



FOR WHAT DO WE THIRST?

The first two Sundays of Lent are from Matthew's Gospel, the Gospel of this liturgical year. They recall Jesus' temptation (*Mt 4: 1-11*) and his experience of being transfigured (*Mt 17: 1-9*). For the remaining Sundays of Lent, we listen to John's Gospel. These Sundays will explore the central religious and theological questions especially relevant for contemporary disciples in their Lenten journey: For what do we truly thirst (today's Gospel)? How might our eyes be opened to Jesus (next Sunday)? What is the life for which we deeply desire (the final Sunday of Lent)?

In today's Gospel a Samaritan woman comes to a well at noon—the brightest moment of the day—and encounters the source of Light, Jesus. She comes to draw water and only later realises that she has met the one who can quench her deepest spiritual thirst. The whole scene is replete with theological symbolism, a characteristic of John, as Jesus invites the woman to explore the depths of her thirst that only he can address. We learn that she has had several 'husbands'. This is not an admission of the woman's adventurous liaisons, as many commentators have interpreted, but an acknowledgement of her attraction to the 'husbands' (the 'Baals') of religions that are 'not her own'. She is looking for the true one from God, not these other counterfeits.

Jesus reveals himself to her: He is the 'I AM', the Old Testament name for God. Through him the woman comes to encounter the Sacred and sets her on a journey back to her townspeople. Like the woman, we, too, thirst, for God and for a deeper religious life as we journey through Lent.



Fr Michael Trainor

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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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 will never be thirsty again:

08 March 2026
3rd Sunday of Lent
Year A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest Fr Vic Ignacio M.S.
Office Admin Sheryl Brown, Di Bolitho
Sacristan Elaine Smyth
School Principals Greg O'Toole & Maree Holland

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon & Fri: 9.30 am - 1.30pm
Presbytery 67658211
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND Sat: 5.30 pm **Sun:** 9 am & 5 pm
MASSES

WEEKDAY Mon: 9am **Tues:** 9am **Wed:** 12 noon
MASSES Thurs: 9am **Fri:** 12 noon

CONFESSIONS
* **Sat: 4.30-5.00pm**
* **Before weekly Mass**
* **By appointment**

ENTRANCE ANTIPTHON: 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.

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

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Thomas Greentree, Dean York, Daphne Sweeney.

ANNIVERSARIES: Lawrence Vella (23/1), Emanuel Checuti (29/1), Dalis O' Brien (12/2), Julia Blanch (12/2), Bill Blanch (12/2), Maria Mood (16/2).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care: Laurie Brodbeck, Ron McGrane, Paul Karam, Trish Thornberry, William Grima, Paul Zammit, Michael Markham.

SICK: Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Brian Rodway, Lisa Bond, Yvonne Tarrant, Bill Dennis, Barry McNamara, Jeanette Whale, Carmel Koppman, Eileen Hudson, Rose Pace, Barbara Brennan, Elizabeth Coroneos, Michael Jones, Elizabeth William.



*"...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
...John 4:14 (NIV)*

COMING EVENTS:

11 Mar: Mass for the Sick - 12noon

13 Mar: Stations of the Cross 10.30am followed by Adoration 11am

17 Mar: St Patrick's Day Lunch - Calala Inn, 12 noon.

24 Mar: Reconciliation Rite II for Easter - 5.30pm

29 Mar: Palm Sunday

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

Account Name: West Tamworth Catholic - 'Church' Or 'Presbytery'

1st. Collection: Goes to Armidale Diocese Clergy : 001023642 (Presbytery Acc.) Armidale

2nd Collection: Goes to St. Patrick's Church : 001041198 (Church Acc.) Tamworth

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

LITURGY ROSTER FOR HOLY WEEK: To all our wonderful Liturgy volunteers, preparations have begun for our Holy Week celebrations. Please notify the Office if you will be away.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Project Compassion boxes are at the back of the Church. This year's theme is "Unite Against Poverty". Monoranjon is a farmer from Bangladesh. Climate change has threatened his, and his family's, whole way of life. Caritas Bangladesh has helped him to modify his farming practices to ensure he can feed and sustain his family. He can now send his children to school and protect their future from poverty.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION: Come celebrate St Patrick's Day on Tuesday 17th March with lunch at the Calala Inn, commencing at 12noon. All are welcome. Please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you are attending and may the Luck of the Irish be with you!!

PARISH MORNING TEA & FELLOWSHIP: Morning tea, after 9am Mass, this Sunday. Just a cup of tea and a chat with fellow parishioners. Please bring a small plate to share, if you wish.

CLEANING VOLUNTEERS: Please contact the office if you would like to help with the cleaning of the church. Once a week (and a partner to work with you) will help share the load.

SECOND RITE RECONCILIATION: This important sacrament will be held at St Patrick's on Tuesday 24th March at 5.30pm. There will be several priests in attendance.

URGENT ATTENTION - SAFETY ISSUE: A serious safety issue has been identified regarding the public accessing the front of the Presbytery and cars reversing out of the presbytery driveway. This relates **especially to the risk to small children**. It is of grave concern and we ask all are observant of this issue to avoid any unforeseen accidents or injury.

MEMORARE

Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for me on Calvary. Remember, also, the care you have always taken to keep me faithful to Christ your son. After having done so much for your child, you will not now abandon me. Inspired by this consoling thought, I come to cast myself at your feet in spite of my infidelities and ingratitude. Do not reject my prayer, O merciful Virgin, but intercede for my conversion, obtain for me the grace to love Jesus above all things, and to console you by a holy life, that I may one day see you in Heaven. Amen

Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of sinners,



ROSTER FOR: 08/03/26

Vigil: R: D. Gowing, N Pullman
9am Sun: R: S Brown, G. Clout
5pm Sun: R: T. Mitchell
Counting: M. Vella, A. Bowden
Fri Cleaning J. Hutt, J. Moran

Gifts: Volunteers
Gifts: G & U McKay
Gifts: Volunteer
Altar Linen: J. Hutt

ROSTER FOR: 15/03/26

Vigil: R: C Ledwos D Bolitho
9am Sun: R: M Holley, R Paull
5.00pm Sun: R: S. Brown,
Counting Team : A. Bowden, S. Brown
Fri Cleaning M. Vella, I. Ullman

Gifts: K. O'Brien & M. Asbury
Gifts: Michelle and Sally
Gifts: Volunteer
Altar Linen: M. Vella