

## Healing of the Daughter of Canaanite Woman - Knanaitho Sunday

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, March 19th is the Fourth Sunday of Fifty-Days Lent. The Holy Gospel for that Sunday reads about Jesus healing the daughter of the Canaanite Woman. At last Sunday's Holy Gospel, we saw how Jesus healed a paralytic person. In these two miracles of healing, we see the Lord's compassion for a person, even through the prayers and intercessions come from others.

On this Sunday's Holy Gospel, a Canaanite woman of pagan faith, an idol worshipper, came to Jesus and began to cry out loudly, "O Lord, Son of David, my daughter is severely possessed by devil, have mercy on me". Jesus said to her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel - It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs". He said this because the Jews considered themselves the children of Abraham, children of God, and often spoke of the Gentiles with arrogance as "unclean dogs". The dog was a symbol of dishonor and was used to describe a shameless woman. The woman said to Jesus, "Lord, even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table. Jesus answered her plea, saying, "Woman, your faith is great, let it happen for you as you wish" and her daughter was healed instantly.

Among the pagans, Jesus found strong faith such as did not exist among the Jews. This passage describes the only occasion in which Jesus ministered outside of Jewish territory. (Tyre and Sidon are 50 miles north of Israel and now it is a part of modern Lebanon).

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.**

**Bible readings for Sunday, March 19th, 2006.**

**(Healing of the Daughter of Canaanite Woman - Knanaitho Sunday)**

### **Before Holy Qurbana:**

I Samuel - 7: 10-17  
Numbers - 17: 1-8  
Isaiah - 56: 1-7

### **Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles: Acts - 4: 1-12  
Epistles of St. Paul: Romans - 7: 14-25  
Holy Gospel: St. Matthew - 15: 21-28

**See you on Sunday, March 19th at 8.45 a.m. Come on time.**

**KINDLY MAKE SURE THE ALTAR IS CLEAN BEFORE LEAVING. VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN & VACUUM THE HOLY ALTAR ARE NEEDED.**

- 1. On Wednesday, March 22nd is Mid-Lent (4th Wednesday of 50-Days Lent). For everybody's convenience, there will be Holy Qurbana on Tuesday, March 21st in our church at 6.30 p.m.**
- 2. On Saturday, March 25th is Annunciation to St. Mary. There will be Holy Qurbana on this day in our church at 9.00 a.m**
- 3. Next Sunday, March 26th is Fifth Sunday of 50 Days Lent. (Healing of the Crippled Woman - Kpiptho Sunday).**

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex