



## **A FAITH CHECK**

### **Services – Sunday 13 August, 2023**

#### **Pentecost 11**

**9.30am** Five Dock

*Preacher:* Rev Wattson Pualilo

*Reading:* Genesis 37: 12-28

*Theme:* "Sibling Rivalry"

*We are glad to have you with us today in worship.*

*It is our hope that you will not only learn more about God, but that you will encounter Him and experience His presence, love and grace for you.*

## **DIARY DATES**



### **Vale June Downing**

We are saddened to learn our dear friend June Downing passed away peacefully on Wednesday evening 9<sup>th</sup> August. June is remembered for her involvement in the many activities of the congregation. For a long period she arranged the church flowers and tended the garden near the rear car park. Her home was a place of hospitality and many social occasions were enjoyed there. Our loving sympathy has been conveyed to June's children.

A funeral service will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 10.00am at Northern Suburbs crematorium, conducted by the Rev Trevor Lunney. The service will be live-streamed. If you wish to receive the link, please email the church office for details.

### **Dates to Note:**

20<sup>th</sup> August Ferragosta takes place mainly on Great North Road – be aware of road closures which affect church access

20<sup>th</sup> August Worship Committee after worship

25<sup>th</sup> August Church Council following worship

### **Recent news**

Heather has made contact while on holiday in Canada. While the trip started well, unfortunately she contracted COVID on 3rd August, requiring her and her son to move to a hotel. Her message was received on 9<sup>th</sup> August so hopefully Heather is on the way to recovery. A note with our concern has been returned to her.

*Then he left Galilee and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon, and tried to keep it a secret that he was there, but couldn't. For as usual the news of his arrival spread fast.*

*Right away a woman came to him whose little girl was possessed by a demon. She had heard about Jesus and now she came and fell at his feet, and pled with him to release her child from the demon's control. (But she was Syrophenician – a "despised Gentile!")*

*Jesus told her, "First, I should help my own family – the Jews. It isn't right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."*

*She replied, "That's true, sir, but even the puppies under the table are given some scraps from the children's plates."*

*"Good!" he said, "you have answered well – so well that I have healed your little girl. Go home, for the demon has left her!"*

*And when she arrived home, her little girl was lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.*

Mark 7: 24-30 "The Way" Tyndale

In great need, desperation is etched on the non-Jewish woman's face as she humiliates herself at the feet of a Jew! Observe her as Jesus tests her sincerity and rewards her faith.

Jesus must minister to the Jews first. They were made ready by the prophets to understand his message.

But the woman's lack of this preparation is more than made up by her depth of faith. The girl's cure can't be psychological: it occurs at a distance without her knowing how or why.

Hebrew 11.1 defines faith: ***"What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see"*** But more than a definition, faith is a lived experience.

Jesus' authority was something quite new to the Jews. When the Rabbis taught they supported every statement with quotations "There Is a saying that....." When the prophets spoke they said "Thus saith the Lord"

Theirs was a delegated authority.

When Jesus spoke, he said "I say to you" He did not rely on a delegated authority. He was authority incarnate. Here was a man who spoke as someone who knew. To place our faith in him is to have assurance in the one who can be trusted.