



WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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Office Hours: Tues and Frid: 9.00am —3:00pm

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Lent Year: Alternate Readings, Year A

12 March 2023

First Reading Ex 17:3-7

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?'

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

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.

Gospel Acclamation See 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 shorter form

Jn 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.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The Jewish people worshipped at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans to the north worshipped on Mount Gerizem. But Jesus says to the woman of Samaria: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem . . . true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.'

We do this by acknowledging Jesus Christ as our sacred site. Jesus is where God is to be found. In his earthly ministry this was around places like the well in Samaria. As Risen Lord, he is to be found in those in dire need, and in the Heavenly Bread. In both cases we need to incline the body as an act of worship: in the case of the needy, by doing something practical; in the case of the Heavenly Bread, by genuflecting, bowing, before the Blessed Sacrament.

We could pause for a moment to reorientate ourselves to the Sacred Site who is the Risen Christ, acknowledging him as indeed the 'Saviour of the World'.

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ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other
- growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sat Vigil 6.30pm
Sunday 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

10.30am to 11.00am Saturday

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 13/3 Mass 6.00pm
Tues 14/3 Holy Hour Exposition 5.00pm
Mass 6.00pm
Wed 15/3 Mass 6.00pm
Thur 16/3 Mass 6.00pm
Frid 17/3 Mass 10.00am

Note—Easter Mass Times will be in next week's Bulletin.

EASY WORSHIP

Sat 11th March Carmel Fasano
Sun 12th March Valoia Family

Sat 18th March Sarah Richards
Sun 19th March Valoia Family

Lenten Eucharistic Adoration



Every Friday until and including 31 March 2023.

Following the 10am Mass at St Mary's Mooroopna. At 12noon, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm the Mysteries of the Rosary will be recited.

Concluding with benediction at 7:45pm.

ALL WELCOME

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.



END POVERTY

PROMOTE JUSTICE

UPHOLD DIGNITY



We pray that all people will have just access to the necessities of life, especially water. May we, in our support for Project Compassion this Lent, do all we can to become a source of hope for those who thirst.

YOUNG ADULTS



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 every Thursday from 6-7pm in the McKillop Room in the Parish Office (behind St Brendans Church).

Simply show up whenever you are available. For any questions, please speak with Mason 0403 824 346, Berni Sullivan, or Fr Jackson.



The Grade 3/4 St Mary's Primary School Students were very lucky to have Maree Williams speak to them in class recently. Maree has a wealth of knowledge and was able to teach the students about the different groups in the Parish and what they do. St Mary's Primary School feel very grateful that we have wonderful people like Maree who generously volunteer their time to work in the Parish & School Community.



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*



Federation of Catholic Bishops of Oceania

While gathering in Suva last month, the Bishops of Oceania prepared a statement, The Oceans of the World are Interwoven with the Future Hopes of all Peoples, the statement speaks of the need for "deeper ecological conversion" and to embrace "the challenge of integral ecology" recognising that "our economic systems need to be in balance with the pulse of life".

The bishops have been strengthened by the synodal process to lift up their voices for our region and affirm their deepening commitment to our ocean home.



2023 Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited Theme for Lent:

**"Let the words you speak
always be filled with grace."**



If you get a chance, listen to the song of the same name on Youtube.
"Let The Words You Speak" by Andrew Chinn and Drew Lane,
featuring our very own Michelle Hicks.

Save the Date

Mons Peter Jeffrey and Fr John Ryan
Jubilarian Mass for 60 years of priesthood
will be celebrated on **Tuesday 25 July 2023**
from 11am at St Brendan's Church.

A local celebration Mass for Mons Peter Jeffrey will
also be held at St Brendan's Church on
Thursday 27 July at 5pm.

THE L'ARCHE SHEPPARTON
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INVITES YOU
TO BE OUR GUEST
FOR

LUNCH AND EASTER ACTIVITIES

Sunday March 26
12.30 - 2.30

AT
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8 DUNCAN COURT
SHEPPARTON

RSVP THURSDAY MARCH 23
NEECY.44@HOTMAIL.COM
GJELLIFF@BIGPOND.COM

MY REFLECTIONS on my trip to THE HOLY LAND By Liz Donnelly.

Liz will speak during Mass on
Saturday 18th March.



Catholic Women's League Regional Conference:

"Catholic Women's League Regional Conference on
Wednesday March 15th at Eaglehawk Parish
BYO Lunch please. All are welcome. We are looking for new
members. Please consider joining this wonderful organisa-
tion which promotes Catholic Teachings, Vocations, and
encourages women to reach their full potential".



Readings for
this week:

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



Readings for
next week:

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

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MERRITT
FUNERAL SERVICES

PH (24HRS): 03 5825 1651

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sick List: Graeme Weir, Cherie Mammone, Jim McIntyre, Pat Treacy, Irene Murphy, Irene Biesiekierski, Dennis Corboy, Barry Monaghan, Fr Steve Bohan, Parish Priest of Yarrowonga, Annette Kay [Friend of Rosemary Haigh] Kim Smyth, Noela McIntyre, Sam Sali, Rosemary Wingrave, Angelo Conti, Patrick Keane (Mons. Nephew), Nathan Hayes, Francesco Laface.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries:

ALTAR HELPERS Mar 11th not required Mar 18th Marg McCarty

BINGO Mar 18th Maree Williams, Mark Carnovale, Rob O'Meara, Maureen Ball, Marie O'Meara

11th & 12th March	COMMENTOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY
6:30 pm	Margaret Campbell	Marie O'Meara	Angela Iocona	Merv & Pam Cormick
10.00 am	Michelle Hicks	Rosemary Wingrave	Inez Raleigh	Rosemary Wingrave
18th & 19th March				
6:30 pm	Peter Stein	Marie Coad	Mavis Murphy	Angelo & Nesta Conti
10.00 am	Tom Dumaresq	Sheila Griffin	Maree Williams	Leo & Brenda Pye