



We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

Welcome to Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish 12th March 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

Mass Times This Week

Saturday 6pm	Our Lady of Mercy
Sunday 9am	Our Lady of Mercy
Sunday 9:30am	St James the Less (Liturgy of the Word with HC)
Sunday 10:45am	The Good Shepherd
Mon 13/03 11.00am	Rosary Garden
Tue 14/03 2.00pm	Our Lady of Mercy Funeral - Brian Weatherall
Wed 15/03 12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 16/03 9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 17/03 9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 17/03 7.00pm	St James the Less St Patrick
Sat 18/03 9.30am	The Good Shepherd
Sat 18/03 11.00am	Rosary Garden

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass on Thursday and Saturday mornings for half an hour.

Reconciliation is available during and after Exposition, and by appointment.



Seek unity with God, welcome His Word in face of temptation

On the first Sunday of Lent, Pope Francis spoke about the spiritual struggle of Lent. The Gospel reading of the day highlighted the struggle Jesus and we all face in our daily lives of opposing temptation through our trust in God and with assistance from our knowledge of the Word of God. Jesus received His baptism from John and was called by the Father "My beloved Son," with the Holy Spirit descending upon Him in the form of a dove, the Pope recalled, showing the three divine Persons joined in love. Jesus came into the world to help us partake in this union of love, while the devil instead tries to divide Jesus from this unity and His mission of unity for us, the Pope went on to say.

The Pope then explained how the devil tries to take advantage of Jesus' tiredness and hunger after fasting forty days by trying to administer three "poisons" to jeopardize His mission of unity: attachment to material goods when the devil tries to get Jesus to stop fasting; mistrust by trying to get Jesus to test the Father by throwing Himself off the highest point of the temple; and finally power when the devil suggests Jesus take over worldly kingdoms. "But that is just how it is, for us too: attachment to material things, mistrust and the thirst for power are three widespread and dangerous temptations, which the devil uses to divide us from the Father and to make us no longer feel like brothers and sisters among ourselves, to lead us to solitude and desperation. He wanted to do this to Jesus, he wants to do it to us." Jesus rejects and defeats the three temptations by avoiding any debate and discussion with the devil and by answering with the Word of God, the Pope underscored, noting the importance of never discussing or dialoguing with the devil.

In conclusion, the Pope suggested we reflect on how the Word of God guides our own lives and how it can help us in our spiritual struggles. If we have a recurring temptation, we should seek help from a verse of the Word of God that helps us, something we can remember, recite, and pray by "trusting in the grace of Christ," he explained.

Fr Richard Morris
morrisri@bigpond.com

Fr Ian Wilson
Assisting Priest

**St Francis de Sales
College**, Ph 8393 1000

Our Lady of Mercy Church
5 Mann Street, Mount Barker

The Good Shepherd Church
2 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn

St James the Less Church
24 Luck Street, Macclesfield

Parish Office

7 Mann Street, Mt Barker SA 5251
Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary
Wed & Fri 9am-3pm Ph 8391 1053
mbstparish@adam.com.au
www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Ministry Coordinator, Strath
Sue Eckert Ph 8537 3053

Child Safe Contact Officers
Michelle Muller Ph 8391 1053
Teena Cobiac Ph 0499 172 740
Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78

Please Pray For...

Sick

Blossom (Teresa) Ferrarese, Gene Ferrarese, Geoff Gogler, Bart Jansen, Gerry Jordans, Ashlee Lloyd, Gertrude Stolarski, Helen Malin, Helene Meijer, David Thomas, Anthony Williams, Froilan Milan, Ailbe Sheehy, David Neville, Alwyne Williams, Rob Gaskin, Mary Patricia Williams, Vin Slattery, Tony Walsh.

Names are kept on the sick list for 4 weeks.

Recently Deceased

Anne Voumard, Ella Solah, Nick Neagle, Brian Weatherall, Deborah Coad.

Anniversaries

Mary Centofanti, Merawyn (Mem) Corin, Joy Cutting, Ann D'Mello, Teresa Dametto, Kiseli family, Matkovic family, Hugh Greenslade, Patricia Hynes, Barry McGeough, Tony McNamara, Carmen Suter, Doreen Tarca, John Walsh, Hartley Weckert, Richard Myles White, Potnar family.

Anniversaries from Saturday 25 to Friday 3 March.

Parish Pastoral Council

Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.

Chair: Neil McGoran (neil.mcgoran@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

Ex Officio: Father Richard, Father Ian, Gavin McLaughlin.

Macclesfield: Teena Cobiac, Jan Sobotta.

Mount Barker: Stewart Chilcott, Sandra Lloyd, Jo Manalo, Tung Pham, Leo Sexton.

Strathalbyn: Joanna Falkland, Mike Galea, Yesamma Hendry

Parish Finance Council

For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.

Ex Officio: Father Richard. **Treasurer:** John Barton.

Macclesfield: Vacant.

Mount Barker: Jim Mann, Julie Moran, Michelle Muller.

Strathalbyn: Vacant.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests) \$ 776.70

2nd Collection (supporting the parish)

Envelopes \$ 892.00

Online and direct debit \$ 1,395.00

Loose plate \$ 331.05

Total second collection \$ 2,618.05

Thank you for supporting our parish and our priests.

If you would like to give to the first and second collections via envelope, direct debit or credit card, please contact Michelle or Father Richard at the Parish Office, ph 8391 1053.

Diary Dates This Week

13/03	Mon 9.45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
14/03	Tue 6.00pm	Parish Finance Council	Parish House
16/03	Thu 10.30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
17/03	Fri 12.30pm	CGS Level 1	Parish House
17/03	Fri 4pm	CGS Level 2	Parish House
19/03	Sun 10.15am	Sunday Readings	GS Hall
19/03	Sun 10.30am	Legion of Mary	Parish House

Reflection on the Scripture Readings

We listen fascinated to the story of the meeting by the well of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Her history reminds us of our own frailties; her finding of faith and a new life encourages us. Thirst and hunger are such elemental experiences that they come immediately to mind, as we try to express the restless



quest that shapes every human life. Though her life's searching has led her to make serious mistakes, we warm to the spirited woman from whom Jesus asks a drink. Jesus is thirsty; but what he seeks before all else is that this woman and those like her find true peace. In their memorable exchange he responds to the woman's searching. As she comes to recognise that she has found what her heart has been

seeking, she 'puts down her water jar', and runs off to share the good news with the villagers she has been avoiding – by coming to the well at midday when few people are about.

This narrative has been written for a community that has meditated deeply upon basic themes of Christian faith – themes as relevant for us today as they were when the gospel was written. The Saviour is progressively presented as the one in whom humanity's long and troubled search will find what it has been looking for. He is 'greater than Jacob', the ancestor of Israel; he is not only 'a prophet'; he is 'the Christ' of Israel's hopes. In fact – as in many texts of John's gospel – he intimates a claim to the divine name itself, 'I AM he'.

His coming inaugurates a new order, 'worship of the Father in Spirit and truth' – something far beyond what has been known to Jews and Samaritans. He brings 'living waters, welling up to eternal life'. John's community would have heard in these words overtones of the wonder of their baptism.

The woman's reaction to her enlightenment was a reminder to those who had found faith in Christ that they too were called to be missionaries. And this reminder has a sharp edge. It is not easy for us, today, to appreciate the bitterness of the estrangement between Jews and Samaritans – though the shocking conflicts of recent times may help us to understand the violent attitudes that divided these two groups. Of the Synoptic Gospels, Luke alone – the gentile convert - shows any sympathy for the Samaritans. A missionary outreach to these people, therefore, must have seemed almost unthinkable to early Christians, most of whom were from a Jewish background. The attitude of Jesus, and the success he had in this chance meeting with Samaritans, was an encouragement for them to take up the Church's mission, even though the difficulties seemed insurmountable.

This lesson is hammered home for them - and for us - in the words of Jesus to his bewildered disciples: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me'; the harvest is 'ready' – 'grain for eternal life'. His final lesson is a call to humility – the saving plan he is inaugurating is God's work – among God's workers, 'one sows, another reaps'

Fr John Thornhill SM

The Emmaus Series at www.themmausseries.com

Question of the Week

'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life'. (John 4:13-14).

Adults: Where have you found a source of 'living water' for your own journey of faith? **Young People:** When do you have good opportunities to share with others what your faith means to you and how you live it? **Children:** Name some times when your belief in Jesus helped make you stronger?

Children's Liturgy Activities

We offer Children's Liturgy in the 9am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy during school term. Our catechists read the Gospel from the Children's Lectionary and lead a discussion about what it means to us in our daily lives. There is usually a short craft-based activity that helps young people to reflect on the discussion in their own way. All Children's Liturgy volunteers hold a current Working with Children Check. We believe that children and young people have a right to be safe, feel safe and be encouraged to speak if they feel uncomfortable. Please contact one of our Child Safe Contact Officers (Michelle Muller 8391 1053 or Teena Cobiac 0499 172 740), if you have any queries. **Parents are welcome to accompany their children to help them feel comfortable and secure.**

Interfaith Intercultural Vigil

There have been a great many issues across our world that continue to adversely affect many people and places: earthquakes in Türkiye & Syria, destruction of homes and communities, environmental damage and loss of habitats from catastrophic earthquakes, storms and flooding, and continuing conflict and lament of so many who seek recognition, safety and to be heard. To enable community recognition and a space for solace and praying together, Churches Together SA will host an interfaith intercultural vigil: *Praying together for peace and justice*. Wed March 15, 6pm, Pilgrim Uniting Church, 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide, near Tarntanyangga / Vic Square.

Centennial Park Blessing

We would like to invite our Catholic communities to witness a blessing of the park including the Jubilee Complex and Function Rooms on Friday March 31 at 6pm. The blessing will be officiated by Parish Priest Father John Shanahan from the Emmaus Catholic Parish and will take place outside in the Jubilee Complex forecourt. Light refreshments will be served in the Jubilee Complex Foyer and there will be an opportunity to view the service and function spaces and meet the Funeral and Memorial Services team members. Please RSVP with Marketing at P: 8275 2278 or E: marketing@centpark.org.au.

Running For Turkey And Syria

Father Charles Lukati, Parish Priest of Croydon Park, has joined with Caritas Australia in **raising funds to help communities impacted by the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria**. Please support him as he runs the half marathon in Clare Valley on Sunday April 2, 2023. To join the cheer squad or participate in the run, contact Tracey Tessitore on 0439 810 250. Donate via QR Code link here:



Volunteers Gathering

You are warmly invited to a gathering for both current volunteers but also those who might be interested in becoming involved with serving through the Strathalbyn Churches Bookshop. Sat March 18th, 2pm-4pm at the Church of Christ Hall. Bring a friend or come for a look. Bring something that begins with S, C or B to talk about for fun.

Reflection on Amoris Laetitia

On Saturday March 18 Emeritus Bishop Eugene Hurley will be presenting a theological reflection on the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia. St Peter Claver Dulwich Hall, 1a Stuart Road, Dulwich, 9.30am to 3pm. All welcome. Zoom will be available for remote/regional participants – please advise if required. Please RSVP to mfpadmin@adelaide.catholic.org.au by Friday March 10th and advise of any dietary requirements.

CGS Formation Opportunity

There are blue leaflets available in each of our parish churches about formation for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This is a beautiful 6-day experience during the April school holidays in which we will meditate on Scripture and the Liturgy of the Church. You don't need to be working with children or have attended any previous formation to attend these sessions.

Project Compassion

Priscilla lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe.

With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought.

While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the skills she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis. **You can donate through Project Compassion boxes / envelopes, call 1800 024 413 or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion.**



Readings Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A, *The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Psalm: 22, Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14, Gospel: John 9:1-41.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, Alleluia & Gospel verses, & Lenten Gospel Acclamation from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Sunday Readings

FIRST READING EXODUS 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.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 94:1-2, 6-9

**R. 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. **R.**

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.**

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 ROMANS 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 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION CF JOHN 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 JOHN 4:5-15, 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:

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

