The readings for the twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time remind us that the Word of God is meant not just for those who are baptized but for all peoples who live out the values of the Gospel. The one important criterion is belief in God.

In the passage from the prophet Isaiah, the Lord tells us that those who live by God’s word and are faithful to him will be joyful in his house of prayer, as the Lord gathers to his holy mountain all those who live by his precepts. The text emphasises ‘foreigners’, a reference to those who lived in the lands of Israel but who were not of the Jewish faith. The House of Israel referred to all those who were of the Jewish Faith and not simply those who lived in a particular region. And those who lived among the Jews but who did not share the faith were seen as followers, with special place being given to those who did believe in God.

In the gospel, we see Jesus encountering a Canaanite woman who asks him to free her daughter of her evil possession. Initially he refuses to answer her because she is not of the House of Israel and he was sent to preach to the House of Israel first and then to everyone else. The woman persists calls him ‘Son of David’, a key title for the Messiah. She and the Lord have a dialogue in which she takes everything he says and turns it to her advantage. For her faith, her daughter was freed from her torment.

The episode is a reminder of the power and importance of faith but also a reminder that faith can be found outside of our own faith or worshipping groups, and so the love and mercy of God is available to all people. We are to believe in God and his Word and live lives worthy of the gospel values if we are to be saved.
**THIS WEEK’S LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

Sunday 16: Ordinary Time – Sunday 20
Monday 17: Our Lady of Knock
Tuesday 18: Ordinary Time – Week 20
Wednesday 19: Ordinary Time – Week 20
Thursday 20: St Bernard
Friday 21: Pope St Pius X
Saturday 22: The Queenship of Mary

**A SAINT OR TWO THIS WEEK…**

**OUR LADY OF KNOCK**

At about 8.00pm on August 21, 1879, a wet evening, fifteen people in a remote part of Co Mayo, witnessed an apparition on the gable wall of the parish church in Knock. In the apparition were Our Lady, St Joseph her spouse, St John the Evangelist, an altar and cross, angels, and a lamb. Everything was in white and nothing was said. The apparition lasted about two hours and over the years several inquiries were held, the last being in 1936 with the remaining survivors, some of whom were then living abroad. Today, Knock Shrine is the most important Marian shrine in Ireland and draws many pilgrims from around the world. In 1979, Pope John Paul II, on his Apostolic Visit to Ireland, prayed at the site of the apparition, as did Pope Francis in 2018.

**KNOCK**

**MASS OFFICE, CHURCH SHOP & GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

Sunday: 10.00am – 2.00pm
Monday to Friday: 8.30am – 5.00pm.
Tuesday extra: 7.30pm – 8.15pm
Saturday: 9.30am – 5.00pm
Other enquiries: 📞 01 475 8821
Email: shop@whitefriarstreetchurch.ie

**PARISH OFFICE**

For certificates of Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage, or to book a baptism or a wedding. 📞 01 475 8821
Email: parish@whitefriarstreetchurch.ie

**SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

Members meet each Monday evening to consider requests. For those living within our parish, requests can be made by text to 085 789 8699. For those outside the parish, please ring 01 855 0022.

**REMAINING VIGILANT**

While Covid-19 is a significant threat, we recommend the following to those coming to our church:

- Wear a face mask or face shield while in the building, even during Mass.
- Sanitise your hands when entering the building.
- Keep a distance from others and avoid crowding, particularly at the end of Mass or while lighting candles.
- Receive Holy Communion on the open, clean, bare hand only.
- Follow a one-way system in coming to Holy Communion.
- Follow the instructions of our staff in the church and in the shop.

People can bring a clean bottle of tap water to church and it can be blessed by a priest, or they can buy a bottle in the Church Shop and we will fill it for them (there is no charge for the holy water).

**NUMBERS ABLE TO ATTEND MASS**

There will be times when we will have to close the church gate while Mass is being celebrated because of the numbers permitted to be in the building. Please be understanding if our sacristans have already closed the gate when you arrive.

**BAPTISMS**

Due to the requirement to sanitise the church after Mass, baptisms now take place at 4.00pm on Saturdays and 2.30pm on Sundays, along with a restriction on numbers who may attend. Baptisms should be booked as early as possible.

It is the Lord, it is Jesus, who is my judge. Therefore, I will try always to think leniently of others, that He may judge me leniently, or rather not at all, since He says: ‘Judge not, and ye shall not be judged’.

*Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face
Carmelite Nun, Doctor of the Church
1873 – 1897*

**CARMELITE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

📞 01 475 4673
Email: info@carmelitecommunitycentre.com