



Project Compassion

Monoranjon, a 47 year old farmer from Bangladesh's vulnerable southwest delta, faces the harsh impacts of climate change including extreme heat, cyclones, water scarcity and rising salinity. These challenges have threatened his crops, income and his children's future. But through Caritas Bangladesh's Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program, Monoranjon learned climate resistant farming, aquaculture and disaster planning.

He now grows salt tolerant vegetables, raises livestock and shares knowledge with his community. He can now send his children to school and protect their future from poverty. But millions like Monoranjon still urgently need help to adapt, survive and build resilience in the face of a changing climate.

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 when we see summer floods or the rising sea levels 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 water justice in a range of vulnerable countries.

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.

In reflecting on this story in Listening Together, Cardinal Radcliffe reminds us that Jesus first words are abrupt. 'Give me a drink.' He considers the times in John's Gospel when Jesus expresses thirst, including when he is on the cross. Radcliffe concludes that Jesus is thirsty on our behalf. He longs for our freedom.

Thirst is a great spiritual metaphor, one which Pope Leo XIV has used. But let's not forget the millions of people for whom physical water is a real challenge. This week, Project Compassion shares with us the story of Monoranjon, a farmer in

Bangladesh whose family has been deeply impacted by environmental damage, specifically salination of soil and water.

This beautiful story reminds us of the importance of meeting people, as Jesus did, at their place of greatest need. Our thirst for freedom and justice enables us to *Unite Against Poverty*.

For vulnerable communities who thirst for justice and security, that our support for Project Compassion will be a sign to them of the love of God for all people.

8 March 2026
Third Sunday of Lent
Year A

Entrance Antiphon

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 letter of St Paul to the 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: 5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to

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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.

The
Season
of
Lent

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass:

1st Sunday at 12 noon

Maori Mass:

1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

Filipino Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Weekday Mass

9am each day except Thursday;

Thursday at 7.30pm

Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

Reconciliation

every Saturday at 11am

Devotions & Prayer groups

Adoration with the Rosary:

Saturday at 9.30am

Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass

& devotion: 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm

Divine Mercy Devotion:

3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm

Faith Circles:

every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom

Holy Family Fellowship:

every 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club:

meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Friendship Group:

is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

Bible Study & Reflection

Group: meets Monday at 10am.

Children's Ministry

Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Ascent Youth Ministry:

meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30pm.

Parish Notices

Car and Bike Show on Saturday 14 March from 8am is a fundraising and evangelising event for the parish and I encourage you to come along and bring your family & friends to be a part of the fun. Our fundraising team are also reaching out for some assistance on the day.

Please sign up to help us with any of the listed activities:

Help with the traffic wardens: We need 10 people to be at the college gates and the parish gates throughout the morning.

Assistance with setting up on Friday from 4pm and Saturday from 6am and also cleaning up on Saturday afternoon.

We need 10 people to serve at each the cake stall and on the bbq to cook and serve. We are also accepting donations of cakes and sweet treats, soft drinks, sausages, bacon sauces, serviettes, etc

The Parish information and welcome team requires helpers to engage with our visitors about upcoming parish activities and invite them to join in. It will be an opportunity for our ministries to reach out beyond the parish.

Also there will be an opportunity for your ministry to set up a stall for something such as facepainting or religious sales.

If we have enough helpers, we can set up teams of about 2 hours each, so everyone can also enjoy the exhibits on the day.

To commit to help on the day, please call the parish on 0434 705 176.

The next Fundraising team meeting is on Wednesday 11 March at 7.30

Our Pastoral Care Team visit people who cannot attend Mass any longer due to ill health and age. If you know anyone who would like to have a home visit and Holy Communion please call the parish office and submit the persons contact information.

Grief and Loss Support Group commencing Tuesday 10 March at

10am. Our Pastoral Care team and Grief Care are commencing a support group and hope to continue on a monthly basis for people who have experienced grief and loss in their lives and who would like an opportunity to connect with others in a gentle environment. **Please come along at 10am till 12 on Tuesday 10 March.**

Ascent Youth Group "Ever felt like you were alone in your faith? Have questions about God & life? Come along to ASCENT Youth, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall! All young people aged 12–17 are invited to a fun and faith-filled evening with games, food, friendship and opportunities to grow together and explore life's big questions. Bring a friend and help us kick off 2026!

Food Sponsors: Our Parish Youth Group, Ascent Youth, is looking for parishioners to help sponsor dinner for their gatherings every 2nd and 4th Friday. As a food sponsor, you are welcome to cook, buy something for us to cook or provide a donation of \$60 for us to purchase food. You will be rostered approx 2-3 times a year and will be helping provide food for about 15 young people. Thank you to our generous existing sponsors who have helped in the past. Contact the Parish if you can join the team.

Working Bee will be held on Saturday 21 March to give our church and grounds a clean up before Easter. Please come along for an hour or 2 in the morning.

Diocesan Youth Sports Festival Young people from ages 15 to 35 are invited to come together for the very first Diocesan Youth Sports Festival- a huge day of sport, faith and community on Saturday 18 April 2026 at 9.30am – 3.30pm Where: Holy Spirit College, Bellambi; Cost: \$50 per team | \$10 per person Grab your friends, cousins, youth group or young adult crew and form a team of 7+ to compete in a fast-paced round-robin tournament. The twist? Teams vote on the main sport of the day, so register early and get training! Prefer something lower intensity? A table tennis competition will run throughout the day with plenty of chances to jump in. Morning tea and a BBQ lunch are included, and the day will finish with Mass celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St Columbkilles Church in Corrimal. Register here: dow.sh/youthsportsfest

Stations of the Cross are held every Friday at 7pm during Lent.

The Filipino Mass will be held next Sunday 15 March at 11.15am

Divine Mercy Devotion will be next Sunday at 3pm.

Catholic Chaplaincy at UOW UOW students and staff are warmly invited to become involved with the UOW Catholic Society. Join us for Mass and lunch, 12:30pm Thursdays during semester in the Building 11 Clubs Room. See @uowcathsoc on social media.

Catechist Retreat - March 2026 All Catechists and supporters of the Catechist Ministry are welcome to join us on a special day of retreat either in Wollongong on Monday 23 March or in Rosemeadow on Friday 27 March. Being the season of Lent, the theme for the retreat is Gospel Conversion: Turning to the God of Jesus;. Retreat facilitator, Fr Aloysius Rego OCD, will lead us into a greater understanding of the God of Jesus, as revealed to us in Scripture. There will be times for prayer, learning and discussion. Mass is planned before lunch. Please BYO lunch. Morning Tea provided. Donations are welcome however there is no cost for the retreat. Register now: dow.sh/CCDRETREAT26

Urgent Need for Foster Carers Could you open your heart and home to a child in need? There is an urgent need for foster carers in our community. For over 30 years, CatholicCare has supported carers to provide vulnerable children with a loving, safe home and a brighter future. Foster carers receive comprehensive training, regular case worker support, and a carer allowance for the child day-to-day needs. If you've ever considered fostering, now is the time. Call: 1800 967 894; Email: fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au; We will support you every step of the way.

Seeking Peace and Healing? CatholicCare Counselling Can Help Life's burdens can feel heavy, but you are not alone. CatholicCare offers professional counselling rooted in compassion and guided by the values of faith and hope. Whether you are facing family challenges, relationship struggles, grief, or personal concerns, our counsellors walk with you on the path to healing and renewal. Reach out today and let us walk with you: Call (02) 4254 9395 or visit <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au>

What's on around the Diocese? Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses—too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop dow.sh/stayingconnected about what's happening around our Diocese!

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnappalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Leoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Richard Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic, Vladdy Mher Peralta, Pausumu Olaaiga

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

For our recently departed Shirley Wrightman

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Rita Carmel Lopresti, Anne Migus, Hilda Young, Mark Thompson

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



Our Rosters

15 March 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Tracey & Richard	Tess & Irene	Geoff, Margaret & Danni
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana, Elijah & Eliana	Vu	Michael & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Gabriel & Laura	Gloria & Leah
Refreshments	Emmarie & Berna	Varroville Gospel Choir Community	Beatrix & Madonna
Altar Linen	Berna	CLOTW: Rebecca & Josephine	
Flowers	Tracey, Richard & Vaitafao	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Christine & Cira	Church Foyer	Parish Office



Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
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Holy Gospel according John 4: 5-15, 19-26, 39-42

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

All people thirst for meaning, but of what does that meaning consist? The people in the desert thirsted for water, but they misunderstood their thirst. The woman of Samaria thirsted. Her conversation with Jesus showed that she thirsted for understanding and insight as well as water. For what do we thirst in this world of such great excess and unmeasured need? Life has not become simpler with all of our advances. We still thirst for more – for the newest, the fastest and the best. How much is enough, and when do we cross the line into 'too much'?

The gospel readings for the scrutiny Sundays very clearly lay out the choices that are placed before the catechumens and the rest of the believing community as well. This Sunday it is between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob's well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one. A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?