

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830  
Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*  
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – 12th March 2023  
Third Sunday in Lent - Year A

**RECENT DEATHS:**

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Sylvia Mailes, Ken McCarthy, Phyllis Stevens  
Adam Milenkovic, Harold George, Joe Lamb,  
Susanne Briody, Pat Gustus, John D’Arcy,  
Patricia McMahan, Norm Daniels, Jobez Sterry,  
Veronica McNamara, Jack Carland

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Graeme Dawson,  
Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney,  
Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy and all those in need  
of prayer.

**ROSTER:**

**Introduction & Reading**

Today: Angela Gerrard  
19th March: Sue Mahony

**Prayers of the Faithful**

Today: Bernadette Franc  
19th March: John Jess

**Special Minister**

19th March: Gail Hall

**Music**

Today: Sue Mahony  
19th March: Sue Mahony

**Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers**

March 5th & 12th: Therese Jess & Bernadette Franc  
March 19th & 26th: Chandler Family

**Church Grounds**

March 5th & 12th: John Jess & Bill Franc  
March 19th & 26th: Chandler Family

**Newsletter**

March: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

**MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK**

March 19th LLA 10.00am

**The Mass of the Oils - Monday, April 3rd, 2023**  
6.30pm, St Patrick’s Cathedral Supper in hall to follow

**Project Compassion Prayers of the Faithful**

3rd Week of Lent March 11/12: 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. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

54 **Pope Francis’ Prayer for Peace in Ukraine**

55 Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow  
56 in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and  
57 divisions will be overcome.  
58 We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think  
59 too that (Ukraine) millions of people were killed 1932-33  
60 They are a people who have suffered; they have  
61 suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and  
62 they deserve peace.  
63 May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to  
64 heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders,  
65 so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be  
66 placed ahead of partisan interests.  
67 Please, no more war.

69 **A special prayer initiative for the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis’ pontificate**

71 *Let us all pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis!*  
72 *O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,*  
73 *look favourably on your servant Francis,*  
74 *whom you have set at the head of your Church as her*  
75 *shepherd; Grant, we pray, that by word and example*  
76 *he may be of service to those over whom he presides*  
77 *so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,*  
78 *he may come to everlasting life.*  
79 *Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,*  
80 *who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the*  
81 *Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

83 **Examination Of Conscience in Lent:**

84 Do I look for opportunities to share the Good News of  
85 Christ in my daily life, especially with family and friends?  
86 Do I look for good in others, or am I quick to find fault?  
87 Do I rejoice in the success of others?  
88 Do I love all people freely? Do I work to overcome my  
89 own prejudices, and encourage others to do the same?  
90 Do I respect the reputations and property of others?  
91 Do I treat others fairly, how I would like to be treated?  
92 Am I honest and just in business dealings?  
93 Do I keep my word?  
94 Do I actively promote the rights of those rejected by  
95 society, especially the poor and the lonely?  
96 Do I use my time, talent, and treasure for the good of  
97 others, especially those in need?  
98 Do I truly forgive others, and work to reconcile  
99 relationships that have been wounded?  
100 Am I willing to give up hate, and pray for my enemies,  
101 especially those who make my life more difficult?  
102 Do I use my free time constructively? Do I use it to  
103 strengthen relationships with God and others?  
104 Do I use it to build God’s kingdom on earth?



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’ 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*

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## LIVING WATER

Despite the floods of recent years, Australians  
more than many people appreciate just how  
precious a resource water is. There would  
be very few of us who would not be able to  
remember living through some period of  
drought or scarcity of water. Our experience  
places us in a good position to appreciate the  
problem faced by the people of Israel. Having  
been rescued from the oppression of the  
Egyptians the people of Israel felt betrayed  
– had they been saved from Egypt only to  
perish in the desert by thirst? Despite their  
lack of faith God reached out through Moses  
and provided them with water in the desert.

When the Samaritan woman came to the  
well searching for water she could barely have  
imagined where her encounter with Jesus  
would lead. She came seeking water but left  
having come to terms with her past, and having  
led others to Jesus, the source of living water.  
As is so often the case, personal experience is  
the best teacher and having heard Jesus for  
themselves her fellow Samaritans come to  
see Jesus as their saviour and source of living  
water.

When Paul reflected on salvation history he  
came to see that despite the hardness of the  
human heart God has always been as he was  
with the people in the desert. The life-giving  
love of God has been poured into our hearts to  
quench our thirst and bring us to life. This love  
has always been freely given and undeserved.  
The most powerful proof of this is that Jesus  
died for us while we were yet sinners.

## FIRST READING

Ex 17:3-7

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

*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?’

## ■ 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

**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 4:4-5, 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