



# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 17  
19th March 2017

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers

Year A



## VERITAS

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

### HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

*Parish Priest*

**Fr Kieran Adams OP**

*Assistant Priests*

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

### Holy Rosary Church

Cnr Phillip Avenue and  
Antill Street, Watson ACT

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*Office Staff*

Jacque Cortese

Jim Smith

*Parish Council*

Andrew Blakey

*Office Hours*

**Monday, Tuesday,**

**Thursday, Friday**

**9.00am—12.30pm**

*Mass times*

Wed 5.30pm

Tues & Thurs 6.45am

Fri 5.30pm

Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 8am, 10am & 6pm

Saturday & Public

Holidays Mass excluding

Mondays 9am

*Pray the Rosary*

Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass

Saturday after 9am Mass

*Reconciliation*

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm

and 5pm—5.30pm

*ACU Chapel Signadou*

Tues 1.30pm

Wed & Thurs 1.30pm



## WOMAN AT THE WELL

If you are in Urgent need of  
a Priest Call - 6248 8253

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

<b>ENTRANCE</b>	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.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	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!
<b>COMMUNION</b>	For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.
<b>READINGS</b>	Exodus 17:3-7    Romans 5:1-2. 5-8 Gospel: John 4:5-42

## HOLY WEEK / EASTER ROSTER

The Rosters are now in the foyer for parishioners who would like to volunteer over Holy Week/ Easter Liturgies. Special help is needed after Holy Thursday and on Holy Saturday morning.

## CHRISM MASS



Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 10th April, at 7.30pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, 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 welcome.

## PSALM: 94:1-2. 6-9

If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

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.

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.

○ 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.'

If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

## LENTEN GROUP

Parish Lenten Group, will meet each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre throughout Lent.

## MAKE EASTER MORE MEANINGFUL! SING THE LITURGIES!

Come join the parish choir  
and enrich your Easter.  
No musical experience  
necessary. There will be  
just four practices in the  
church on the following  
Monday evenings at 7.30 pm: 20 & 27 March, 3 & 10  
April. Enquiries: M Robinson 61617100



## WIDOWS MEETING

Morning Tea, Lunch, Cards  
Our meetings are held at St Joseph's Parish Centre  
O'Connor on the 4th Tuesday of each month at  
10.30am. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28th March.  
For more information please contact Ruth Bourke 6241  
2541 or Anne O'Neill 6241 1016

## WORTHLESS WOMEN

The Gospel Reading tells the story of a woman who is worthless by the standards of Jewish society at that time.

Jesus has sent his disciples off for food, and he is sitting at a well when she comes to draw water. There is every reason why he shouldn't talk to her at all.

First, she is a woman. It is only the disciples' awe of Jesus that keeps them from asking him what he thought he was doing when they return and find him talking to her, without even a chaperone by her.

Secondly, she is a Samaritan. As she herself points out to him, Jews don't talk to Samaritans. Samaritans are self-made outcasts, from the Jewish point of view; and self-respecting Jews stay away from them.

And, thirdly, this Samaritan has the sort of history that makes women pariahs even in their home communities. Jesus knows her status, and he lets her see that he does. She has had five husbands—*five husbands!*—and she is currently living with a man to whom she is not married. Even by the lax standards of our own day, this sort of history would make people look askance at her. In her village, she is undoubtedly a shamed person.

The evangelization of the whole village is her accomplishment. So, taking it all and all, she's a worthless person, isn't she? What Jew or Samaritan would want to invite her to lunch? But, you might be thinking, the saviour of the world could certainly spare a crumb even for a shamed Samaritan woman. He could preach to her that her sins are forgiven, you might be supposing, or he could offer her some other kind of pastoral help. But he doesn't, does he? No, he asks *her* to help *him*. He opens conversation with her by asking her to give him a drink.

And then look at how the story ends: she brings belief in Jesus to her village, and the villagers come to Jesus because of her.

She isn't worthless then, is she? Indeed she isn't. On the contrary, because of Jesus, she takes her rightful place among the apostles. The evangelization of the whole village is *her* accomplishment.

And so when Jesus asks her to care for him, he starts a process that brings her from being worthless to being the apostle to her village.

The remedy of love for human worthlessness is modeled for us here.

Eleonore Stump <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>



Like many First Australians, Uncle Richard was torn from his family and culture as a child. Forced to grow up in the State-run Kinchela Boys Home (KBH), he suffered violence and pain that haunted his adult years. Now, through Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, a Caritas Australia partner, he is reconnecting with former KBH boys in a program that restores their wellbeing and helps their families.



"Let us always meet each other with a smile,  
for the smile is the beginning of love."

Mother Teresa

**In Your Prayers  
please  
remember  
those in our  
community  
who are ill:**

Elizabeth Cronin, Maureen Blood,  
Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine,  
Edith Jensen, Alexia Harris,  
Chris Dillon, Joe Schimizzi,  
Trevor Dennis, Mary Harrigan,  
Elizabeth webster, Philip Bailey,  
Eileen Liston, Rosa Maria Santos  
Jim Burgess, Michael O'Callaghan,  
Mary Bui, Rosemary Denmead,  
Colin Jarrett

**Please remember  
our deceased:**

Domenica Cortese,  
Jenny Naughton,  
Margaret Nenke

**In Loving Memory:**

Adriano Focarile

## THIRSTY

In the Gospel Jesus asks a woman to draw delicious well-water for him to drink. She hesitates. She is Samaritan.

Her story is many-sided, but what catches me is Jesus' saying about water soothing our thirst. Thirst, which is ever present on this blue planet.

I remember bicycling with a friend out in the countryside on a very hot day. We had not counted on one particular hill that would continue to rise up before us, a very long and unremitting one. We worked and worked and worked and at last achieved the top. Hurrah! But heat and humidity had sucked the moisture out of us, so we were parched. Remarkably parched. Off to the left stood a farmhouse or residence of some kind. Hey, why not go ask for a drink of water? Because the house itself was at the top of another hill, and we saw four hundred steps leading up to it. Ok not four hundred, but very many. How could we put ourselves through still another Olympic ordeal and mount these steep stairs in order to subject some innocent citizen to our begging?

Our small selves have been fitted with a soul that opens wide to love and especially to the greatest love of all, God.

No problem. We clambered up the steps, knocked at the door, received greetings from a most gracious lady who could think of nothing more delightful than to bring us each a big glass of cool, wet water. Aaaaahhhhhh. Drink it to the bottom. Savour it, be refreshed. Nothing else in the world could have tasted so delicious and so satisfying as that water. We were craving what our bodies ached for, and we got a kindly answer.

Then off and away (after retracing the steps!)

It seems that human beings have a thirst for something even more profound than that welcome drenching. As St. Paul puts it in the Second Reading, we thirst for "the love poured forth from God in Jesus through the Holy Spirit."

Love. This is a primordial need. Very like the need for water in this respect. But it is "a God-sized hole" within us, a yearning for the greatest love there is.

Jesus says he will put a flowing fountain of such water right inside the Samaritan woman. It will slake her thirst forever!

Often you and I will use other lesser ways to try and satisfy this great need of the soul. Looks, accomplishment, work, other persons, sex, drink, food, alcohol, and so on. These are all good in themselves. Yet taken to excess they lose their power to help us. Even at their best they leave us humming the famous line, "Is that all there is?" No, that is not all there is. We are each built in such a way that we shrivel without real love. Our small selves have been fitted with a soul that opens wide to love and especially to the greatest love of all, God. So we have to tease this center of depth open within us. Whatever careful steps will get us there. We need Lenten quiet, self-denial, the re-fitting of our lives, and even being at peace with our losses. In other words, we must bicycle our way to the top of the great hill, clamber up endless stairs and get ourselves to knock on God's door and wait.

Maybe Jesus will answer the door ...

... and give us "a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John Foley, SJ <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

## LIVING WATER

*Third Sunday of Lent.*

*Fr Richard Conrad OP explains  
how the encounter between Jesus  
and the woman at the well  
foretells how He will give the Holy Spirit  
to us by His death on the cross.*

Between the Jewish regions of Judaea and Galilee lived the Samaritans, descended from people left behind when the Assyrian Empire exiled many Israelites. The Samaritans and the Jews both claimed to inherit the ancient Covenant; hence they resented each other. To everyone's astonishment, Jesus mingled with the Samaritans. But it was part of His purpose to fulfil Ezekiel's prophecy that one divine Shepherd would reunite the Tribes.

Jesus and His disciples come to Jacob's Well, this place fraught with promise. And we can hear John telling aloud what he had witnessed, before it got written down: the text, literally, runs, "Jesus, wearied by the journey, sat down *like this* beside the well" – He had a characteristic posture, which John demonstrated.

Then this woman of dubious character comes to the well outside the village, the one away from the gossip, at a time when the other women will be safely indoors. It's the hottest time of the day, the time when Jesus will be thirsty on the Cross.

Jesus and the woman spar respectfully with each other in view of Mount Gerizim, where the Samaritans had had their Temple till a Jewish leader pulled it down, and where they sacrifice the Passover to this day. Into the conversation come moments of revelation – of who Jesus is, of who the Spirit is, of what Jesus will do, of what the Spirit will do for us.

The woman recognises the Messiah is coming, who will disclose everything. Jesus replies, "I, speaking to you, I AM HE." He is the Messiah, He is greater than Jacob; He is God come in the flesh, the Father's Word come to reveal the Father's love and enact the Father's plan.

We hear again of the Living Water – I say "again", because earlier in this Gospel Jesus has told Nicodemus that we must be born as God's children by the work of the Holy Spirit who is the Water of new birth. In today's passage, Jesus tells us that the Spirit will enter us to refresh us and create a life that will grow into the eternal life of sharing God's bliss.

"Living Water" is one of the images of the Spirit that seem impersonal – but they aren't impersonal, they are *intimate*. Cool spring water *enters* us to delight as well as refresh and enliven, and so it is with the Spirit.

Jesus will *give* the living and life-giving Water; *that* is the work His Father had asked Him to accomplish. For in the eternal life of God the Holy Trinity, the Divine Spirit "flows forth" from God the Father through God the Son; so, fittingly, in the course of time, the Spirit was to flow to us through the saving work of Jesus Christ, God the Son become Mary's Son. John has told us that the Father's Word dwelt amongst us full of Grace and Loyalty, that is, full of the Holy Spirit who is the Divine Love and Gift in Person, so that from Jesus' fullness we might all receive. A bit after today's passage Jesus says the Living Water will flow from His Heart when He fulfils what was prophesied when Moses struck the rock. Later on, John will tell us how he saw Jesus on the Cross bow His Head and *hand over the Spirit*, and how he saw the flow of Blood and Water – that is, Living Water – bear witness to this Gift. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit, who pours into our hearts the divine love, Charity, that is a "sharing" in Himself.

Jesus and the woman discuss where worship may be performed. This is not worship in a general sense – all the Jews, and all the Samaritans, knew you can pray to God and praise Him anywhere. The debate concerned the proper place to *offer sacrifice*. The Samaritans only offered sacrifice on Mount Gerizim, the Jews only in Jerusalem. But, through the Spirit, Jesus has made a new dignity available, which enables His disciples to *offer Sacrifice anywhere*. We shall do it *here* as Mass continues. Through, with, and in Christ, we shall render every honour and glory to God the Father, *in the unity of the Spirit of Truth*. On the Cross, Jesus offered Himself to the Father *in the eternal Spirit*, and we are given the dignity of sharing in the offering of that One Sacrifice, so that we may journey towards sharing Jesus' eternal thanksgiving within the joy of the same Spirit.

<http://english.op.org/torch>

# EVENTS

**19 March - Archbishop's Opportunity for Listening** - Archbishop Christopher is making himself available across the Archdiocese to be with and listen to his people and their wider communities in relation to any effects from the proceedings of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. He invites victims, their family and friends and others who would like an opportunity to share together in these fragile times to a gathering at: **1.30pm Sunday 19 March at the Rheinberger Centre, Corner Weston and Loch Streets, Yarralumla ACT.** A further notice may be coming from the Archbishop prior to this gathering.

**ROSARY** Pray the Rosary will be held the First Saturday of every month at 4pm in the Church on a trial basis. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033

**18 March - 26 March, 10 - 4pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS EXHIBITION** at the Chapel of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Cnr Kings Avenue and Blackall Street, Barton. The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture will be hosting a contemporary *Stations of the Cross* exhibition which will be opened on March 17 at the Chapel of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. The evening begins with a curator's tour by Rev Dr Douglas Purnell OAM at 6pm followed by the official opening by Professor Sasha Grishin AM, FAHA, at 7pm. The Stations of the Cross exhibition, takes the original story of Jesus walk along the Via Delorosa from his being sentenced to death, to his crucifixion and then resurrection.

**22 - March - Healing Mass (Anointing Mass)** 10.30am St Brigid's Church, Dickson. Morning Tea to follow, please bring a plate.

**Year of Youth 2018** - The Catholic Bishops of Australia extend an invitation to Catholics across the country to join in celebrating a Year of Youth from the beginning of Advent to the end of 2018. The theme is, 'Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment'. The emphasis is on local discussion and dialogue in parishes, schools, youth groups and dioceses. Information is available at, [www.youth.catholic.org.au](http://www.youth.catholic.org.au)

**19 - April - EVENINGS FOR THE ENGAGED**, a five-week marriage preparation course will be held every Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017, at 6.30 pm. Enquiries to Kathy and Mark Haseler, 6166 7634.

**25 - March "Legion of Mary - Annual Consecration to Our Lady"** All auxiliaries, former members and interested parishioners are invited to the Annual Consecration to Our Lady (Acies) at St Joseph Church, 61 Boronia St, O'Connor at 10:30am. The celebration will start with the Legion prayers and Mass at church, followed by lunch at the parish hall. For more information / RSVP Jacqueline Donohue 62513950 or reply to [LegionOfMaryCannerraGoulburn@gmail.com](mailto:LegionOfMaryCannerraGoulburn@gmail.com)

**26 - March Amicus**, a support group for widowed, divorced and separated Catholics will be holding its next gathering at 2.45pm for MV Southern Cross 3pm lake cruise followed by twilight dinner at Snapper on the Lake. Contact Patricia: 0412 351 548.

## IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings and Baptisms.

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than Tuesday of that week. For all other bookings Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. two weeks notice is required. It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office. Fr Kieran

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION Sunday** A year long Faith Education Program including Sacraments for children who do not attend Catholic Schools. Term has now begun. Contact the Parish Office.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore today at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**CARDS** Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday 10am-1pm** in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

**CARE OF THE SICK** If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. Also, if someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

**COFFEE GROUP** Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

**DOMINICAN LIBRARY** will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

**COELIACS** Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We have been advised that there are people visiting local churches asking for money. If you are approached by anyone asking for money please do not provide any but refer the person to Samaritan House, 19 Hackett Place, Hackett

**NEW PARISHIONERS** would you like to join our Parish? If you wish to register as Blackfriars Parishioner please fill out a card which you can find on the entrance tables and place on the second plate or give the card to Father.

**Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seating areas by using T- switch on your hearing aid.**

**PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE** for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: [holyr.watson@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:holyr.watson@cg.catholic.org.au)

ROSTERS 25 / 26 March 2017		
<b>Saturday 6.00 pm Holy Rosary</b>		
Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	T. Dennis	J. Maclean
Presentation of Gifts	J. Anderson	
EMOE	G. Collins	
<b>Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary</b>		
Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	M. Gabbitas	T. Klekner
Presentation of Gifts	P. Zorzi	
EMOE	M. Falk	
<b>Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary</b>		
Acolyte / Server	H. Beasley	
Readers	J. Cooke	C. Rheinberger
Presentation of Gifts	Hall-O'Brien Family	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy
<b>Sunday 6.00pm Day Holy Rosary</b>		
Acolyte / Server	E. Kralikas	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone
Presentation of Gifts	Malone Family	
EMOE	M. Proctor	M. de Riva O'Phelan
Counters		