**ST PETER APOSTLE CHURCH, RUSHDEN**

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**20th August 2023 – YEAR A**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**MASS BOOK:** Page 117

**PREFACE:**  Page 67 No. 6

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**: Number 2

**MYSTERY OF FAITH:** When we eat this bread **…**

Sat: 6:30pm - Paddy Murray

Sun: 10:00am - People of St Peter’s living & deceased

Tue: 9:30am - Fathers Edmund Worthy & Patrick Bailey (Northampton)

Wed: 7:30pm - Special Intention

Thurs: 9:30am - Packie Curran Int

Sat: 6:30pm - Special Intention

Sun: 10:00am - People of St Peter’s living & deceased

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Georgina Drage, Alice Watson, Edward Kinsella, James Hennessy, Simon Swords, Jim Walsh, Paddy Maher, Trevor Wilkins, Joseph Robson, Antonio Colabuono, David Walters, Beryl McDonnell, Margaret Fett, Roseann Kiely, Salvatore Valentino, Patrick Lackey, Henryka Karabin, Jim McGonnell, Jane Dawson, Diane Prill, Andrew Mooney, Jan Rydelski, Bridget Goldsmith, Iwan Gudz, Avril Murray, Francis Peters, Ted Prusakowski, Thomas McNicholas, Lawrence Timmons and Berrill..

**Please remember in Prayer**

Nigel, Rosie, Waterfield, Myles & Wardle families, Eileen & Terry, Inge Family, Louise, Collett family, Jeff, Kevin, Sindhu, Susan, Gill & Rosie, Samantha, Richard Addae Jnr., Sophie & Neil the Skilton and Vallet families, Fleurette, Tony A, Albert & Tina, Angela, Lily McD, Bris.

**OFFERTORY**: Last week’s collection amounted to £430.10. Coffee morning has raised £130.00 for Survive-Miva. Thank you very much.

**Our Sympathy:** Is extended to the bereaved family of Agnes Marion Breen who recently died and whose Funeral will be held here on Tuesday 29th August at 11:30am. May she rest in peace.

**Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel**

1. Having met with rejection from the Pharisees Jesus goes to Gentile territory and encounters unexpected faith in the Canaanite woman. His mission had previously been to his own people. This adds a new dimension to his mission. Have you had occasions when a chance encounter set your life off in a new direction?

2. The initial reaction of Jesus to the woman was one of rejection but her persistence won a response from him. When have you found that persistence was needed to gain what you sought? What did that experience teach you?

3. In our days of widespread migration welcoming the stranger can be a challenge. We are more comfortable with our own. What difference has it made, to you and to others, when you were able to offer a friendly welcoming face to a stranger?

4. Who are the Canaanite woman’ who call out for attention today - people in Church or State whose needs are not being attended to?

**The Altar**

 Wooden tables - the first Christian altars were simple wooden tables. When the home was the regular place of worship, Eucharist would have been celebrated on the regular furniture of the house. It was reminiscent of the wood of the cross and the tree of life. In times of Roman persecution such a piece of furniture wouldn’t be conspicuous and could be easily moved. The famous Fracto-Paris, fresco in the Catacomb of St Priscilla is possibly the earliest depiction of the Eucharist and shows seven people gathered around a simple table. At the churches of St Pudentiana and St John Lateran in Rome are remains of two wooden altars said to have been used by St Peter himself. Though early altars weren’t sophisticated in design, they were soon designated as sacred.

Another early example is the 5th century altar from Auriol in southern France, it is square stone table on a single plinth, decorated with twelve doves.

* Maria Hall has a Masters degree in Liturgy from St Patrick’s College. She is the organist and Director of Music at St Wilfreds Church, Preston, Lancashire [www.mariahall.org](http://www.mariahall.org)

**ADORATION:** Tuesday from 10:15am to 6pm.