

Third Sunday of Lent

12 March 2023



*Readings for
this week:*

Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42



*Readings for
next Sunday:*

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



Liturgical Jottings

Two Lenten Aspects

Ash Wednesday liturgy recalls the penitential aspects of Lent. The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in cycle A recall the baptismal aspects of Lent. The structure, texts and rites of the RCIA during Lent profoundly emphasise the baptismal journey for both those preparing for Baptism at Easter and the entire congregation. The two characters are present in the prayer of Ash Wednesday: “as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son.”

Quote from St Patrick

I offer God the humble service of my spirit by preaching the Good News of his Son to the pagans, and so make them acceptable as an offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

*The Confession of St Patrick,
Feast day Friday 17 March*

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Looking at the Readings

Natural or human thirst appears in both the first reading and the Gospel. The Exodus people had run out of food and water in the desert of Zin. Moses asked God’s help and followed his instruction and struck the rock once (Exod 17:6) or twice (Numbers 20:11) and water gushed out. St Paul retold this miraculous event to the Corinthians with a spiritual layer: the Israelites were spiritually thirsty, quenched by a spiritual drink from a spiritual rock and that rock was Christ (1Cor 10:4).

The Samaritan woman went to the well for water and met Christ who asked her for a drink of water. The dialogue between the two revealed that Christ was thirsty for her conversion and she became thirsty for the Word of God and eternal life. The symbolism of water carries layers of meaning for people in arid lands, travellers, workers and people with various ailments. The “Living Water” that Jesus speaks about is also a very important symbol in our spiritual life: it is a messianic gift; it is used in baptisms and blessings. Living water evokes God’s Wisdom and Word. It carries the richness of new life in Baptism and Easter. May we take time to meditate on this Gospel, hear Jesus’ invitation to be enlivened by the living water springing up in us.

Prayer for the Week

O God, living and true, look upon your people, whose dry and stony hearts are parched with thirst. Unseal the living water of your Spirit; let it become within us an ever-flowing spring, leaping up to eternal life. Thus may we worship you in spirit and in truth through Christ, our deliverance and our hope. Amen.


Pope Francis Message for Lent 2023

For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor [for the transfiguration], we can say that our Lenten journey is “synodal”, since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master.

On the Lighter Side

By striking the rock not once but twice Moses could see but not enter the Promised Land. I often warn people to press the “on button” once on the microphone, the light switch, the toaster - but no they press it twice, thus cancelling the effect. They look befuddled when I say no Promised Land for you!



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Patricia (Pat) Baldwin
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Bernard McNamara
	Our sick and their carers	Teresa Muto, Vito Prinzi, Lesley Kennedy

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sat 6:00 pm 18 th March	Carol Coulston	Peter Crombie	Joan Webster	Joyce Caiafa & Delphi Hamilton	N/A	Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 19 th March	Rob Miller	Ross Kelly	Domolina Phelan	Nita Basile Marg Normington	Connie Serra	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 26 th March	Carol Coulston	Dean Filgate	Ricki Waters	Barry & Jan Lowe	Steve De Lai	Mary Connelly-Gale Trish Warnett

Two Week Mass Timetable Commencing 13th March

Weekday Mass

Mon 13 th March	No Mass
Tue 14 th March	No Mass
Wed 15 th March	9:15 am Mass
Thu 16 th March	No Mass
Fri 17 th March	9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 18 th March	6:00 pm Mass
Sun 19 th March	10:30 am Mass

Weekday Mass

Mon 20 th March	No Mass
Tue 21 st March	No Mass
Wed 22 nd March	9:15 am Anointing Mass
Thu 23 rd March	No Mass
Fri 25 th March	9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 26 th March	No Mass
Sun 27 th March	10:30 am Mass

Easter Time-table

Wed 29 th March	5:45 pm – Private Reconciliation 6:00 pm – Parish Reconciliation 6:30 pm – Parish Gathering
Sat 1 st April	6:00 pm – Palm Sunday Mass
Sun 2 nd April	10:30 pm – Palm Sunday Mass
Tue 4 th April	TBC – Chrism Mass Bendigo
Thu 6 th April	6:00 pm – Holy Thursday Mass
Fri 7 th April	9:00 am – Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm – Passion Mass
Sat 8 th April	6:00 pm – Easter Vigil Mass
Sun 9 th April	10:30 am – Easter Sunday Mass
Sun 16 th April	10:30 am – Divine Mercy

Easter Roster

If you are available over the Easter Period to help during our services please fill in the sheet in the narthex so that we can create a roster

Chrism Mass – Tuesday 4th April

All parishioners are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo on Tuesday 4th April. If you would like to attend please let Trish or Mary know, also if you require a lift or you could take someone to Bendigo please let Trish or Mary know.

Working Bee – Sat 25 March

To help the parish get ready for Easter we will be having a Working Bee on Saturday 25 March starting at 10am. Many hands make light work if you can come along please do so.

Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of year. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice

Themes for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

<https://young-catholics.com>

The readings for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A help us think about our true desires. The first reading tells of how God satisfied the thirst of the Chosen People in the desert. The psalm reminds us to let God open up our hearts and flow through them. The second reading tells us again that God pours himself into our hearts.

The gospel is the story of the woman at the well, whom Jesus brings to new life through his mercy and compassion. It is worth noting Jesus chose to interact with a Samaritan (an outsider) and a woman. So this is also a good time to discuss how we treat outsiders. And it could also lead to a discussion of the role of women in the Catholic Church.

- Change of heart
- Baptism
- Racism
- Immigration
- Evangelization
- Leadership roles for women in the Church

More Thoughts for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

The woman at the well encounters Jesus and then preaches the Good News to all she knows. We really don't know much about the woman. Jesus says she has had five husbands. Is she divorced? Widowed? We do know she is a Samaritan, a member of a different religious tradition. For a Jewish man to speak to her was shocking.

Jesus' knowledge of her personal life convinces her that he is a great prophet. When he reveals himself as the Messiah, she believes. Then she goes and tells everyone she knows. They believe her because of her personal testimony.

This woman is a great model of one important role of women in the Church, evangelizing and preaching the Good News to their friends and family.

Reflection Questions for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

- Who are the women I know who are leaders in my parish community?
- How can we encourage more women to boldly proclaim the gospel?
- Is there somebody in my life whom I need to boldly share my personal testimony with?



Our young adults' group (18—40yo) gathers to reflect

on the readings at Mass for that coming Sunday. There is also time for prayer and fellowship. No RSVP is needed.

We meet very Thursday, 6-7pm in the MacKillop Room in the Parish Office (behind St Brendan's Church).

Simply show up whenever you are available.

For any questions, please speak with Mason 0403 824 346, Berni Sullivan, or Fr Jackson.

"a Presence that you and I can't miss – if we are looking "

MOTHER HILDA SCOTT OSB

This week on the Journey (Ep 501)

On the Journey 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, and more great music!

Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

Catholic Women's League Regional Conference:

"Catholic Women's League Regional Conference on Wednesday March 15th at Eaglehawk Parish, commencing with Morning Tea at 10am followed by prayers and round the table talk on "Refresh Our Faith", Mass at midday, Lunch (BYO please), Reflection, Rosary, Talk on Mary Glowrey House, Talk by Diocesan Spiritual Director Fr. Peter Ferwerda, Question time and final prayers (including Divine Mercy Chaplet) at 3pm to finish the day. All are welcome. We are looking for new members. Please consider joining this wonderful organization which promotes Catholic Teachings, Vocations, and encourages women to reach their full potential".

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura.

PO Box 110 Tatura VIC 3616, 03 5824 1049, e: tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
The presbytery office is open on Wednesdays & Fridays from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm