



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

SUNDAY 12 MARCH 2023

REFLECTION By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Those privileged to act as catechists in the RCIA program over the Lenten period will be introducing candidates to some of our most treasured gospel stories. In 1963, Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy called for the restoration of certain early Church practices. The two main features of Lent, baptism and penance, were to be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. More use was to be made of the baptismal elements proper to the Lenten liturgy. Some features that were part of an earlier tradition were to be restored. In response to this call, John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus were moved from the weekday to the Sunday liturgy. Thus, three weeks into Lent, the liturgy invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group.

A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. She responds, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" This response provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as the Messiah/the Christos and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people.

Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she is said to have had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner: there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The "husbands" may refer to the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus on this among scholars.

At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She takes the risk of sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and with Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world. She becomes both disciple and missionary prophet.

RCIA: RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS Third Sunday of LENT—First Scrutiny

This year we have 6 candidates for RCIA here in the Cathedral Parish and on Sunday we have the first three Scrutinies. These three Scrutinies are 'rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose' (RCIA 128)

The Scrutiny is celebrated after the homily in which the celebrant is encouraged to explain the meaning of the first scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and in particular to encourage the elect that through the exorcism 'their spirit is filled with Christ the Redeemer, who is the living water' as found in the gospel of the Samaritan women proclaimed on this Sunday (RCIA 130)



During this Third Week of Lent the elect are presented with the Creed. The presentation takes place within a Mass celebrated in the presence of a community of faithful' (RCIA 144)

This will take place at the 6.30pm Mass



**Third Sunday of Lent
11 & 12 March**



Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

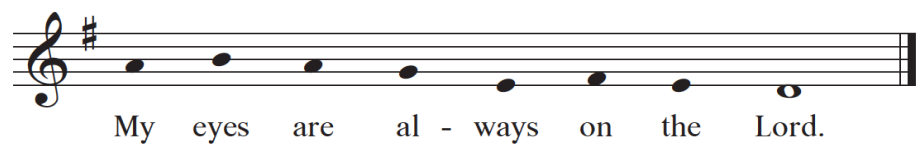
You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY MONDAY 13 MARCH
MASS WILL BE HELD AT 11AM
CATHEDRAL WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
10AM-2PM**

TODAY’S LITURGY—YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.



Entrance Hymn CWBII 512

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely
give the living water, thirsty one; stoop down
and drink and live.” I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched,
my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world's light.
look unto me; your morn shall rise and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

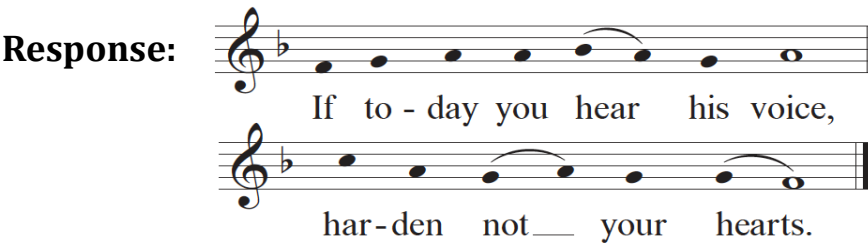
Tune: KINGSFOLD 86.86D. Collected Lucy Broadwood (1858-1929) adapt. & arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958 from The English Hymnal. Text: Horatius Bonar 1808-1889 alt.

1st 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



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.)

2nd 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

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 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.’

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

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

Communion Hymn CWBII 298

Refrain: Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace
and mercy; come, seek the tender faithfulness of God.

Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;
come and learn now the way of our God. Refrain

I will take your heart of stone and place a heart
within you, a heart of compassion and love. Refrain

If you break the chains of oppression, if you set
the pris'ner free; if you share your bread with the hungry,
give protection to the lost; give shelter to the homeless,
clothe the naked in your midst,
then your light shall break forth like the dawn. Refrain

Text: Antiphon, Joel 2:17; Psalm 51(50): 3,6,12, trans. The Psams: A New Translation © 1963 The Grail (England).
Melody: PARCE DOMINE irregular, mode I with Psalm Tone 1a

Hymn after Communion/
Recessional Hymn CWBII 290 v1,2,3

Refrain: Jesus, Lord, we ask for mercy;
let us not implore in vain;
all our sins we now detest them,
may we never sin again

God of mercy and compassion, show your
tenderness anew; Father, let me call you Father,
‘tis your child returns to you. Refrain

By my sins I have offended God Almighty
in heaven above, where the saints rejoice for
Ever in the Father’s boundless love. Refrain

See our Saviour, bleeding, dying, on the cross
of Calvary, through his wounds we can
find healing, through his love we can be free. Refrain

Text: Edmund Vaughan CSsR., 1827-1908, Paul Bird CSsR, b.1949
Tune: AU SANG QU'UN DIEU 87.87D; Trad. French melody adapt. G.B. Pergolesi, 1710-1736

Mass Setting - 11.00am Orbis Factor
- 6.30pm Missa brevis-Palestrina
Offertory - 6.30pm Astiterunt reges-Lassus
Communion Motet - 11.00am Thee we adore-
Frederick Candlyn
- 6.30pm Qui biberit
Organ Postlude - 6.30pm Chromhorne en taille (Messe
pour les Paroisses) - Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Friday 17 March - St Patrick’s Day (Solemnity)
Saturday 18 March - St Cyril of Jerusalem

CATHEDRAL MASS TIMES

Monday 13 March—Public holiday Mass 11am

Monday to Friday: 7.00am and 1.00pm (1.00pm live
streamed - Link: www.youtube.com/user/archmelb)
Saturday 8.00am and 6.00pm. (Vigil)

Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am , 11.00am and 6.30pm. (11.00am
televised on C31. and live streamed on CAM)
Link: www.youtube.com/user/archmelb

Reconciliation will be held Tuesday to Friday at 12pm and
on Saturday mornings at 8.30am (After the 8.00am Mass)

EXTRAORDINARY FORM LATIN MASS

In the Sacred Heart Chapel at St Patrick’s Cathedral
every Wednesday at 5.30pm

HOLY HOUR HELD IN THE CATHEDRAL
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6.30PM

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each Friday at the conclusion of the
1.00pm Mass, in the Sacred Heart Chapel
Exposition until 2.15pm.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We pray for the sick, especially Maria Cummins and for
all who have asked for our prayers.

We pray for all those who have died recently, and those
whose anniversaries we remember at this time,
especially Margaret Healy.



World Youth Day WYD 2023

WYD Lisbon (28/07 – 09/08). Join thousands of young pilgrims from across the globe for an amazing week of prayer, worship and celebration with Pope Francis for the 16th WYD in Lisbon, Portugal.

This include a 3 day pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

To register: udisciple.melbournecatholic.org/wyd.

Emerging Leaders program (23/07 – 09/08). An intensive 17-day formation program for (emerging) leaders in education and parishes that include discipleship, Christian leadership, prayer and evangelisation. Taking place in Rome and Assisi followed by WYD in Lisbon.

To register: udisciple.melbournecatholic.org/wyd/emerging-leaders-program.

For further information please refer to the posters on the noticeboards.



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

**A message from Aid
to the Church in
Need**

Australia: ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

HELP SYRIA. *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN) has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes.

ACN is begging for funds to support their long-time local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing and to make an offering please visit www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake or scan the QR code.



Palms Australia

Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

WEB: www.palms.org.au



Wedding Congratulations

Daniella Matina & Alex Palazzolo



Archbishop

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Dean of

St Patrick's Cathedral

Very Rev Werner Utri

Master of Ceremonies

Rev. Michael Buck

Assistant Priest of Cathedral

Rev. Alexander Chow

Priest in Residence

Rev. Philip Mathew

Chaplain: St Vincent's Hospital

Director Music

Dr. Philip Matthias

Director

Cathedral Organist

Dion Henman

Cathedral Singers

Christopher Mason

Director

Thomas Grubb

Organist

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

in partnership with

St Kevin's College, Toorak

Cathedral Parish Secretary

Julie Allan

Cathedral Office

T: 9662 2233

E: Cathedral@cam.org.au

www.stpatrickscathedral.org.au

Cathedral Administration

Assistant

Huong Nguyen

SAFEGUARDING.

Child Protection Officer:

Rev Alexander Chow

Please refer to the two new posters 'Rights and Responsibilities' and 'Feel safe and be Safe at Our Church' at the entrances of the Cathedral

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding>.

St Patrick's Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SPCYAM) (age 18 to 40 yrs old)

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Cathedral Room, CKC Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne

Last Saturday of each month; 6pm mass, followed by meal.

In the meantime, please forward any query to Fr. Alex Chow (Alexander.Chow@cam.org.au) or info.spcyam@gmail.com.

