

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

12 MARCH 2023

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' 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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LIVING WATER

Despite the floods of recent years, Australians more than many people appreciate just how precious a resource water is. There would be very few of us who would not be able to remember living through some period of drought or scarcity of water. Our experience places us in a good position to appreciate the problem faced by the people of Israel. Having been rescued from the oppression of the Egyptians the people of Israel felt betrayed – had they been saved from Egypt only to perish in the desert by thirst? Despite their lack of faith God reached out through Moses and provided them with water in the desert.

When the Samaritan woman came to the well searching for water she could barely have imagined where her encounter with Jesus would lead. She came seeking water but left having come to terms with her past, and having led others to Jesus, the source of living water. As is so often the case, personal experience is the best teacher and having heard Jesus for themselves her fellow Samaritans come to see Jesus as their saviour and source of living water.

When Paul reflected on salvation history he came to see that despite the hardness of the human heart God has always been as he was with the people in the desert. The life-giving love of God has been poured into our hearts to quench our thirst and bring us to life. This love has always been freely given and undeserved. The most powerful proof of this is that Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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

Welcome to
Innaloo/Karrinyup Catholic Parish

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3rd Sunday of Lent

Message from Fr Bernard

Dear Friends, As many of you are aware, we have begun the sacred season of Lent. It is a time when we are invited to listen more closely to the teachings of Jesus and consider how we can better live those teachings in our day to day life. The Scriptures and Church tradition, invite us to consider the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving to guide us during this time. They help us to strengthen our relationship with God and one another and to be sensitive to what's happening around us. This year, I would like to invite all of us, as one parish and school community, to come together and run a "Car Boot Sale" to fundraise for those in need overseas and locally. If there is anything you may have in excess in your home or anything you no longer need, please consider bringing them to the Boot Sale! It's like a yard sale, but instead, goods are sold from the boot of our cars. We can be part of this as a whole family, encouraging our children to actively participate in the project. This is a tangible way to teach our children about social justice and respond to the spirit of Lent. The money collected will be donated to the people of Turkey, people who have experienced great distress due to the recent earthquakes. Some of the money will also be donated to the Northern Territory for the people who have been affected by the recent damaging floods.

Car Boot Sale Date: 26 March.

9am to 12 noon

MASS THIS WEEKEND

The Rosary will be prayed 20 minutes before weekend Masses

Sat 11 March 6pm

St Dom

Sun 12 March 8am

OLGC

Sun 12 March 9.30am morning tea

St

Dom

MASS DURING THE WEEK

Tues 14 March 7pm

St Dom

Wed 15 March 9am

St Dom

Thurs 16 March 9am

OLGC

Fri 17 March 9am

St Dom

Sat 18 Mar 9am

OLGC

MASS NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 18 Mar 6pm

St Dom

Sun 19 Mar 8am

OLGC

Sun 19 Mar 9.30am

St Dom

Reflection:

Today's Exodus story reveals that at the very hard place, at the rock of Horeb, God will provide the refreshment we need. God tells Moses to strike the rock with his staff. From the rock water to quench the people's thirst flows. Is the same possible for us: that from the very hard places of struggle and temptation God can draw water for us and refresh us?

So we ask ourselves:

- Where are the hard places for us these days?
- What difficult changes are we being asked to make this Lent?
- Who are the instruments God is using to provide refreshing water during this dry period of our lives? Name them and give thanks.



SCAN ME

Car Boot Sale OLGC school oval

Scan this QR code to register as a seller for the car boot sale or use the sign up sheet at the back of church.

Upcoming Events

Lenten Discussion Group: Thursdays in Lent, 10am, St Dom's parish hall.

Senior's Group: 14 March Coach trip, 10am sharp.

Parish Pastoral Council: 15 March 6.30pm, Innaloo.

Finance Meeting: 16 March 6.30pm, Innaloo.

Rosters next weekend	11 March 6pm St Dom	12 March 8am OLGC	12 March 9.30am St Dom
Readers	Youth Group	B Croxford	R George
Acolyte	P Wall		I Baviah
Offertory Procession		E Gomm D D'Souza	
Altar Society		M Farmer	
Morning Tea		L Howell D D'Souza	Morning Tea after Mass

Rosters next weekend	18 March 6pm St Dom	19 March 8am OLGC	19 March 9.30am St Dom
Readers	H Corray	K Wear	R von Perger
Acolyte	W Italiano		D Ee
Offertory Procession		W McC E Jeffery	
Altar Society		I Rodriguez	
Morning Tea		B Gascoigne M Farmer	

Stations of the Cross—Fridays in Lent

OLGC Karrinyup: 6pm St Dominic's Innaloo: 7pm

Safeguarding Officers

St Dominic's - Isabelle Brewer 0459 537 045
OLGC - Dr Rina Cercarelli (PhD) 0413 835 852