



### Parish of Timboon

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Parish Safeguarding Officer: Ruth Hoffmann

Over the next couple of weeks, we move from the Gospel of Matthew to the Fourth Gospel. Often described as the "spiritual gospel," this gospel presents Jesus' teachings in the form of long theologically-charged speeches or his many-levelled interactions with various characters representing key groups within first-century Roman Palestine. Today's gospel is no exception. The dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria in this passage is among the most historically interesting and the most theologically profound in the New Testament. To astute readers of the gospels, this story comes as a surprise.

One would not expect the Jewish Jesus to be found in conversation with an unaccompanied woman in public; and, more significantly, a woman from neighboring Samaria; a territory and people with whom the Jewish community had a hostile relationship. Samaritans shared with their Jewish neighbours a common ancestry and a common faith in God (YHWH). But they were considered ethnically and religiously tarnished because they had intermarried with foreigners and adopted aspects of pagan worship into their religious practice.

The story reflects something of this history. It indicates the Samaritan woman had 'many husbands' prior to her present partner. Typical of the Fourth Gospel, there are various levels of meaning here. On the one hand, the reference can be understood as an obvious allusion to the dubious ethnicity of the Samaritans. On the other hand, it may be meant literally, indicating that the woman's irregular relationships had made her an outcast in her own community too.

Jesus breaks several social taboos in first speaking to the woman, and then sharing her drinking vessel. In the eyes of his fellow Jews, Jesus acted shamefully in speaking with the woman alone. And in drinking from the same cup he rendered himself ritually "unclean" – unfit to enter the precincts of the Temple and offer prayer to God. After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple, even though she is neither a Jew nor a "respectable" member of her community. She returns to her town and proclaims the gospel and succeeds in leading others to Jesus. There are at least two lessons to be learned from this passage. First, there is nothing that we have done in our past or in our present situation that prevents us from finding God in our lives. Second, genuine Christian communities must be open and welcoming. Christianity is meant to be counter-cultural.

It cuts across all conventional boundaries that separate people, communities and nations from each other. But such boundaries do not separate us from God, who loves us and is open to giving us a second chance. There is nothing in our past that should prevent us from proclaiming the gospel, especially to those closest to us: our family, friends and neighbours." Ian J Miller © Majellan Media 2023

**Our Sick:** Pat Thornton



**Anniversaries In March:** : Charles Boyle, Jeff Lathouwers, Michael Dodd, Matthew Delaney, Robert Maslin, Mary O'Keefe, Coleman O'Keefe, Brian Smith, Perc Roberts, Carmel O'Connor, Paul Couch, Geoff Gale, Martin Van Duynhoven, Park Conheady, Barry Risdale, Kathleen Noonan, Herman Dickmann, Albert Van Es, Rose McMeel, Maria Townsend, Frank Vogels, Riley Hutchinson, Mary Pouw, Jessie Gibblett, Carmel Bruce **Recent Deaths:** Greg McKenzie.



**"Our Parish Community wishes to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and worship Our God."**

### Advance Notice

**Mass of the Oils 2023:** Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall. The Mass of the Oils will take place on Monday, April 3, 2023. Can you please advise if your catechumens and candidates would be available and/or willing to participate in this Mass.

### Sacramental Program 2023

Today Ester Couch will enroll to commence preparation for the Sacraments after Baptism. Over the next few weeks she will complete a series of lessons at home with her family. Please remember them in your prayers.



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 12th March 2023

Third Sunday in Lent Year A



## 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. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## 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. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## 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** Jn 4:5-15. 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  
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 Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

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**World Youth Day** will be held from 1-6 August, 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Anyone interested in attending can register with the Archdiocese of Melbourne to join with them in pilgrimages they have on offer. More information at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/-adult-ministry/world-youth-day/>

### **Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Patchewollock Final Mass**

An invitation to people of the diocese to attend the Final Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Patchewollock on Saturday, March 18, 2023. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and Fr Anthony Nagothu, Parish Priest, will celebrate Mass at 3.00pm. Following Mass there will be a gathering at the Patchewollock Community Centre. Please bring food to share and drinks of your choice. Flyer is on the Ouyen Parish webpage <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ouyen/>

**We pray for all who are suffering and bereaved. At this time of sorrow, incomprehension, and tragedy, we stand together. In this crisis, we pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them. Amen.**

## Lenten Program Books

Contact Katrina Currell if you wish to order a booklet From ashes to Hope. \$5 each.

**Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions:** The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series of six sessions begins on Wednesday, February 22 (1-3pm or 7-9pm) at Mercy Centre, 16 Gent St. Ballarat East. Then (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). For more info please send your mobile number and email to Sr. Veronica on [veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au](mailto:veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au)

**General Finance Committee Meeting** will be held on the 8th of March at 6:30 p.m. in the presbytery.

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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.



## Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

**Pope's intention for March** :- In his prayer intention for March 2023, Pope Francis prays for victims of abuse, and says the Church must serve as a model of safeguarding and must offer safe spaces for victims.

**The Bishops Commission for Evangelization, Laity and Ministry** is inviting Catholics to register for an online national sports consultation to be held on February 28. The consultation will include a keynote address from Santiago Pérez de Camino, head of the Church and Sport Office in the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

**Lenten Prayer Group** Friday 10:30 a.m. During Lent  
**Stations of the Cross** Friday 12:00 noon During Lent.

| Timboon 2023 | 12th March 9:00a.m<br>Assembly W&C | 19th March 9:00 a.m.<br>Mass | 26th March 9:00a.m<br>Assembly W&C |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Welcome      | K Currell                          | G Vogels                     | L Tregua                           |
| Leaders      | E & T O'Connor                     |                              | P Nicholson C Bullen               |
| Statue       | P Haugh                            | P Haugh                      | G Delaney                          |
| Reader       | J McInerney                        | S Jayakody                   | E O' Connor                        |
| POF          | L McInerney                        | A Vogels                     | T O' Connor                        |
| E.M.H.C.     | P Martin                           |                              | J McInerney                        |
| Bulletin     | Denny Family                       | Denny Family                 | Denny Family                       |
| Slides       | A McMeel                           | A McMeel                     | A McMeel                           |
| Cleaners     |                                    |                              |                                    |
| Simpson      | Assembly W&C 9:00am                | Closed                       | Assembly W&C 9:00am                |