

The Gospel is going to the dogs

The challenge of reading the Gospel for today is that it presents Jesus in a non-flattering light – not something we've been taught to do, is it? We may excuse Him by saying he's testing the woman's faith, as He might do for a pompous person, but surely not for this desperate woman whose child is demented? The plain reading is that Jesus acts according to a limited view of his mission – a very human failing - and the mother responds according to a desperate need outside of that limited view. Jesus, in perceiving a wider mission, commends her action of faith which reminds us that it's a faith that's available to all. So, no matter how badly we act – like 'dogs' – salvation by Jesus is always there for the asking. The Gospel – the good news – is available to all.