

12 March 2023
Third Sunday in Lent
Year A



Entrance Antiphon

Of My eyes are always on
the Lord, for he rescues my
feet from the snare. Turn to
me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First Reading from the
book of Exodus 17:3-7

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

Response: If today you
hear his voice, harden not
your hearts.

Second Reading from the
second letter of St Paul
to Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Gospel Acclamation
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the
Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I
may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!

Holy Gospel according to
John 4:5-42

Communion Antiphon
This For anyone who drinks
it, says the Lord, the water I
shall give will become in
him a spring welling up to
eternal life.

NEXT WEEK
19 March 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent
First: 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13
Second: Eph 5:8-14
Gospel: Jn 9:1-41

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand,
the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe.



Priscilla lives with her husband and two grandchildren in the Hwange region. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla and her community learnt conservation farming to grow drought-resistant crops. Her increased harvest allowed Priscilla to sell her crops and start poultry farming, selling eggs to grow her income stream and pay for her grandchildren's education. Caritas Hwange also helped rehabilitate the dip tank in her community so that Priscilla's cattle can be healthy and free from tick-borne diseases.

While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange has helped Priscilla acquire the knowledge and skills she needs to diversify her income and support her family during the current food crisis.

"Today we have knowledge and skills that we didn't have before and are able to use to earn a living," Priscilla said.

Every summer seems to get a little longer and a little hotter. We have all become conscious of issues surrounding water. Either there seems to be too much, as during last year's summer floods or when the sea levels rise in the Pacific. Other times, there seems to be too little water as when the rivers in our country run low or members of God's family around the world experience drought.

Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has been responding to the dire needs of places such as Ethiopia and Somalia where a cruel drought, compounded by a shortage of grain from Ukraine, has led to dire consequences. Today's readings may well cause us to reflect on the current state of God's creation.

In the book of Exodus, we hear that people are complaining to Moses because they are dying of thirst. In the Gospel, Jesus meets a woman in a Samaritan town. She has come to draw water from the well in the hottest part of the day. In both cases, access to water is precarious. Yet God responds not only to a thirst for water but to a deeper thirst as well. Moses' people are thirsty for direction, leadership and hope. The woman in John's Gospel has a thirst for love and acceptance which, Jesus tells her, will come from within if she is able to accept him and his message of life. As the story unfolds, we learn of her loneliness and see her reconnecting with her community.

This week, Caritas Australia shares with us an account of its response to a water shortage in Zimbabwe. Thanks to our support for Project Compassion, Caritas is involved in providing access to water in many places. It seems such a basic thing. One we mostly take for granted. But once a community has access to water, it grows in every possible way. People have more time for healthcare and education. People find energy to build their future. This week's scripture readings have a strong sense of a hope-filled future. May we too, in our time, be sources of hope for all future generations. *Written by Michael McGirr*

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Church.
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am

Contact us

Office Hours: **Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm**

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Parish Priest: **Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

Assistant Priest: **Fr “Sam” Ransom Rapirap OCD**

Parish Associate: **Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM**

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Emmanuel Vella, Hugh Madden, June Wrightman, Sandra Bastoli, Marites Sitjar,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Virginia Abunassur, Jerry & Anne Migus, John McDermott.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

19 March	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Berna, Suzanne & Russell	Sarah, Violetti & Martin	Beatrix & Stuart
Altar Servers	Michelle, Austin & Christian	Orly, Fisiilose & Claire	Vu
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Ronda & Tina	Gloria & Rachel
Refreshments	Tracey & Richard	Ofa & Charlotte	
CLOTW		Lee & Samantha	
Flowers	Vai & Jacinta	Church Vacuuming	Pawan & Effie
Counters	Louise & Lina	Foyer Cleaning	Estela & Anita

Our Community

Parish Vision: LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER: Opportunities:

Develop a deeper understanding of Lent and Easter— A study group to satisfy your thirst! This group meets in the Parish Meeting Room on Thursdays at 10am till 12:30pm— newcomers are welcome each week. The topics to be covered this coming week are

The Great Fifty Days of Easter and then Ascension and Pentecost

The sessions are facilitated by Colleen Haughey and are based on video presentations by Fr John Baldovin. All are welcome.

RCIA: This Lent we include Grant, Jack and Adam in our Prayers of the Faithful and I ask all parishioners to keep them in your personal daily prayers as we join in the journey to renew our own baptismal promises at Easter. *Diane Redmayne RCIA Coordinator*



Bulletin Notices

Easter Mass Times:

Parish Reconciliation Service—Friday 31 March at 7.30pm

Holy Thursday— Mass at 7:30pm

Good Friday— Stations of the Cross at 11am
The Passion of the Lord at 3pm

Easter Saturday— Easter Vigil 7pm

Easter Sunday— Mass at 9:30am & 5pm

Feast of Divine Mercy - Sunday 16 April:
Confession, Mass & Devotions from 2pm.

Preparation for Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be held every Sunday at 1.30pm in the parish hall.

The Fundraising meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 March at 7.30 via zoom.

The Book club will meet on Wednesday 15 March at 10am.

Childrens Ministry gathering will be on Friday 17 March in the meeting room.

A Working Bee will be held at the parish on Saturday 18 March from 8am to 2pm. Your help is needed to prepare the grounds and the church for Easter. Please come along for 1 or 2 hours.

Supporting Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse: The Diocese has scheduled a one day workshop for survivors of sexual abuse, their families and supporters on Saturday 18 March 2023 9:30am-3.00pm Visit dow.sh/samsn

Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat, 25-26 March 2023: An opportunity for single women aged 16-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. Registrations: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Marriage Enrichment Weekend Learn to live your best life in love! **Join us on 14-16 April 2023** at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or Email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au



Appin Massacre Memorial Ceremony

Sunday 16 April 2023 Cataract Dam Picnic Area 11am – 3.30pm. Hosted by: Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group. The event will take place regardless of weather conditions. Please see flyer for contacts and additional details.

CIAN Webinar Holy Week and Mystagogy: Monday 13 March 2023 7pm – 8:15pm: Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN) presents the third in a series of webinars about running the RCIA process in your parish. Simon Yeak and Br Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud OFM will present on taking your Elect through Holy Week and the Easter Initiation Rites and Mystagogy. Register tinyurl.com/CIAN-Mar2023-webinar

Liturgy Training Workshop Saturday 1 April 2023 Ingleburn Parish is hosting a Ministry Workshop, specifically for Readers, Ministers of Communion and Acolytes, both for existing ministers and those interested in joining these ministries. The day will begin with mass at 9am, followed by the workshop at 9.30am and conclude with a light lunch at approximately 1pm. A contribution to the lunch would be appreciated. If you would like to register for this workshop please call the parish office on 96037373 / 0434 705 176.

Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Manager – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong An exciting opportunity exists for a suitably experienced and qualified person to apply for the role of Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Manager. Please visit the website <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events/>. Applications can be emailed to recruitment@dow.org.au. For all enquiries, call Robin Williams on (02) 4222 2402

Legion of Mary Diocese of Wollongong ACIES CEREMONY Immaculate Conception Church Princes Hwy, Unanderra; Sunday 26 March 2023 at 2pm Legion of Mary Prayers and Rosary; Refreshments afterward in Parish rooms. Celebrant: Fr Stork. Enquiries to President Tom on 0414573305; Everyone welcome!

The Journey Weekly Podcast This Week: Fr Mark De Battista says we can learn much from the Samaritan woman's faith journey in this week's Gospel. Mother Hilda says called or uncalled, God is always present in our lives. The Triumph Lenten series continues with Ken Bryant and Darren McDowell. Plus, the bush deacon, Josh Clayton. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Welcome to Sisterhood (Conference 17-19 March – Stanwell Tops) Sisterhood is a National Catholic Women's movement that seeks to support women from all walks and stages of life. It emerged from a growing group of Catholic women seeking more from their relationships with one another, their family and God. The vision of Sisterhood is to see women supported in their Catholic faith and encourages the valuable gift of female friendships, meaningful connection and community. Sound like something you would enjoy? To find out more go to www.sisterhood.org.au

St Michael's Parish Thirroul Centenary Monday 30 October 2023: Special events will be held on 28 October. Details will be announced in the coming months. Anyone with a connection with the parish is invited to join us. Organisers are also interested in any stories and photos of the parish to include in a centenary publication. Inquiries to Judy Bull, judy.bull@bigpond.com.

Mystery & Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration 28 – 30 September 2023, Brisbane. The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council are delighted to announce a combined Liturgy and Music Conference. Early Bird Registrations are now Open: For all enquiries contact liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au

Holy Gospel according to John 4:5-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'



Reflection by Pope Francis

The Gospel (cf. Jn 4:5-42) tells us about a dialogue, a historical dialogue. – it is not a parable, it happened – of Jesus' encounter with a woman, with a sinner.

It is the first time in the Gospel that Jesus declares His identity. And He declares it to a sinner who had the courage to tell Him the truth: "These men were not my husbands" (cf. vv. 16-18). And then with the same argument, she went to proclaim Jesus: "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" (cf. v. 29). She did not go with theological arguments – as she perhaps wanted in the dialogue with Jesus: "On this mountain, on the other mountain..." (cf. v. 20). She goes with her truth. And her truth is what sanctifies her, it justifies her. It is her truth that the Lord uses to proclaim the Gospel.

We cannot be Jesus's disciples without our own truth, that which we are. One cannot be disciple of Jesus with arguments alone: "On this mountain, on the other one...". This woman had the courage to dialogue with Jesus – because these two peoples did not dialogue with each other (cf. v. 9); she had the courage to take interest in Jesus' proposal, in that water, because she knew she was thirsty. She had the courage to confess her weaknesses, her sins. Rather, she had the courage to use her history as a guarantee that He was a prophet. He "told me everything I ever did" (v. 29).

The Lord always wants transparent dialogue, without hiding things, without dual intentions: "I am like this". I can speak with the Lord this way, just as I am, with my own truth. Thus, from my own truth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, I find the truth: that the Lord is the Saviour, He Who came to save me and to save us.

This transparent dialogue between Jesus and the woman ends with that confession of the Messianic reality of Jesus, and with the conversion of those people [of Samaria], with that field that the Lord saw was flowering, that came to Him because it was ripe for harvest (cf. v. 35).

May the Lord grant us the grace to pray always with the truth, to turn to the Lord with our own truth, not with others' truth, not with truths distilled in debates: "It is true, I had five husbands. This is my truth" (cf. vv. 17-18).