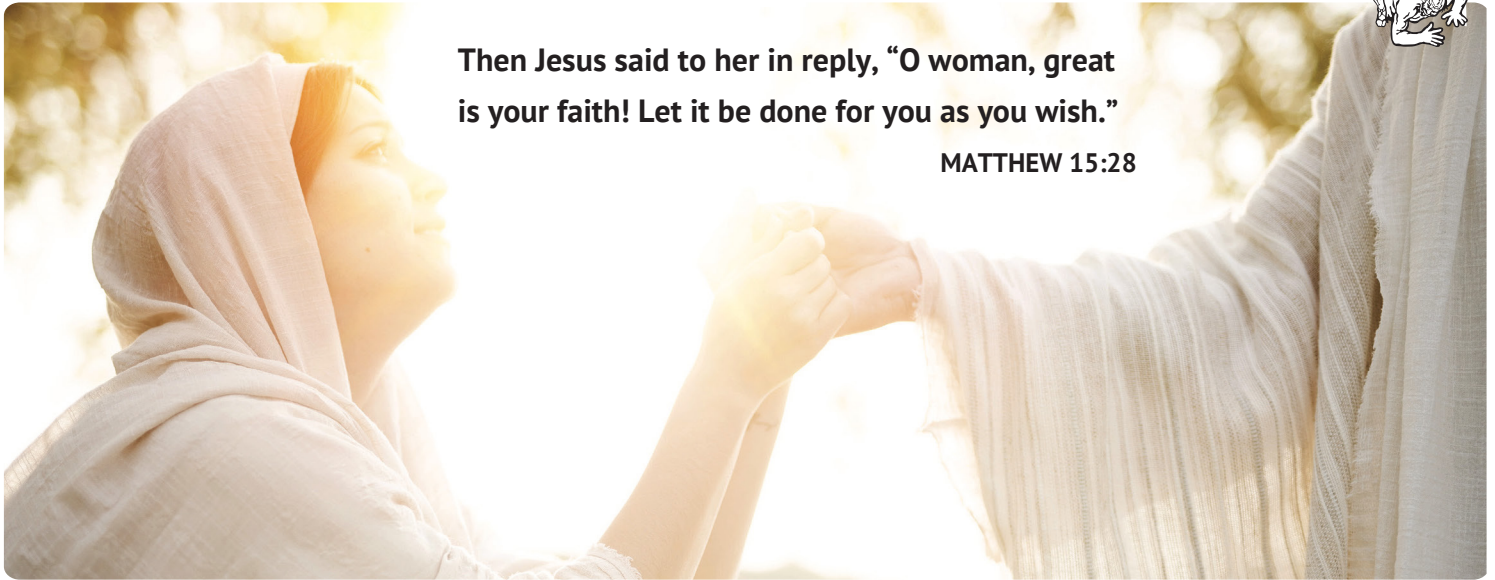




Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”

MATTHEW 15:28

Still Redeemable?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today’s gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for “the lost sheep” of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

“Faith in what?” one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ✱



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How strong is my faith? Strong enough to be persistent?



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

THE ONLY CATHOLIC CHURCH NAMED AFTER AN ANGELIC BEING.

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Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Saturday 7:00pm (Neo-Catechumenal Mass).

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

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Parish Administrator:

Karen Marsh
email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com
(c) 799 0842

CHANCERY OFFICE

EMAIL orcc.bermuda@gmail.com



Mass Schedule & Intentions

*We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend.
May you be blessed by your presence here today.*

MINISTRIES...

August 15/16th THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:45PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Joyce Lee
 Collection: Karen Marsh

August 22/23rd THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:45PM Lector: Joshua Blee EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Briere EM: Lucy Attride-Stirling
 Collection: Jesse Almeida

MASS INTENTIONS...

August 15/16th THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:45PM Deacon Matthew Arnold & Family
10:15AM Antonio De Frias + (Birthday)

August 22/23rd THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:45PM Donald Johnson (96th Birthday)
10:15AM Antonio De Frias + (Birthday)

Thank you for your generosity.



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

AUGUST 8/9th Collection:

\$829.00

Poor Box (SVdeP) \$20.00 * Votives \$9.00

THANK YOU!!!

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
 to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Bishops Corner...

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

"Come to me, all of you who labour and are burdened": It is with these moving words from the Gospel that the Filipino bishops open their recent pastoral letter on the mental health crisis affecting millions of Filipinos. Christ's words remind us that we believe in a God who carries our crosses with us. He is a redeemer who bears our wounds and embraces our pain. In this mystery of self-emptying love, we encounter a saviour who chooses to enter our suffering rather than observe our misery from a distance.



According to a recent study, one in nine Filipinos suffers from a mental health condition, while one to two in every 10 Filipino high school students have considered taking their own life. The school shootings in Tacloban last month indicate how serious this problem currently is. The crisis has also touched the clergy. Since 2023, two priests from the Archdiocese of Cebu have died to suicide, prompting the Archbishop to establish the Priest Companion initiative, which identifies trusted priests from among their brother priests who they can readily approach in times of personal, emotional, or psychological distress.

These stories remind us that mental illness does not discriminate. It affects the young and the old, lay faithful and clergy alike. The letter is also a wake up call for all Filipino Catholics, especially those who do not personally struggle with mental illness as it faithfully echoes the boundless compassion of Christ. Yet, its words will find their fullest expression only when they are embodied by the people with whom we live, work, and worship every day.

The official text of the letter: <https://tinyurl.com/52nh3ww4>

Have a serene weekend and a rewarding week!

+ *Wes Jurewalce*

Bishop Wes



Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin's evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn't written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ✱

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



JULUSKEIATIS / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ's own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior's prayer for the unity of all.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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RUDIERNST / SHUTTERSTOCK

St. Vincent de Paul Society Donations

Donations can be made by Direct Deposit to:
BNTB BD\$ 20006060476711100 or US\$ 8400784730010.

Memo Field: Identify your name and purpose of donation.
ie. "In memory of..." (IMO and the name of person).

Email (Optional): send to svdp@northrock.bm for confirmation and acknowledgement.

DONATIONS IN CASH: Please use the Poor Boxes in your parish churches or the envelopes provided and place these in the collection baskets.



LET'S TALK
MENTAL HEALTH

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health illness or suicidal thoughts, please call: 236-3770 weekdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm (MWI) 911 or 239-1111 (24/7 Crisis hotline)

A VERY WARM AND
SINCERE WELCOME TO
FR. VIVIEN LUGO NUERA
who will be our locum Pastor while
Fr. Joe is on his staycation. We are so
grateful to have you here at
St. Michael's, Fr. Vivien.

Thank you so much for sharing your
Ministry with us.



Fr. Vivien continues to be the celebrant for both the Masses each weekend. There is no change to the 10:15am Sunday Mass. The Saturday Masses will be celebrated at 4:45pm in order to make it possible for Fr. Vivien to be on time for his duties at St. Patrick's. We continue to wish Fr. Joe a relaxing and enjoyable staycation.

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- **Devonne Campbell** is St. Michael's new communications representative and Parish Council Member. She has been working on some new flyers to reach out to our Parishioners. Please see the Flyers in the email blast. Click on the links to view and on our Bulletin boards. Through St. Michael's social media we hope to share new opportunities coming to our Parish.
- **The EMMAUS Bible Study** will re-start on Tuesday, September 15th. Have a great summer everyone.
- Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist celebration - Saturdays at 7:00pm

THE HOLY ROSARY here at ST. MICHAEL'S EACH WEDNESDAY

Starting Wednesday, September 9th at 5:30pm, Lucy Attride-Stirling will lead the Holy Rosary at St. Michael's Church. Everyone is welcome to come and spend some quiet each. Please join us.



St. THERESA'S

- St. Theresa's Cathedral summer opening hours are:
Monday-Friday 7am-4:30pm
Saturday 8:30am-7:30pm
Sunday 8am-7pm
- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Noon Day Mass in St. Theresa's Cathedral: The 12:10pm will return in September.

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- Praying the Rosary is on each Wednesday at 10:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration each Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

- **Opening hours** - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** that can assist for 2 hours/week on Saturdays from 12-2PM, or as a fill-in for any absences. If you can assist, please call 292-0416 or drop by in person. Thank you

Upcoming Events

On Thursday, 20th August, the 2014 film

"Heaven is for real"

will be shown at the Summer Lunch & Movie Event.

Based on an incredible true story and from the #1 New York Times best-selling book in 2011, the film recounts the true story of a small-town father who must find the courage and conviction to share his son's extraordinary, life-changing experience. The young boy claims to have visited Heaven during a near death moment and shares the details of his amazing journey with a childlike innocence and speaks matter-of-factly about things that happened before his birth, things he couldn't possibly know.

The movie's length is 99 minutes.

Rated: PG - Parental guidance suggested as the film contains thematic material including some medical situations.

MOUNT SAINT AGNES ACADEMY

Auditorium Renovation

Please see the letter attached link sharing the news of the Auditorium renovation. Every Dollar raised for this much needed upgrade will help continue the legacy started by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax in 1890.

Now 136+ years later, the work continues with dedication to continually improve and upgrade the MSA facility. Please consider being a part of this fundraising initiative

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

MAIN MESSAGE

- God welcomes every nation.
- Faith keeps reaching out.
- Mercy is for everyone.
- Keep trusting God.

KEY SCRIPTURE

"O woman, great is your faith!"
(Matthew 15:28)

THE READINGS

FIRST READING
Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Foreigners welcomed by God

PSALM
Psalm 67
All nations praise the Lord

SECOND READING
Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
God's mercy reaches all

GOSPEL
Matthew 15:21-28
Faith of the Canaanite woman

THEMES TO KNOW

- God welcomes all
- Persistent prayer
- Mercy for everyone
- Strong faith
- Hope beyond barriers

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

- Welcome others kindly.
- Keep praying with trust.
- Believe God hears you.
- Share God's love.

TRY THIS

Pray every day this week for someone who needs God's help.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When do I give up too soon?
- How can I welcome others?
- Where is God asking me to trust?

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