Even when subjected to severe testing to the point of being humiliated, she stood out as a woman of faith. In the end she not only wins the favour of Jesus but also the words of appreciation from him for her undying faith. She was willing to suffer ridicule and rejection in order to obtain healing for her loved one. All of us are beneficiaries of the salvation Jesus brought about through his incarnation, passion, death and resurrection. It is a gift from God. However, it requires strong faith. Can I today, kneel before the Lord in total trust and surrender and say, "Lord, help me!" No one who ever sought Jesus with faith – whether Jew or Gentile – was ever refused his help.*

## **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

<b>Star of the Sea, (32)</b>	590.00
Loose	26.00
Winter Fuel (2)	40.00
<b>St. Agnes, (23)</b>	360.00
Loose	10.00
<b>St. Vincent de Paul, (7)</b>	115.00
Loose	11.00
<b>St. Joseph (11)</b>	126.00
Loose	25.00

## **STAR OF THE SEA NEWS**

Property/Finance Committee - We desperately need new members!! Next meeting is Tuesday, September 12 at 6:15 p.m.

Ministries Schedule, August 27

Lector - Harry Delorey

Cleaners - August 20 - 26 - Irene & Juanita

***We are inviting parishioners to serve as Sacristans, Ushers and Altar Servers for Funeral. Please contact Fr. Jonathan for more information.***

## **UPCOMING EVENTS STAR OF THE SEA**

Sunday, August 13 - Regatta Prize Bingo - profit was \$1,626.00, just fantastic!! Thank you so very much for your many donations! It is much appreciated.

**Saturday, August 19 - Chowder Luncheon & Cake Booth- special thanks for your ongoing support for these events. Profits will be announced September 3.**

## **ST. AGNES NEWS**

Bingo - will resume in September.

Club 100 Draw - Winners were Brandon Casey, Garnet Mason, Brent Myatt, Ernie Keefe and Carla Connors! Special thanks for your support.

## **ST JOSEPH NEWS**

Weekly Bingo - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

## **NOTES**

The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine - The gift shop is open for the season, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday including Sundays and Holidays. The Shrine is always open.

Milestone Anniversaries - In our parishes -

We offer prayers and congratulations to:

St. Lawrence Catholic Women's League in Mulgrave celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Saturday, August 26 with Mass at 4 p.m.

Holy Guardian Angels Parish in L'Ardoise

continues celebrating its 200th Anniversary on Sunday, September 3 with Mass at 3 p.m.

First Friday Devotion - September 1st 6:30 pm

St Ann's Parish Church, Guysborough

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Confession for those who wish.

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to come celebrate with us.

For more information phone 902-533-2980

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** - St. Ann's Parish Church, Guysborough, Sept. 27, 6 pm  
 Join in celebrating the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by Benediction.  
 For more information phone 902-533-2980

August 20, 2023 • 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

## Outsiders Included

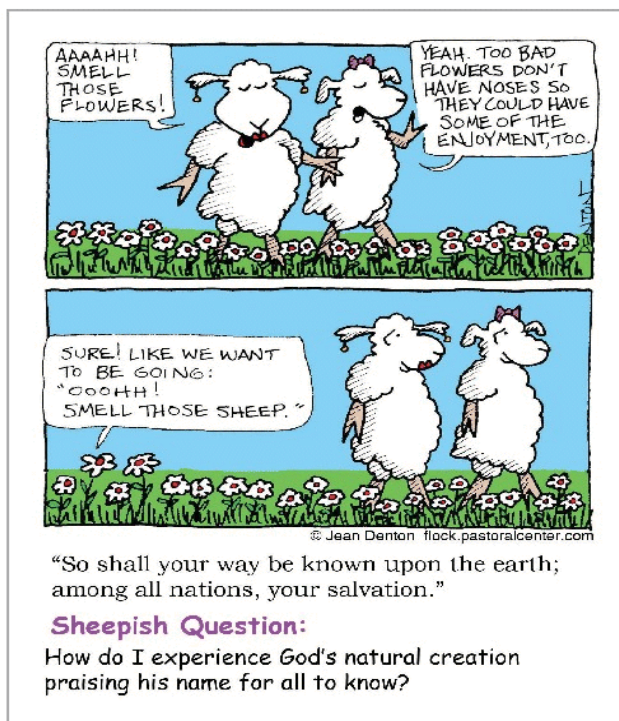
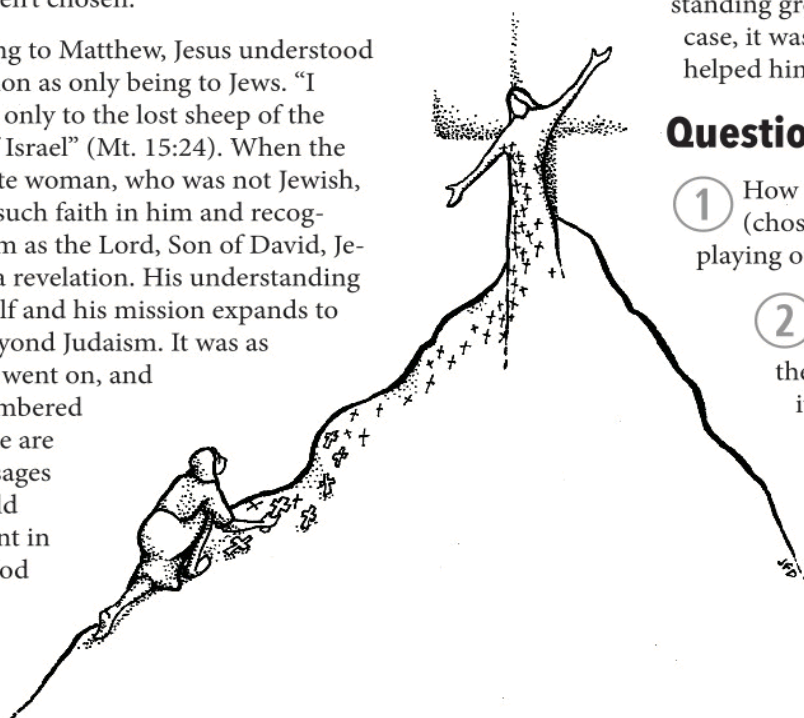
*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- ▶ Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 - The Lord's house open to all
- ▶ Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 - Israel's final conversion; the triumph of God's mercy
- ▶ Matthew 15:21-28 - Faith of the Canaanite woman

This Gospel story often puzzles us because of what sounds like a disrespectful and harsh reply from Jesus to a woman's plea for help. Some find it troubling because it suggests that Jesus wasn't perfect, and a woman had to help him learn something new and change his mind. The story makes more sense if we understand more about the Jewish context Jesus was living in during his day.

A strong streak of teaching in the Old Testament instructed Jews to keep themselves separate from non-Jews so that they wouldn't be tempted to stray from their worship of Yahweh to other gods. They weren't supposed to marry anyone outside of their faith to help maintain their Jewish purity. They were proud to be God's "chosen people," and it was a short move from believing themselves to be the chosen ones to relegating others to being less-than because they weren't chosen.

According to Matthew, Jesus understood his mission as only being to Jews. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Mt. 15:24). When the Canaanite woman, who was not Jewish, showed such faith in him and recognized him as the Lord, Son of David, Jesus had a revelation. His understanding of himself and his mission expands to those beyond Judaism. It was as if a light went on, and he remembered that there are also passages in the Old Testament in which God tells the people that



"So shall your way be known upon the earth; among all nations, your salvation."  
**Sheepish Question:**  
 How do I experience God's natural creation praising his name for all to know?

he is for *everyone*. We heard an example of that in the first reading today when Isaiah, speaking for the Lord, said that foreigners could "join themselves to the Lord"—which is exactly what the Canaanite woman did (Isa 56:6). Yes, Jesus was divine, but he was human too, and just like any human, his understanding grew and matured over time. In this case, it was a foreigner, and a woman, who helped him become who he was meant to be.

### Questions of the Week

- 1 How do you see the notion of "insiders" (chosen ones) and "outsiders" still playing out in Christianity today?
- 2 What is your reaction to Jesus changing his mind because of the faith of this woman. Do you find it troubling in any way? Or do you find it heartening? Please share.

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