



## Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

12 March 2023

### readings

#### Next Week

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13  
Ps 22  
Eph 5:8-14  
Jn 9:1-41

### in a nutshell

*The water of Life.* Jesus is the saviour of the world. In today's Gospel he offers the water of life to a Samaritan woman who, in turn, becomes the first missionary of Jesus. She hurries to tell the people of the town about him. We, who have received the life of God in baptism, are also called to be missionaries by inviting others to come and see Jesus.

### we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Dorothy Heering,  
For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

### of special note

Have you considered joining the parish stewardship program to help support the parish?

*More Information Inside!*

## Raise Your Voices

### Entrance Antiphon

When I prove my holiness among you,  
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;  
and I will pour clean water upon you  
and cleanse you from all your impurities,  
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

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

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.)

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.)

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.)

### Gospel acclamation

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!

### Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring welling up to eternal life.

## The Parish of St Mary's

### Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

### Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

### Parish Office Hours

Thursday  
9:00am-4:00pm

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday Mass

Saturday—6:30pm (EST)  
5:00pm (EDST)  
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

### Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—9:00am  
Thursday—9:00am  
Friday—9:00am  
*Rosary prayed before morning Mass*

### Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm  
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

### Exposition

Friday at 8:00am

## Weddings

*Please contact the office*

## Baptisms

*Please see Father after Mass*

## Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

[smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au](http://smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au)

## Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

### Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel  
Janine Meades  
Alan Somers  
Karen Somers  
Sue Van der Linden  
Karla Zmegac

### Car Parking –Weekend Masses

In the interests of safety please park in the official carparks rather than on the grassy areas around the picnic tables. Keep this area for people to gather and chat after mass.

### Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

*Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church. Please Leave the front for the truly disabled.*

### Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330 Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's Conference 0427 874 374 or Alan Somers 0419 134 300

**Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon**

**Thursday please:**

[moutevelyn@cam.org.au](mailto:moutevelyn@cam.org.au)

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

### Parish Meetings: Tuesday, May 2

Finance Committee	7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding	7:30pm
Parish Council	8:00pm

## Parish Notices

### Parish Meeting—Wednesday 29 March

All parishioners are invited to attend this meeting to outline/discuss concerns with the financial viability of St Mary's Parish.

February Financial Report

Total income: \$2798

Total Expenditure: \$4513

Shortfall: -\$1715

The insurance premium alone is \$1790 per month leaving \$1008 to cover all other expenses; utilities, council rates, wages etc.

### Easter Baskets Raffle

After the success of our Christmas raffle we will have an Easter Baskets Raffle. If you wish to donate items to be included in the Easter Baskets, there is a basket located in the foyer for all donated items. Thanks!

### Stations of the Cross During Lent

We are praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Please come and pray this traditional devotion following the path of our Lord to Calvary. Jesus said to St Faustina: *There is more merit to one hour of meditation on My sorrowful Passion than there is to a whole year of flagellation that draws blood; the contemplation of My painful wounds is of great profit to you, and it brings Me great joy.* Mount Evelyn: 7:30pm, Yarra Junction: 6:00pm.

### Project Compassion – Priscilla, Zimbabwe

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.

### Sacramental Program 2023 - First meeting Tuesday 28 March

If you have a child/ren, not attending the Parish School, and wish for them to do any of the sacraments classes have begun.

### Regular Gardening/Working Bee—March 17

Do you have a love of gardening, working outside? The parish needs your expertise and enthusiasm to maintain our grounds. You are invited to put some time aside between 4-6pm on the first and/or third Fridays of the month at one of our regular working bees. BYO PPE, gloves, tools/equipment.

### Building Community—Morning Tea after 10.30am Sunday Mass

Stay and chat over a cuppa! Consider joining the roster to assist in serving. If you are unable to serve but would like to contribute, donations of packaged biscuits would be appreciated. Contact Rachael 0437123802

Morning tea after 9:00am Mass first Tuesday of the month. (April's tea cancelled due to it being Holy Week.)

## Stewardship Corner

*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. "John 4:13*  
Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only comes when we follow Jesus - when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."

## Adoration of the Eucharist

If our Creator and Saviour comes from heaven with such great love, it is only fitting that we should go to meet Him. And this is what we do when we spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. (St. Bernadine of Siena)

Confession: When you consider that Christ came among us principally to reconcile mankind to God, the neglect of the Sacrament of Penance is amazing! (Fr. Antony Jones)

Adoration: Friday morning 8:00am. Yarra Junction Thursday 6:00pm (first Thursday Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

## Something to Make You Smile

Believe it or not but the following actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at a church service!

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National Prayer and Fasting conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

### Holy Week Schedule — (Both Parishes)

#### Holy Thursday:

NO 9am Mass.  
Mass of the Lord's Supper,  
Yarra Junction 6pm  
Mt Evelyn 8pm

#### Good Friday:

**Stations of the Cross:**  
Warburton 10:30  
Mt Evelyn 9am

#### Passion of the Lord:

Pallotti College 3pm  
Mt Evelyn 3pm

#### Easter Vigil:

Yarra Junction 6pm  
Mt Evelyn 8:30pm

*Saturday Confessions* Mt Evelyn 11:30am-12:30pm

#### Easter Sunday:

Warburton 8:30am  
Mt Evelyn 10:30am, & 5pm

## Readings Reflection

### [Striking the Rock](#)

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert.

Though they saw His mighty deeds, in their thirst they grumble and put God to the test in today's First Reading—a crisis point recalled also in today's Psalm.

Jesus is thirsty, too in today's Gospel. He thirsts for souls (see John 19:28). He longs to give the Samaritan woman the living waters that well up to eternal life.

These waters couldn't be drawn from the well of Jacob, father of the Israelites and the Samaritans. But Jesus was something greater than Jacob (see Luke 11:31–32).

The Samaritans were Israelites who escaped exile when Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom eight centuries before Christ (see 2 Kings 17:6, 24–41). They were despised for intermarrying with non-Israelites and worshipping at Mount Gerazim, not Jerusalem.

But Jesus tells the woman that the "hour" of true worship is coming, when all will worship God in Spirit and truth.

Jesus' "hour" is the "appointed time" that Paul speaks of in today's Epistle. It is the hour when the Rock of our salvation was struck on the Cross. Struck by the soldier's lance, living waters flowed out from our Rock (see John 19:34–37).

These waters are the Holy Spirit (see John 7:38–39), the gift of God (see Hebrews 6:4).

By the living waters the ancient enmities of Samaritans and Jews have been washed away, the dividing wall between Israel and the nations is broken down (see Ephesians 2:12–14,18). Since His hour, all may drink of the Spirit in Baptism (see 1 Corinthians 12:13).

In the Eucharist, the Lord now is in our midst—as He was at the Rock of Horeb and at the well of Jacob.

In the "today" of our Liturgy, He calls us to believe: "I am He," come to pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How can we continue to worship as if we don't understand? How can our hearts remain hardened?

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)  
[stpaulcenter.com](http://stpaulcenter.com)

## God Thirsts for Us

In today's biblical texts for the Third Sunday of Lent, useful ideas for meditation can be found that are particularly appropriate for this important occasion. Through the symbol of water, which we find in the First Reading and in the Gospel passage on the Samaritan woman, the Word of God transmits to us an ever lively and timely message: God thirsts for our faith and wants us to find the source of our authentic happiness in him. Every believer is in danger of practising a false religiosity, of not seeking in God the answer to the most intimate expectations of the heart but on the contrary, treating God as though he were at the service of our desires and projects.

In the First Reading we see the Jewish People suffer in the desert from lack of water and, in the grip of discouragement, complain and react violently, as on other occasions. They even reached the point of rebelling against Moses and almost of rebelling against God. The sacred author says: "They put the Lord to the proof by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" " (Ex 17:7). The people demanded from God that he meet their expectations and needs, rather than abandoning themselves trustfully into his hands, and in their trial lost their trust in him. How often does this also happen in our lives? In how many circumstances, rather than conforming docilely to the divine will, do we want God to implement our own plans and grant our every desire? On how many occasions does our faith prove frail, our trust weak, our religious sense contaminated by magical and merely earthly elements? In this Lenten Season, as the Church invites us to make a journey of true conversion, let us accept with humble docility the recommendation of the Responsorial Psalm: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works" " (Ps 95:7-9).

The symbolism of water returns with great eloquence in the famous Gospel passage that recounts Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman in Sychar, by Jacob's well. We immediately perceive a link between the well, built by the great patriarch of Israel to guarantee his family water, and salvation history where God gives humanity water welling up to eternal life. If there is a physical thirst for water that is indispensable for life on this earth, there is also a spiritual thirst in man that God alone can satisfy. This is clearly visible in the dialogue between Jesus and the woman who came to Jacob's well to draw water. Everything begins with Jesus' request: "Give me a drink" (cf. Jn 4:5-7). At first sight it seems a simple request for a little water in the hot midday sun. In fact, with this question, addressed moreover to a Samaritan woman—there was bad blood between the Jews and the Samaritans—Jesus triggers in the woman to whom he is talking an inner process that kindles within her the desire for something more profound. St Augustine comments: "Although Jesus asked for a drink, his real thirst was for this woman's faith (In Io ev. Tract. XV, 11: PL 35, 1514). In fact, at a certain point, it was the woman herself who asked Jesus for the water (cf. Jn 4:15), thereby demonstrating that in every person there is an inherent need for God and for salvation that only God can satisfy. It is a thirst for the infinite which only the water that Jesus offers, the living water of the Spirit, can quench. In a little while, in the Preface we shall hear these words: Jesus "asked the woman of Samaria for water to drink, and had already prepared for her the gift of faith. In his thirst to receive her faith, he awakened in her heart the fire of your love".

Dear brothers and sisters, in this dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman we see outlined the spiritual itinerary that each one of us, that every Christian community, is ceaselessly called to rediscover and follow. Proclaimed in this Lenten Season, this Gospel passage acquires a particularly important value for catechumens who are already approaching Baptism. This Third Sunday of Lent is in fact linked to the so-called "first scrutiny", which is a sacramental rite of purification and grace. The Samaritan woman thus becomes the figure of the catechumen enlightened and converted to the faith, who longs for the living water and is purified by the Lord's action and words. Yet we who have already been baptized but are also still on the way to becoming true Christians, find in this Gospel episode an incentive to rediscover the importance and meaning of our Christian life, the true desire of God who lives in us. As he did with the Samaritan woman, Jesus wishes to bring us to powerfully profess our faith in him so that we may then proclaim and witness to our brethren the joy of the encounter with him and the marvels that his love works in our existence. Faith is born from the encounter with Jesus, recognized and accepted as the definitive Revealer and Saviour in whom God's Face is revealed. Once that the Lord has won the Samaritan woman's heart, her life is transformed and she runs without delay to take the Good News to her people (cf. Jn 4:29).

*From a homily by Pope Benedict XVI, 24 February 2008*