

Third Sunday of Lent

8 March 2026



*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

Lenten Prefaces

Each Sunday in Year A the Gospels and the Prefaces (prayer before the Holy, Holy, Holy Lord) are linked, especially on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays in Lent. Today the Gospel tells on the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan by Jacob's Well. Jesus gently initiates a long discussion, the woman raises historical, cultural and theological issues. The homilist may touch on some of these.

The Preface, however, focuses on faith of the Samaritan; Jesus begins with thirst for water and moves to thirst for faith. Water is a gift of God's creation; faith is also a gift from God. She thirsts for water but soon thirsts for faith. The Preface proclaims that Jesus had already created the gift of faith within her and then kindled in her the fire of divine love. It is a Baptism journey for her and many RCIA participants as well as an Easter journey for Christians who accompany them during Lent.

Looking at the Readings

For Jesus the forty days in the wilderness was a testing time for him, confronting the devil and temptations (First Sunday Gospel, Matt 4:1-11). For the Israelites, the forty years in the desert was a testing time for them as they confronted a pursuing army, hunger, pestilence (snakes and scorpions), the attacking Amalekites and now thirst. Moses interceded for them to God, God delivered. For the Israelites their relationship with God deepened. God made a covenant with them with the gift of the Ten Commandments, beginning with the words: "I am the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:1) and a vow that he would bring them into the promised land.

Today we come in touch with the God of Salvation and the Life of Christ. We, too, have the time of testing, time to deepen our faith through this Lenten season. We, too, experience the God who saves and the promises of Christ Jesus as expressed by St Paul in the second reading: "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." (Romans 5:1-2,5-8)

Jesus meets the woman at the well in the passage from the Gospel according to John. Why did Jesus stay there when the disciples went into the town? Why was the woman at the well at midday, not early in the morning with the other women? How awkwardly did the conversation commence! Yet it became a great opportunity and a moment of conversion and faith. The woman came a missionary to the townsfolk, and they believed her and remarked: "we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world." (John 4:52)

Prayer for the Week

God of life, throughout history we hear stories of your wonders. Help us to reach out our hands for the water that gives life instead of looking for satisfaction in the things of this world that will not quench our thirst. Amen.

Words from Pope Leo XIV

At the well of Sychar, Jesus overcomes the barriers of culture, gender and religion. He invites the Samaritan woman to a new understanding of worship, which is not limited to a particular place – "neither on the mountain nor in Jerusalem" – but is realised *in Spirit and truth*. This moment captures the very core of interreligious dialogue itself: the discovery of God's presence beyond all boundaries and the invitation to seek him together with reverence and humility. General Audience, 29 Oct 2025

On the Lighter Side

In January in 44°C heat, funeral staff were handing out bottles of cold water to mourners at the cemetery. But to the priest they offered a bucket of sand. A real desert experience!



 Please email or contact the office to add names to the prayer list	For those who have died and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Pat Baldwin
	Our sick and their carers	Rita Fairchild, Harney McKinnon

ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Saturday 14th March 6:00pm

Commentator: Carol Coulston
Reader: Denice Bourke
Gospel Procession: Domelina Phelan
Gifts: S Gregg & D Hamilton
Eucharistic Minister: Not required
Screen Operator: Anne Hutchison
Music Operator: Trish Warnett

Sunday 15th March 10:30am

Commentator: Theresa Cook
Reader: Rob Miller
Gospel Procession: Steve De Lai
Gifts: A Basile & L Mercuri
Eucharistic Minister: A Ciavarella
Screen Operator: Debbie Worm
Music Operator: Trish Warnett
Money Counters: L & D Worm

Sunday 22nd March 10:30am

Commentator: Domelina Phelan
Reader: Anne-Marie Nihill
Gospel Procession: Connie Serra
Gifts: S & S De Lai
Eucharistic Minister: Ross Kelly
Screen Operator: Debbie Worm
Music Operator: Trish Warnett
Money Counters: L & D Worm

Saturday Mass times for 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month

6:00pm (Oct – Mar) 5:00pm (Apr-Sep)

Two Week Mass Timetable Week Commencing 4th March

Weekday Liturgy & Mass

Wednesday 4th March 9:15am (Liturgy)
Friday 6th March 9:15am (Fr Uday)

Weekend Mass

Sunday 8th March 10:30am (Fr Uday)

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 11th March 9:15am
Friday 13th March 9:15am

Weekend Mass

Saturday 14th March 6:00pm
Sunday 15th March 10:30am

Monthly events

Anointing Mass every 1st Wednesday Mass at 9:15am

Italian Rosary every 2nd Friday at 2pm in the Church

Reconciliation every 1st Saturday of the month (30 minutes before Mass)

Saturday evening Masses: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month
4th Sunday of the month: Shared lunch in St Mary's Hall

Next Shared lunch Sunday 22nd March

Ladies Cuppa & Chat

1st Wednesday of each month at 2pm in St Mary's Hall. All welcome.



The next one will be Wednesday 3rd April.

Welcome back to Fr Uday, we hope you had an enjoyable time in India and are refreshed and renewed to come back to Tatura.

Each Friday during Lent there will be the Stations of the Cross following Mass at 9:15am.

Plate Collection and Envelopes

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the parish.

May God bless you always.

Last week: \$ 436.50



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS: Please see the Trish or Fr Uday. For further queries contact the parish office.

NAMES ON PRAYER LIST: Please contact the office or by email to add names on the prayer list.

Next Baptism Preparation

Meeting: Wednesday 3rd June at 5:30pm in the Church.



Donation QR Code



Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.

John 4:15

**Project Compassion
Theme for 2026
Unite Against Poverty**

Please use this QR Code to
donate through the Tatura
Parish



STATEMENT OF REFLECTION

Each year since 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a statement for reflection and discussion on Social Justice Sunday in August on a key issue in society. This year, the bishops have chosen to release two statements, the first in February, titled The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good. Read the Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2026/01/29/the-cost-of-our-living-economic-and-social-justice-for-the-common-good/>

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

Presented by the Central Victorian Irish Association. Tuesday 17 March | 7.30pm. Bendigo Southeast College Theatre, Ellis Street, Flora Hill. The evening opens with an excerpt from the sacred oratorio Saint Patrick at Tara. Tickets: Adults \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (16 & under) \$5. Book via TryBooking (Event ID: 1541256). Limited tickets may be available at the door from 7 pm (cash preferred).

Let us pray 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.

This week we hear about
MONORANJON from BANGLADESH
In the 3rd Week of Lent video at Mass.

A Thirst for Living Water

The 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A reminds us that God is with us, even when we are tired, unsure, or in need. Each reading shows people who feel empty or thirsty, but God gives them what they truly need. He does not leave them alone. He hears their cries and responds with love and care.

In Exodus, the people are in the desert. They have no water and feel afraid. But God tells Moses to strike the rock, and water flows out. God provides, even when they doubt Him. This shows how God stays close, even when we struggle to believe.

The Gospel reading for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A tells the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus talks with her and offers something much greater than regular water. He gives her hope, truth, and new life. She leaves changed, ready to share what she has found.

These readings help us look at our own lives. Where are we empty? What are we really looking for? Lent is a time to open our hearts to Jesus, the one who gives us living water.

Repeat Notice:

Any families with children in Year 3-6 not attending Sacred Heart School are invited to contact Tony McDonald at the school if they would like to participate in the
2026 Sacramental program (Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Eucharist).

Email: tmcdonald@shtatura.catholic.edu.au

Lord, help us to seek You with open hearts and to welcome Your love that brings true life. Teach us to break down barriers and share Your peace with others. May we share Your love as a source of hope and joy in our communities. Amen.

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Child safety officer Debbie Turvey on 0407 804 317.

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 years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura

PO Box 110 Tatura VIC 3616

Phone: 0436 112 232

Email: tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website:

<http://www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au>

Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Parish Tatura

DIOCESE NEWS – 8/3/2026



Discover Catholic Podcasts and events happening across Australia – retreats, pilgrimages, workshops and more.

Visit www.CathEvents.org.au to find opportunities to grow in faith and community. Event organisers can also list their events for free, helping more people connect and participate.

Link for 2026 Lent Reflections on the Diocese Website:

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3010-lent-reflection-resources-2026>

The February statement, launched last week, is titled ***The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good.***

Read the Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2026/01/29/the-cost-of-our-living-economic-and-social-justice-for-the-common-good/>

The latest Along the Track can be found on our website under the heading of **Sharings / Along the Track**



Diocese Website: <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au>
Diocese Facebook Page: Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Donation QR Code

**Project Compassion Theme
for 2026
Unite Against Poverty**
Please use this QR Code to donate
through the Tatura Parish



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Third Sunday of Lent
7–8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we **Unite Against Poverty this Lent.**

**GET OUR SEAL OF APPROVAL
THIS EASTER AND BEYOND!**



Treat yourself with responsibly sourced chocolate this Easter, supporting brands committed to eliminating slavery from their supply chain.

Learn the truth

A significant portion of chocolate available in Australia is produced using cocoa beans harvested by child labourers, many of whom endure enslavement and exploitative working conditions.

Indulge responsibly, select ethically sourced chocolate, and support companies working towards eliminating slavery from their supply chain this Easter.

Here is how:

1. Join the one billion people who read the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard (<https://www.chocolatescorecard.com/>) last year to discover their chocolate's true origins and evaluate their favourite brands' ethical practices.
2. Seek out the Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certifications on chocolate packaging.

Note: these certification seals mean the certified ingredient was produced using methods that support social, economic, and environmental sustainability.



SCAN ME



**Take action and
make a difference today!**



**CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
SANDHURST**

***“The Harvest of the
Spirit of God”***

Healing Day

Charismatic Mass celebrated by

Fr Arun Korlakanti

Spiritual Chaplain CCR Sandhurst

Saturday 21st March 2026

9.30 cuppa, 10.00am-3.30pm

St Brendan's Knight St, Shepparton

at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre

Lunch: Please bring a plate to share

All welcome

An offering will be taken up

Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196

Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282

Denise Illot: 0407 506 813

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT – 8 March

MONORANJON from BANGLADESH

Monoranjon, 47, lives in a coastal village in southwest Bangladesh, one of the regions most affected by climate change. He and his family face extreme heat, cyclones, water scarcity, and rising salinity that is destroying crops and livelihoods. As a farmer and father of two, Monoranjon struggled to provide for his family and keep his daughter and son in school.

“In this dry season no seedlings come out from seeds. Due to heat of the sun and lack of water, plants are dying,” Monoranjon said.

Thanks to support from Caritas Australia and its partner Caritas Bangladesh, Monoranjon joined the Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program. He learned climate-resilient farming techniques, including organic vegetable cultivation, livestock vaccination, crab fattening, and salt-tolerant crop production. His income has improved, allowing him to send his children to school and access better nutrition. Monoranjon now teaches others in his village, inspiring change and resilience across the community.

‘Doing this I maintain my livelihood, but we have to work very hard. Seeing me, many people started. This is how they grow vegetables,’ Monoranjon said.

Monoranjon also works with his community to plant mangrove seedlings on the mudflat coastlines across the delta they live on, to prevent further erosion and flooding of their lands.



Monoranjon working on his farm in southwest Bangladesh.
Photo: Caritas Australia.



Monoranjon with his wife Anita, daughter Sushmita and son Chandon outside their home in southwest Bangladesh. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Despite these improvements, the region remains at grave risk. With the looming threat of increased strength and frequency of cyclones, rapid sea level rise, dangerously high temperatures and drought, more people like Monoranjon desperately need an increase in support, so they can continue to provide a future of education for their children, and a way out of poverty.

Along with your generous support, this project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

REFLECTION for THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

Exodus 17:3-7 | Ps 95:1-2, 6-7. 8-9. R. v.8 | Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 | John 4:5-42

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 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*.



Register your parish for
online fundraising at

<https://projectcompassion.org.au/parish>

and then download
your unique QR code
to replace this box.

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

8 MARCH 2026

FOR WHAT DO WE THIRST?

The first two Sundays of Lent are from Matthew's Gospel, the Gospel of this liturgical year. They recall Jesus' temptation (*Mt 4: 1-11*) and his experience of being transfigured (*Mt 17: 1-9*). For the remaining Sundays of Lent, we listen to John's Gospel. These Sundays will explore the central religious and theological questions especially relevant for contemporary disciples in their Lenten journey: For what do we truly thirst (today's Gospel)? How might our eyes be opened to Jesus (next Sunday)? What is the life for which we deeply desire (the final Sunday of Lent)?

In today's Gospel a Samaritan woman comes to a well at noon—the brightest moment of the day—and encounters the source of Light, Jesus. She comes to draw water and only later realises that she has met the one who can quench her deepest spiritual thirst. The whole scene is replete with theological symbolism, a characteristic of John, as Jesus invites the woman to explore the depths of her thirst that only he can address. We learn that she has had several 'husbands'. This is not an admission of the woman's adventurous liaisons, as many commentators have interpreted, but an acknowledgement of her attraction to the 'husbands' (the 'Baals') of religions that are 'not her own'. She is looking for the true one from God, not these other counterfeits.

Jesus reveals himself to her: He is the 'I AM', the Old Testament name for God. Through him the woman comes to encounter the Sacred and sets her on a journey back to her townspeople. Like the woman, we, too, thirst, for God and for a deeper religious life as we journey through Lent.



Fr Michael Trainor

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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FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Ex 17:3-7

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

Glorify 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 will never be thirsty again: