



**Sunday 12th March 2023**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

**The Partnered Parishes of:**

**St. Mary's**

204 Grimshaw St.,  
Greensborough, 3088

**Parish:** 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

**Email:** [Greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam1.org.au/greensborough)

**Secretaries:** Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday to Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.30pm

**Sunday:** Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening Mass

**Parish School Principal**

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**  
[principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

**Email:** [DiamondCreek@cam.org.au](mailto:DiamondCreek@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek)

**Secretary:** Pat Guatta

**Mass Times**

**Wednesday & Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**St Peter's: 1st & 3rd Saturday** 7.15pm

**Sunday:** Mass 9.00am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Friday:** 9.45am to 10.15am

**Parish School Principal**

Mr. Jim O'Sullivan **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**  
[principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

**Email:** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth)

**Secretary:** Lisa Leahy

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday & Thursday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday:** Mass 10.30am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 9.30am to 10.00am

**Parish School Principal**

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**  
[principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**

**LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

**7.00pm Wednesday 29th March at St Thomas Church**



O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.

Third Sunday of Lent 12th March 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-lent-3-year-a>

**Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.**



[www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au](http://www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

[www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au)



**Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

*Vision Statement "To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world"*



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 9am-5pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm. Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

**VISITING SEMINARIANS.** We again welcome 2 fourth year seminarians from Corpus Christi College, **Nicolas Calandra** and **Josh McDermid** who will join us for some of our Sunday morning Masses as part of their formation towards priesthood.

Please make them welcome, and you might consider inviting them for lunch on a Sunday after the Masses. They are scheduled to be here on April 2, 9, 30; May 21 and 28."

**FOUND** A set of keys have been found just outside the Parish Office. Please contact the Parish Office on 9435 1543 if they belong to you or you know of someone who has lost keys.

**OUR LENTEN ENVIRONMENT** During Lent, our worship space is simplified with no flowers or greenery in the church or Gathering Space representing the barren desert where Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. This is symbolic of the Lenten Season when we are encouraged to pare our lives back to the basics and look into the depths of our hearts with honesty - only then can we truly see our need for repentance and change.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT** Three Stations of the Cross services are available on our parish website during Lent – one based on the *Gospel of St Matthew*, another are *Mary's Stations*, and there is a video *Way of the Cross* with images of the Stations at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Deepdene carved by Austrian immigrant Leopoldine Mimovich.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** every Friday during Lent at **7pm at St Mary's**.

**ANOIDING MASS** at St Mary's. Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am.

**VOLUNTEERS** "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). Getting involved as a volunteer brings a double portion of joy, as we give draw our heart to Christ

Trinity Manor Age Care at 226 Elder Street, Greensborough gives thanks to St Mary's Community volunteers for taking the time to bring Communion each week to our residents, anyone willing to serve in this ministry can join the list, for further details please contact the parish office. OR perhaps you would like to VOLUNTEER using your skills or visiting elders or able to help run an activity. We need people on a roster donating their time once a week or once a month for 30 or 60 minutes. If you are interested please contact Monica Espinoza at Trinity Manor at 9091 5200, we would like to hear from you soon. Thank You.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ST.PATRICKS DAY CELEBRATION ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH AT 10.30AM** in the gathering space. Entry \$10.00 per person. Bookings weekend of 11th/12th March after Masses. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquires: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.

**SILENCE IN LITURGY** God addresses us through the scriptures. But silence is what helps us discover the meaning and power of these words, letting them 'sink in' and be absorbed into our minds and hearts. In addition to the short periods of silence observed by the Reader after the first and second readings, we will again have a period of silent reflection following the Homily. **The first collection** will be taken up after this period of reflection.

## ***Be informed, inspired and entertained***

**Book of the week:** The Library has two books from the Children in our World series which presents current world issues in a way which is accessible to children. They are Refugees and Migrants by Ceri Roberts and Protecting the Planet by Louise Spilsbury, both illustrated by Hanane Kai. The books have lively illustrations and text suitable for children in middle to upper primary levels.

If the Library is not open please ask a priest or sacristan to open the room and you can record your loans on the form provided.

Access to the catalogue is available at: [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 16th March at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, North Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass and supper. All welcome.

For further details, please contact Emilia 0418 120 902 or Rose 0411 650 339.

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### NIGHTFEVER— JOIN WITH THE YOUTH OF MELBOURNE TO PRAY

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has called for a weekend of prayer throughout the whole Archdiocese on Friday 24th to Sunday 26th February 2023. *Fiat – A Weekend of Prayer* coincides with the Feast of the Annunciation. As we continue to walk the journey of *Take the Way of the Gospel*, Archbishop Comensoli has asked us to begin the year in prayer together as one local Church community meditating on Mary's total 'yes' – as individuals, as parish communities and as a local Church of Melbourne.



We are excited to announce that the *Fiat* weekend of prayer will begin at the heart of our city in Sacred Heart Church, Carlton. Join young people as they gather from across the Archdiocese for a night of prayer, praise, and intercession. The light of *Fiat* will then travel outwards into our parishes and communities throughout the weekend.

**Friday, March 24th, 2023, 6pm – Midnight**  
**Sacred Heart Church, Rathdowne St & Pelham St, Carlton**

### MAGI PILGRIMAGES!

Trace the journey of Jesus from the land of his birth to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice in this 14-day Holy Land pilgrimage to Jordan & Israel led by Fr Salas Muttathukattil MSFS. This pilgrimage features places from the Old & New Testament and includes Petra, Mt Nebo, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Mt Sinai and Jerusalem for an all-inclusive offer of \$6,940 AUD.



The fare includes Airfare + Local Transfers in Deluxe Coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + English speaking professional guides. Departure from Sydney and Melbourne on 21st May 2023. For inquiries & bookings call 1300 721 561 or email us [info@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:info@magiholidays.com.au)

### Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

#### **Catholic Development Fund**

**Finance, Risk and Administration Officer**

#### **Parish Positions**

**Parish Secretary – St Dominic's Parish, Melton**

**Parish Administrative Coordinator - St Patrick's and St Kevin's Parishes, Murrumbeena**

**Parish Secretary – Parishes of Frankston**

**Pastoral Worker – St Peter and Paul's Parish, Doncaster East**

#### **Other Positions**

**Stewardship Coordinator – Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community**

**Evangelisation Coordinator – Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community**

**Digital Marketing and Fundraising Contractor - Carmel Impact**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### LENT WEEK THREE

#### *Open our eyes to see the truth*

Today is the third weekend of Lent and we pause to reflect.

In the Gospel today Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well. To her he reveals that he is the Messiah. This is so strange because Jews and Samaritans do not get on; she is a woman alone, and a man should not speak to her; she is an outsider and sinner in her community. And yet Jesus chooses her to offer the water of life, the gift of truth of his divine being. Jesus demonstrates that he truly knows this woman, without condemnation, and this allows her to be open to his true self, to see the Messiah.

Through this story, we understand that Jesus came to save all people if we are open to his words and answer the call to faith. The truth is there if we just open our eyes and hearts to him, to experience his truth and love.

*'Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints' Ephesians 1:18*

### LENT / HOLY WEEK - 2023

#### COMBINED PARISHES COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

**St Thomas:** Wednesday **29th March** 7:00pm (with supper following)

#### INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

**St Mary's:** Saturday evenings 5:45pm - 6:15pm

Thursday 30th March 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**St Thomas:** Holy Saturday 8th April 9:30am - 10:00am

#### PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - 1st/2nd APRIL *(Please bring own foliage)*

*Ceremony will begin outside the Church (weather permitting)*

**Sacred Heart:** Sunday 9:00am

**St Mary's:** **Saturday** 6:30pm, **Sunday** 8:00am, 10:00am, 5:00pm

**St Thomas:** **Saturday** 6:00pm, **Sunday** 10:30am

#### HOLY THURSDAY - 6th APRIL *No morning Mass*

**St Mary's:** 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

**St Thomas:** 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Prayer before Altar of Repose after Mass concluding with Night Prayer at 9:30pm

#### GOOD FRIDAY - 7th APRIL *No morning Mass*

**Sacred Heart:** 3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (lay-led service)

**St Mary's:** 11:30am Stations of the Cross (Combined Parishes)

**St Mary's:** 3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**St Thomas:** 3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

#### HOLY SATURDAY - 8th APRIL

**St Mary's:** 10:00am Morning Prayer

#### EASTER VIGIL - 8th APRIL

**St Mary's:** 6:30pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

**Sacred Heart:** 7:30pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

#### EASTER SUNDAY - 9th APRIL

**Sacred Heart:** 9:00am

**St. Mary's:** 8:00am & 10:00am *No Mass 5:00pm*

**St. Thomas:** 10:30am





**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 11th & 12h March**

**Priscilla** lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship like the current drought.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**REFLECTION**

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 during last year's summer floods or when the sea levels rise 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 places such as Ethiopia and Somalia where a cruel drought, compounded by a shortage of grain from Ukraine, has led to dire consequences. 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.

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 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. People have more time for healthcare and education. People find energy to build their future. This week's scripture readings have a strong sense of a hope-filled future. May we too, in our time, be sources of hope for all future generations.

*Written by Michael McGirr*



*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 be-  
come a source of hope for those who thirst.*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



**BAPTISMS:** we pray for Harper, Sophia, Jasmine, Jack and Hannah who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in March.

**SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL INVITATION:** SHPS would like you to join us at our official School Refurbishment Opening & Blessing Ceremony to be held on Monday 3 April 2023 1.30pm – 3pm.

Honourable guests; past and present staff, students, families and parishioners; valued community members and visitors are invited to celebrate this landmark event in the Sacred Heart story as we showcase a retrospective of

the School's 60-year history and officially commemorate today's impressive refurbishment – a monumental platform to present to you, our future. An afternoon tea will be provided. Please RSVP to [principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au) by Thursday 30th March.

**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY GOUPS:** Save the Day - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Fr Steve will celebrate Mass at 9am on this day and we would like to invite all parishioners to morning tea in the church hall afterwards. If you know any former Family Group members we would love to see them.

**PLAQUE FOR FR TAO:** Parish Pastoral Council have chosen the following words:

*Fr Tao Xuan Pham, 17.6.1970 - 15.1.23*

*Ordained Priest: 10.9.2016, Assistant Priest: 2016 – 2023,*

*In God's care*

We are still accepting donations from our community towards a plaque in the Garden of Reflection at Diamond Creek. Please place envelopes in the PPC Suggestion Box.

**VOLUNTEER WORK:** Diamond Creek St Vincent Paul are in need of a treasurer. Home visitations are not mandatory and attending monthly meetings would be appreciated if available. Please contact Ray on 0413185722 or by email [ray.belli57@gmail.com](mailto:ray.belli57@gmail.com)

**LENTEN PRAYER AND REFLECTION SESSIONS** will be held at Sacred Heart on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm beginning on Tuesday 21st February 2023. This evening group will especially support our catechumen in his preparation for the sacraments at Easter. Please register with the office. [diamondcreek@cam.org.au](mailto:diamondcreek@cam.org.au)

**CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER:** Thank you for the wonderful response. Roster in church. Contact Marg Farrell or Wendy McEvoy if you would like to join the team.

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March lunch & scrabble 12pm in Parish Centre.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April Fish & Chips in the Parish Centre.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Suggestion box at back of church. Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

### ROSTERS:

**Cleaning:** 14<sup>th</sup> March M. Cusack, W. McEvoy

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March St Peter's 7.15pm**

**Reader:** SH School

**Commentator:** M. Frisby

**Eucharistic Ministers:** E. Gittins, Aminda

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** SH School

**Commentator:** F. Ledda

**Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Kennan, C. Ledda

*Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:*

*Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.*

*We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of March that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:*

*Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, Patrick Coyle, Owen Doyle*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



**BAPTISMS:** Please pray for Parker, Sullivan, Jude, Ari, Oliver and Fiadh who are being baptised later this month.

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 16th March at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, North Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass and supper. All welcome.

For further details, please contact Emilia 0418 120 902 or Rose 0411 650 339.

### Rosters for Weekend 18th & 19th March 2023

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** T. Holland

**Commentator:** J. Bohan

**Eucharistic Ministers:** T. Holland, M. McKenzie, J. Bohan

**Set Up:** J. De Carlo

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** M. Bates

**Commentator:** T. Williamson

**Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Tipping, C. O'Brien, B. Riordan

**Set Up:** C. O'Brien

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Next Meeting, Wednesday 15th March, 7.00pm. Email: [stthomasppc@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasppc@gmail.com)

*St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:*

*Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:*

*Miran Kasalo, John Iacobucci, Andelko Korculanin, Estelle Smooker, Tina Butera*

*We pray for those who have died including and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of March that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:*

John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens, Annette Hyland, Kellie Stuckey, Jean McMahon, Matthew Van Beek, Mary Tan, Owen Doyle

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of *Aid to the Church in Need* is asking for support to provide sisters in Romania with a new heating system. The Sisters of the Mother of God are the oldest congregation of sisters in the Romanian Greek Catholic Church. The history of their community has long been one marked by persecution, particularly when Romania was under communist rule.

Today the sisters continue to aid their local community with youth groups, spiritual support and counselling, as well as providing the poor with basic necessities. But they are facing a major problem. Their ancient heating system has finally broken down and needs to be replaced, but they cannot afford the cost. The sisters need your help!

**A CONTEMPLATIVE SPACE** (monthly via Zoom with two in-person sessions), 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month starting March-November from 10 am – 12pm (AEDT) with Leslie Hanger.

An invitation to take time out and nurture your soul in a contemplative space. These monthly gatherings offer opportunities for meditation, personal reflection and time for sharing. The sessions will be held online except for May and November when the group will meet in-person at Heart of Life. This is a great opportunity to develop connections with others and support each other's contemplative journey. Join us for individual sessions or book for the entire 9 sessions commencing with 10 Mar 2023. Cost: \$25 per session or \$200 for the series. Book and pay by 6/3/23 via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne).

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend "Live Your Best Life in Love"** Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples the tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details. 28th– 30th April 2023 in Melbourne (Book early to avoid disappointment) Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)





## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Here is one of the few Gospel stories where a woman plays a significant role. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for water and, when she teased him, he engaged her in an imaginative dialogue that took her way out of her usual depth. The mundane task of collecting water was transformed – it became a spiritual quest for 'living water'. Going to the well would never be the same again for this woman!

### 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 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?

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