



St. Mary's Catholic Parish Beaudesert

EMBRACING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

St Mary's, **Beaudesert** ~ St John the Baptist ~ **Tamborine Mountain** ~

St Patrick's, **Tamborine** ~ St Margaret Mary's, **Canungra** ~

St John's, **Kerry** ~ The Sacred Heart, **Christmas Creek** ~

St Joseph's, **Rathdowney** ~ St James', **Palen Creek** ~ St Joseph's, **O'Reilly's**



Parish Priest

Fr. Tomi Alexander

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Administration Assistant

Kaitlyn Erasmus

Sacramental Prep. Co-ordinator

Patricia Dunn

Finance Council

Chair—Susan Shay

Secretary—Melissa Cahill

pf.stmarys@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Chair—Anthony Marshall

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Care & Concern

Contact the Parish Office

5541 1068

Safe Guarding / Workplace Health

& Safety

Kaitlyn Erasmus

Parish Postal Address

St Mary's Parish Centre

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Parish Office—Hours

Monday: 10:00am - 2:00pm,

Tuesday

& Friday: 9:00am - 2:00pm

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St Mary's Primary School

07 5541 2005

Principal:

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McAuley College

Phone: 07 5542 3000

Principal:

Mr Jason Pacey

sbeaudesert@bne.catholic.edu.au

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15th/16th August 2026

The Gospel for this Sunday begins by noting Jesus' geographical movements. Having challenged the Pharisees' boundaries about what they considered clean and unclean - and faced with their hostility — 'Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon'. That is, he withdraws from Gennesaret on the northwestern shore of Lake Galilee and travels further north into a predominantly Gentile region. By the time the compelling encounter with the Canaanite woman unfolds, this physical movement is mirrored by an internal shift in Jesus. He moves beyond the confines of his mission to his own Jewish people to include the gentiles, or 'all the nations'.

This story also appears in Mark. But Matthew is writing for a community of Jewish Christians whose relationship with gentiles is fraught and for whom the very idea of ministry to them is almost inconceivable. So he sharpens the details, naming the woman a Canaanite—a loaded term, recalling an old enemy of Israel; and he heightens Jesus' resistance, so that the force of his eventual change of heart, and its implications are magnified.

The unnamed Canaanite woman must have steeled herself for her near-impossible task. As a woman, a gentile and one pleading for the healing of her female child, she already has three strikes against her! She enters the scene loudly: she 'came out' shouting, but she is far from being uncontrolled. Having made herself impossible to ignore, her exchanges with Jesus reveal a careful combination of forcefulness and restraint. Her respectful address — 'Son of David'— shows she knows she is an outsider, with no claim to his healing ministry. Yet she boldly and humbly makes her plea: 'Have mercy on me, Lord....' One would expect a compassionate response from Jesus. But surprisingly he does not answer her at all. And in the two exchanges that follow he is uncharacteristically aloof. When the disciples urge him to act — if only to 'send her away', he coldly insists that his mission is 'only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'.

The woman responds with one of the most moving gestures in the Gospel. She kneels before Jesus and simply begs, 'Lord, help me' (v.25). All she receives is another harsher rebuff: to respond to her would be like throwing the children's food to the dogs (v 26)! It is a shocking moment and it is difficult to read this without feeling uncomfortable. Most commentators try to soften Jesus' harshness by suggesting that he is 'testing her faith' but nothing in the text supports this. The way the story unfolds, and its place in Matthew's Gospel, point to a different purpose — one that reveals something essential about Jesus' widening horizons and the early Church's struggle to follow him.

The woman does not flinch at the insult. Too much is at stake to take offense. Love and desperation fuel her tenacity and wit, and she finds a way to change Jesus' mind. Yes, she tells him, the children's food is not meant for the dogs; but even the dogs are allowed the scraps that fall from the table! The crumbs will be enough.

In an instant, Jesus' resistance vanishes; he heals her daughter and praises her great faith. What the woman grasps is the abundance of God's kingdom, that even when 'the children' are fed there is more than enough for all — including all the outsiders! It does take great faith to know that God's care is boundless, that there is enough mercy for her and her daughter.

Matthew ensures that this trust in abundance is not missed. The story is framed by the two feeding narratives. In the first, the feeding of the five thousand, there are twelve baskets of leftovers, symbolically sufficient for all the tribes of Israel. The feeding of the four thousand follows immediately after this encounter and takes place in Gentile country. Seven baskets of leftovers are gathered, symbolising fullness for all, for all the gentiles, indeed all the nations. Is Matthew portraying Jesus this way, to support those in his community bewildered about including the 'unclean' Gentiles in their midst? Matthew casts ... Jesus as sharing the Jewish Christians' narrow focus and their resistance to any expansion beyond it. But when Jesus is moved by the very real need of the woman and her daughter, does this not suggest that they, too, must reconsider their position?

'God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice' writes Paul to the Romans in the Second Reading, referring to God's desire that Israel 'will also enjoy mercy eventually'. But Paul also implies that recognising God's mercy towards others may open Israel to that same abundance. In the first reading Isaiah proclaims that the Covenant is extended to all who 'join themselves to the Lord', to foreigners and all who are willing.

The Gospel uses the Canaanite outsider as a catalyst for this movement outwards. It is difficult to grasp the immensity of the barriers being broken in this story. The question of who to include occupied the early Church for some two hundred years. The unnamed woman is one of the heroes of the Gospel. Her humble love, perseverance and outstanding faith has led Jesus to be the Messiah in whose 'name the Gentiles will hope'. The early Church remembered and repeated this story because it authorises the Great Commission to preach the Gospel to 'all nations', to all those considered outsiders. The woman stands in for all of them, including ourselves.

How will the Canaanite woman continue to inspire the outward movement of the Gospel in our times? It is interesting to note that she displays the two key synodal virtues: boldness and humility. How will trust in the abundance of our God and unwavering compassion for those who do not yet belong encourage us to 'enlarge the space of our tent' (Isaiah 54:2, Synod on Synodality 2021–2024)?

Reflection:

Ford, Pina. "Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 16 August 2026." Pastoral Liturgy 56, no. 3 (2026): 102-107. <https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/pastoral-liturgy/vol56/iss3/17>

Readings for this week (15th & 16th August)

Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Responsorial Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

Readings for next week (22nd & 23rd August)

Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Thursday 20th August—St Bernard (abbot, doctor) (Feast)

Friday 21st August—St Pius X (pope) (Memorial)

Saturday 22nd August—The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)

Money Counters

17th August—Peter	24th August—Colleen
31st August—Trish	7th September—Peter

Masses During August

Due to Fr Tomi being away, the following changes to Masses will apply from Monday 3rd August through till the 4th September:

- ◇ NO Monday, Tuesday or Friday Masses.
- ◇ NO Family Masses
- ◇ Wednesday at both Tamborine Mountain and Beaudesert will be celebrated as Liturgy of the Word with Holy Eucharist. Exposition on Wednesday at Beaudesert will remain at the same time.

Thank you for your understanding and we encourage you to keep coming along to your regular Mass time to help support our wonderful volunteers.

We thank the volunteers who have so graciously put their hands up to assist us with this.

Please pray for our sick brothers and sisters

Barbara Barnes, Hope Hartley, Leanne Deerrain, Jan Dore, John Breckon-Thomas, John & Therese Hagan, Nereza Don, Marie McIlhatton, Rev Geoffrey Reader, Fae Eyears, Scott Murphy, David Murchie, Tony Torre, Dave & Lori, Janet Young, Rosie, Lauraine Ward, Katrina Foster, Moya Mitchell, Michael Gough, Andrew Gough, Liz Murray, Josie Buffalino, Sebastian Randall, John McCormack, Damian McCormack, Janette Escreet, David Ward, Denice Ward, Holly Anne, Nathan Craze, Heather Neeson, Bernice Mahoney, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Olwin Wendt, Caroline Gee, Lorelle Benyon, Clayton Musk & Moyla Shannon.

We remember and pray for those who have recently died,

Ron Horsey (5th August, 2026)

Funeral will be held at Little Flower Catholic Church, Bribie Island (41 First Ave, Bongaree) on Monday 17th August at 11am

Maris Strautmanis (31st July, 2026)

Order of Service will be held at St Mary's on Tuesday 18th August at 10am.

and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Carole Kirwin—15th August

John Waters—21st August

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.*

Parish Newsletter Sick List

We are looking to make sure our parish sick list is current and contains accurate information.

If you would like a name removed or added please contact our parish office via email or phone so that we can ensure this happens.

Beaudesert Show Country Churches Home Bake Stall.

We are again this year, asking for donations of home baking to be sold at the Beaudesert Show Stall. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office on the Monday, Tuesday or Thursday of the show week, or alternate arrangements can be made with Joahn or Colleen.

We are also asking for volunteers to help in the stall on Friday 4th Sept (even just an hour would help!)

This is all in aid of our Country Churches.

Please phone
Joahn 0400 241 357
or
Colleen 0429 170 766



Bible Reflection– 20th Sunday (16th August)

"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." - Matthew 15:26-28

Reflect today on the ways God may be inviting you to a deeper faith through silence, delay or trial. Could He be calling you, like this woman, to heroic humility and steadfast trust? Embrace those moments of divine testing, for they are often the very means by which His greatest works of grace are accomplished—in you and through you.

Archdiocese of Brisbane Clergy and Parish Bulletin Vol 24#15



St Vincent de Paul Society
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good works

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Vulnerable people are being pushed into homelessness and poverty every day. Funds raised through the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal will directly support people in our local community, providing vital assistance.

You will find envelopes on the seats on weekend 15/16 August. Please feel free to take one and place your donation on the mass collection plate. You may take an envelope and return it any time after the weekend. May God bless you all and please keep us in your prayers.

Peter Wilson (President, St Mary's SVDP)

TRANSFORMATION NIGHT

ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MOVE IN OUR HEARTS, OUR LIVES AND OUR FAMILIES

SATURDAY
29 AUGUST 2026
6:45pm–9pm
FREE EVENT!

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22-23 August 2026



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WEDNESDAY

28TH OCTOBER 9:30 AM TO 1PM



**THE CENTRE
BEAUDESERT**



general.cuppaplus@gmail.com

Booking required by 25 October 2026



Annual Catholic Campaign

Next weekend, our parish will support the Annual Catholic Campaign. This special campaign brings together all the parishes of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, to provide support for local ministries and care for people in need in our own communities.

Funds raised will directly impact our parish and local communities. The Campaign supports the holistic formation of our future priests, cares for our elderly and retired priests, provides children in need with access to a Catholic education and gives hope to those in our community who are suffering physically and emotionally. Please do take a Campaign brochure and giving envelope home with you this week. You can either pop it in the mail or return it to the collection plate next week or you are welcome to scan the QR code on the envelope to make your gift online.

Thank you and may God bless you for your generosity and faithfulness.

Are you, or someone you know, wanting to know more about the Catholic Church or join our faith community?

Would you just like to talk about it without having to commit?

RCIA is a group of believers in the parish who meet regularly, and are ready to talk about any questions you may have! To begin a conversation, call the Parish Office 07 5541 1068, or email:

stmarys@bne.catholic.net.au

Are you thinking of becoming Catholic?



Mass Times: 17th—23rd August

Divine Mercy Devotion: Every Sunday 3.00pm — 3.15pm, St. Mary's Church, Beaudesert. All Welcome.

Reconciliation—before weekday Masses. Please call (07) 5541 1068

Monday 17th	Tuesday 18th	Wednesday 19th	Thursday 20th	Friday 21st	Saturday 22nd	Sunday 23rd
No Mass	No Mass	Tamborine Mt <i>Liturgy of the Word with Holy Eucharist</i> 9am	No Mass	No Mass	Beaudesert 6:30pm	Tamborine Mt 7:30am
		Beaudesert <i>Exposition</i> 4:30pm <i>Liturgy of the Word with Holy Eucharist</i> 5:30pm				Beaudesert 9:30am
						<i>No family Mass</i>

Our Mission

'Guided by the Holy Spirit, we aim to be an evangelising, listening and faith-filled parish; underpinned by the values of compassion, inclusivity and love of neighbour.' Our mission is: **evangelisation** of our parish and wider communities; **liturgy and prayer opportunities** that form, inform and transform our faith; **pastoral support** through initiatives that invite people to share their gifts and talents; and **leadership** that supports life-long faith formation and promotes responsible stewardship of our resources.

Safeguarding Commitment & New STOpline

STOpline

Phone: 1300 304 550

Email: A0B@stopline.com.au

Online Report: www.bne.catholic.stoplinereport.com

Information can be provided anonymously.

If you think it's wrong... report it.

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