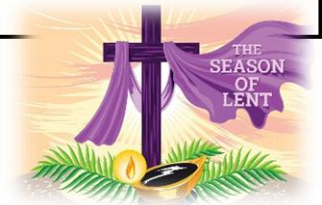




3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
YEAR A

12 March 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN



#### OPENING PRAYER

*Father,  
you have taught us to overcome our sins  
by prayer, fasting and works of mercy.  
When we are discouraged by our weakness,  
give us confidence in your love.  
Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the book of Exodus

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:

**Response: 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.'

## **SECOND READING:** A reading from the St Paul to the Romans

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:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 4:5-15. 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:

'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.'



### **Reflection on the Gospel of John 4:5-42 from GPBS 7/3/2023**

Why do we thirst and long for living water like the chosen people thirsted for water in the desert? It is because it has been taken from us, not by anyone else, but because of our own sinfulness. We have been blessed to have been drinking the same water that Jesus offered to the Samaritan woman in the gospel. But we have inexplicably, through our own sinfulness, chosen to go without it, cold turkey, and we realise now that we cannot live without it. So we need to admit our sinfulness and come back to the well of life, to be once again refreshed and renewed. It is a well that will never run dry.

### **The Commissioning**

Go from here ready to be challenged.

**Faithfully challenged to be helpful in practical ways,  
challenged to put aside our long-held views of race and culture,  
challenged to consider our stereotypes of male and female people,  
challenged by the insight of a wise stranger,  
challenged by the prophets who encounter us by surprise.  
ready to tell friend and stranger of the encounter,  
ready for the change that will joyfully follow.**

Go from here challenged in the spirit of Jesus.  
God will go with you.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray for Pope Francis as he completes 10 years in office, that he will be sustained in body, mind and spirit for his prophetic ministry. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the global church, that it will be a well-spring of life for all in search of beauty, truth and goodness. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who are driven to risk their own and their children's lives for the sake of a new homeland, that they will find safety, shelter and support. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the nation's economic policy-makers, that they will view housing as a human right, not an investment opportunity. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the First Nations people of Australia, that **National Close the Gap Day** (16 March) will drive real improvement in their health and wellbeing. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the remote communities of Zimbabwe, that our support for Project Compassion will help them benefit from new conservation farming methods. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who are suffering ill health, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Eadaoin Corcoran, Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased Ann Fisher, Phillip Lee, Frank Stuart and David Nicholson . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time: that they will be led in peace to the fount of eternal life. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Lord,  
may we receive your forgiveness and be brought together in unity and peace.  
Amen.*

---

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Mick Burke**

**Mobile: 0448 414 541**

**Pastoral Associate: Br Brian Berg**

**Braidwood Contact Numbers: Ph. 4842 2444;**

**Mobile: 0408 687 915**

**Parish email: [braidwood@cg.org.au](mailto:braidwood@cg.org.au)**

**Parish Website: <http://cg.org.au/braidwood/Home.aasp>**

**Br. Brian email: [bcberg@edmundrice.org](mailto:bcberg@edmundrice.org)**

**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm**

**Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10.00am**

**Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am**

**Social Justice Group: Tuesday 5 April 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery**

**First Rite of Reconciliation: 5-5.15pm Saturdays during Lent.**

**Dear Parishioners,**

**News from the Pews: Braidwood Scouts 2023 Mega Car Boot Sale: Saturday 11th March 2023 at Braidwood Scout Hall on Coghill Street. 9am to 2pm.**

**Majors Creek Festival: 17 - 19 March.**

**NSW State Election Saturday, 25 March 2023 - 8am-6pm**

**Easter Water bottles:** if you have empties, please return.

**The Nowra Catholic Women's League** are once again coming to Nerriga to celebrate St. Patrick's Day (March 17) with Mass in the church and lunch afterwards at the pub. We are all invited to attend the celebration **and lunch**.

**HOME in Queanbeyan's Movie Night Fundraiser** March 17 @ 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. The movie is "Made in Dagenham". Tickets \$80 include hot drinks, snacks & movie. Book: [www.THEQ.NET.AU](http://www.THEQ.NET.AU) or ph 02 623856290

**HOLY TRINITY 'SHOW 'N SHINE':** North Woden Parish and the ACT Street Machine Association invite you to enjoy a display of beautiful cars of bygone years in the parish grounds, 10am – 3pm, Sun, 26 March, 3 Strangways Street, Curtin. Monies raised support Camp Quality. Inq 0418 208 129

**CHRISM MASS:** Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 3 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is this Mass that the Holy Oils used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.



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.

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Exodus 17:3-7. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Romans 5:1-2,5-8. Gospel: John 4:5-42.

**Ministry Rosters for our Masses**

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers
11 Mar	Felix	Geraldine	Wendy M-B/Ann T
18 Mar		Helen P	Michael/Cathy F
25 Mar	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy
1 Apl		Helen P	Wendy H/Germaine

Ministries of service:	<u>17 March</u>	<u>24 March</u>	<u>7 April</u>
Altar Decorating:	no flowers during Lent		
Cleaning:	Pauline & Wendy	Felix	Helen P & Sarah

Counters: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sunday: Wendy H  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: volunteer please 4<sup>th</sup>: Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other,  
 Helen Hart

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.