

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

17:3-7

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

**R/: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:1-2,5-8

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. And 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 READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 4:5-16, 19-26, 39-42

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:

(...continued overleaf)



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

Third Sunday of Lent - Year A

14th / 15th March, 2020



Focus of the Readings...

This gospel is best read in conjunction with the first reading from Exodus, in which the people of Israel, liberated from slavery in Egypt, are left thirsting in the wilderness to the Promised Land. In the gospel, the thirst of the Samaritan woman is a much more profound thirst, and her openness to the living water offered by Jesus and her gradual journey to faith are at the heart of this text. She moves from a superficial understanding that Jesus may be offering her a permanent supply of water to a deeper appreciation of him as one who intimately understands the yearning of the human heart and offers her a way forward. Not only does the woman come to faith but she is also instrumental in leading others to belief, using the classic words of invitation to discipleship in John's Gospel: 'Come and see a man ... I wonder if he is the Christ?' – John 4:29

Third Sunday of Lent - Year A
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PARISH PRIEST:

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PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

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Christine Dunne 9583 6161

PSYCHOLOGIST:

AnneMaree Eddy 9583 6161

PARISH OFFICE:

9583 6161
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
Secretary: Lisa Harris
Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald
Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

PARISH SCHOOL:

Our Lady of the Assumption 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques

MASS TIMES:

Saturday 6:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 6.00 pm
Wednesday 9.15am
Thursday, Friday 9.15 am
Saturday 9.00 am

COMMUNION SERVICE:

Monday 9.15 am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.30am & 6pm

BAPTISMS:

Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism and Application Form available on our parish website.

WEDDINGS:

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office 9583 6161

PRAYING FOR: Pat Harrington, Thelma Connolly, Maureen Varney, Peter Morriss, Debbie Corbett, Doris Sheard, Robert O'Brien *and all those who have died recently.*



We also remember the anniversaries of:

Ana Maria Van De Wyngard, Gus Valent, Paul Ruzyla, Grazia Cincotta, Mary McGannon, Concetta Cincotta, A.S Fratta and Charles Dib.

FUNERAL MASS for the late Pat Harrington (R.I.P) will be held here at OLA Church on Friday 20th March at 11.00am.

PURIFIERS: 15th March: Leonie Ryan
22nd March: Fionnuala Tate

PASTORAL GUIDANCE FOR PARISHES RE:

COVID-19: Following the Archbishop's directive, we remind you that the Holy Water Stoups have been emptied. Re the Sign of Peace, please refrain from handshaking, (a smile, a wave or nod are more than acceptable). Holy Communion will only be administered in the hand.

OLA SCHOOL REUNION 1956 -1963: Join past students and friends at the Royal Oak Hotel on Sunday the 22nd March. 12.30pm start. Contact Sr Margaret Pelly on 9584 5585.

FETE NEWS: We now have bags of potting mix and pots for you to start planting your cuttings. We also have plenty of empty jars for those of you who would like to make some jam. We are still happy to take potting mix and garden pots/ornaments. Collection of potting mix etc can be made during the weekdays. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

KNITTING: Get on board the knitting train and join the group on Tuesday 17th March at 1.00pm. Knit a shamrock, as it's St Paddy's Day!!

ROSTERS: Please remember to pick up your rosters from the church foyer for either, Anointing Mass Refreshments, Purifiers or Arrangement of Flowers. Thank you once again for all you do.

MERCY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING

OBERAMMERGAU: Explore the iconic pilgrimage sites of Eastern Europe in this 16 day pilgrimage led by Fr Patrick Jackson departing 8th August 2020. This pilgrimage features Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, Munich, and Oberammergau. Witness the famous Passion Play 2020 which takes place once-a-decade, for an all-inclusive price of \$7900 plus tips. The fare includes return economy airfares, Local transfers in deluxe coaches. Stay in premium hotels, all breakfast and dinners included. For enquiries, T: 8839 6615 or email: info@magiholidays.com.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS

International Women's Day Thanks: Thanks to Mary Cameron (6.30pm Mass) and Sr Pat Fox (9am and 11am Masses) for their inspirational words.

We ran the morning teas after 9am and 11am Masses, with Christine Hargreaves providing music at the morning tea after the 11am Mass. The raffle raised \$900 for Sr. Pat Fox's chosen charity. The raffle was drawn at morning tea after the 11am Mass and the winners are listed below (The prizes are all in the parish office for collection). 1st Prize – Maree Holmes
2nd Prize – Penelope Sharpe
3rd Prize – Sue Milicevic
4th Prize – Leonie Ryan

Thanks again to all for a super effort, and for all the great helpers on the day.

Trade Stall Thanks: An email was sent to the Social Justice Group thanking the OLA community for buying products at the Fair Trade Stall last year. See below.

"Hope this email finds you in well condition. I am Jacky from Kor Timor here in Dili, Timor - Leste. I would like to pass my huge thanks for you to order our products in Melbourne for your Social Justice Group fund raising. The favour you made and your groups is really helpful and meaningful for us here in Timor and we are really appreciated it. On behalf of all the Kor Timor staff, I would like to say once again a billion thanks. Wish you and your groups a very best of luck for all your activities in 2020 and God Bless You All. Wish we can always help each other now and in the future. Best regards, Jacky"

Gospel Reading continued from overleaf...

'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 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.'



WINE IS GREAT AND ALL, BUT WHAT ABOUT SOME MOCHA FRAPPUCCINOS?