

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

12 MARCH 2023

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' said the woman. '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 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 when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' 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.

Longer form 4:5-42

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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LIVING WATER

Despite the floods of recent years, Australians more than many people appreciate just how precious a resource water is. There would be very few of us who would not be able to remember living through some period of drought or scarcity of water. Our experience places us in a good position to appreciate the problem faced by the people of Israel. Having been rescued from the oppression of the Egyptians the people of Israel felt betrayed – had they been saved from Egypt only to perish in the desert by thirst? Despite their lack of faith God reached out through Moses and provided them with water in the desert.

When the Samaritan woman came to the well searching for water she could barely have imagined where her encounter with Jesus would lead. She came seeking water but left having come to terms with her past, and having led others to Jesus, the source of living water. As is so often the case, personal experience is the best teacher and having heard Jesus for themselves her fellow Samaritans come to see Jesus as their saviour and source of living water.

When Paul reflected on salvation history he came to see that despite the hardness of the human heart God has always been as he was with the people in the desert. The life-giving love of God has been poured into our hearts to quench our thirst and bring us to life. This love has always been freely given and undeserved. The most powerful proof of this is that Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

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

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have

entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 4:42, 15

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!

GOSPEL

Jn 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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

12 Mar 23
Lent 3 Yr A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
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Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.

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School Principals Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

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Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12 noon Thurs: 9am Fri: 9 am



CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE My eyes are always on the Lord, for He rescues my feet from the snare.

ANTIPHON: Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

COMMUNION For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,

ANTIPHON: the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Cummins, Janet Corcoran, Anna Fordham, Pam Perkins.

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Mansfield (3/3), Vivian Betts (15/3).

DECEASED: Cardinal George Pell, Barbara Smith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

SICK: Gerard Dunn, Terry Dean, Sr Gerard Joseph, Gail Styman, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, William Bonner, Colin MacPherson, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Peter Richards, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

VEENA'S VERSIONS

Passengers on a small commuter plane were waiting for the flight to leave. They were getting a little impatient, but the airport staff assured them that the pilots would be there soon. Finally, two men dressed in pilot uniforms walked up the aisle. Both wore dark glasses, one was using a seeing-eye dog, and the other was tapping his way up the aisle with a cane. Nervous laughter spread through the cabin as the men entered the cockpit, closed the door, and started up the engines. The passengers glanced nervously around, searching for some sign of a practical joke. None was forthcoming. The plane moved faster and faster down the runway, and the people at the windows realized that they were headed straight for the water at the edge of the airport. As people see the water approaching, panicked screams filled the cabin, and at that moment the plane lifted smoothly into the air. The passengers relaxed and laughed, and soon they all retreated into their books, secure in the knowledge that the plane was in good hands. *In the cockpit, the pilot turned to the co-pilot and said, "You know, Bob, one of these days, they're gonna scream too late, and we're going to miss that lift off!"*

PARISH COLLECTIONS:

BSB 082105 1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery Acc 001023642 (Diocese collection)
2nd Collection -West Tamworth Catholic Church. Acc 001041198 (Church Collection)

COMING EVENTS:

19 Mar Morning tea Celebration of St Patrick's and St Joseph's Feasts - Catechist Installation.

20 Mar St Joseph Solemnity Monday 20th 12pm Liturgy

29 Mar Anointing of the Sick Mass 12pm and Easter Reconciliation 2nd Rite 5.30pm.

26 May, 29 Aug, 17 Nov Mission & Evangelisation Events

*"Be of good heart
and let no false fear of God disturb the loving trust
and confidence you have in God's mercy and love.*

No matter what, God is merciful and wants you to trust in this sweet mercy". (1876)



COVID GUIDE: * FACE MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
* ANTISEPTIC WIPES & SANITISER ARE AVAILABLE.

ST JOSEPH'S SOLEMNITY: Monday week, 20 March, a liturgy service will be held at 12 noon to commemorate this important Feast Day in our Parish.

PROJECT COMPASSION: 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 Australia 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. You can help people in Zimbabwe continue to thrive by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phoning 1800 024 413. Please if using a box or envelopes for your donation collect them from the back of the Church.

RESOURCES FOR LENT: The Armidale Diocesan website has available Lenten prayer resources to be used by groups or individuals: <https://armidale.catholic.org.au> should you be looking for a good Lenten program, reflection guide and activities for families and children to get more out of Lent. You will find this if you just begin scrolling down the homepage, or you can go straight to this link to see the resources: <https://lentarmidale.my.canva.site/>

PARISH 'IRISH' MORNING TEA/CATECHIST DAY will be held next Sunday **19 March** to celebrate St Patrick's and St Joseph's Days (17 & 19 Mar) and to also commission our catechists for the current year. Please come along and bring a plate to share if you can.

CATECHISTS NEEDED: One important way to become an intentional disciple is to join others in our Parish in sharing God's love for everyone to the children in state schools in our Parish area. If you feel you would like to help children learn about their Catholic faith and God's love for them, please contact the office. You will be very much supported, and very much appreciated.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: "The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realise it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for God." CCC N 2560

(Catholic Catechism)



WEEK 2 ROSTER: 12/3/23

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman
9am Sun: R S Brown
5.30pm Sun: R J Murray A O'Halloran
Counting Team R Paull A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 17/3 K O'Brien, J Cunningham
Altar Linen: E Smyth

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 19/3/22

Vigil: R D Bolitho D Gowing
9am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R M Murray C Lavell
Counting Team O and J Whale; A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 25/3 J Hutt J Moran
Altar Linen: H Reid

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

