



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141, Ph: 96447787 E: info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
Parish Website: www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, facebook: [stpeterstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) YouTube: [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBeralaParish)

Holy Mass: Tuesday to Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am | Holy Hour: Saturday 8.30am-9.30am

Lord's Day Mass : Saturday 5.00pm Vigil - LiveStreamed, Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 8.30am - 9.30am

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

12 MARCH 2023

Life Giving Jesus



A woman in Samaria happened to meet with Jesus at a well she went to fetch water from. She asked Jesus a question: *"Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship"*, Jesus' answer was *"Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...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."* (Ref John 4:21-24). It is no more the mountains that matters for worship, but a personal or spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, *"You have had five husbands, and the one who is with you now is not your husband"* (Ref John 4:18). First half of John's Gospel, especially, is meant to be read as symbolic narrative vindicating Jesus as the Christ / Messiah. A number of references in the Gospel confirms it (John 2:11; 4:54; 5:2; 6:14; 9:16). The narrative about the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at Jacob's well is after the pattern of Jacob meeting Rachel at the same well (Genesis 29). Here the woman represents the people of Samaria and *"Five husbands"* is an allegorical reference to its history. Five different pagan people, *Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim* with their pagan gods were settled there. Samaria, despite wanting to be Jewish in their religion, was not with Jerusalem and the true Jewish traditions. Therefore Jesus said, *"the one who is with you now is not your husband"*. The metaphor of marriage for God's covenantal relationship is common language in the Bible. Jesus, the Messiah, offered Samaria the living water she needs and invites them to enter into a personal and committed relationship with God.

The Samaritan woman gradually opens up to Jesus and understands him as someone greater than Jacob, then a prophet, and finally acknowledges him as the Messiah. Where do you find yourself in your openness to Jesus: a great man of the old? A great prophet? Or the Saviour who provides the living water?

Drawn to Jesus as their personal saviour (Messiah), we have three catechumens preparing to be initiated through the waters of Baptism at Easter Vigil. Keep them in your prayers. Those who are already initiated through the waters of Baptism are to the Body of Christ (Church) come to the Eucharist to foster their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Fellowship with the faithful and Communion with the Blessed Sacrament are appreciation of the life giving presence of Jesus Christ.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the Church every Friday of Lent 6.00 – 6.30PM.

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. You can make it a mini pilgrimage by moving with the leader (priest) from station to station. All are welcome to join this devotion in preparation for the Easter.



Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au (Office)
 pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au (for confidential)
 T. (02) 9644 7787

Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria
 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
 Tue to Fri 9am -3pm
 T. (02) 9644 7787

Sacramental Co-ordinator

Sophia Brewty
 Tue & Wed 10am-3pm
 sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Catechist Co-ordinator

Josie Pangilinan
 0406 515 050

Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

Parish Pastoral Council

Karim Kassis (Chair), Robert McGinn (Vice Chair), Renee Salar (Secretary), Julia Babic (Assistant Secretary), Maria Simeone (Co-ordinator, Social Committee, Jenny Michael (Asst Co-ordinator, Social Committee), Amanda Dowdell, Amanda Gahan, Annuncia Sinisa, Dom Pangilinan, Josie Pangilinan, Jennifer Makerry, Michael Kim, Natasha Ellis, Susie Mravunac, Sr Cecilia Joseph, Sophia Brewty

Finance Committee

Brendon Nazareth (Chair), Joe Moses, Sylvia Jukic, Nader Badra

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
 T. (02) 9644 9083

Principal—Sr Cecilia Joseph
 Family Educator - Jenny Michael

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South
 T. (02) 9646 1434

Acting Principal - Susie Mravunac
 Family Educator - Natasha Ellis

CatholicCare. Patricia Lay. Provides caring advice and advocacy to help families . 0447 529 122 | CCareline 13 18 19

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Spiritual Retreats:

Benedictine Abbey
 Jamberoo - www.jamberooabbey.org.au/
 retreats Ph: 4236 0533

Carmelites Varroville -

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
 Ph: 8795 3400

Healing After Abortion:

0400 092 555
Vincetian Retreat Centre Somersby -
 www.divineretreatcentre.org.au
 Ph: 4372 1598

Sara's Place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit
 www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 9699 8190

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon 13/3	No Mass.
Tue 14/3	6.45am Mass 11.00am Ageing Well Masterclass (Jubilee Hall) 7.00pm Lenten Bible Reflections
Wed 15/3	6.45am Mass 7.00pm 1st Reconciliation Session 3 (Jubilee Hall)
Thu 16/3	6.45am Mass 7.00pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Fri 17/3	St Patrick, Bishop (Solemnity) 6.45am Mass 6.00pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 18/3	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 19/3	SVDP Fill the Van Day 7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

19 MARCH 2023**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Christine KENSEY	Jenny MICHAEL	Trevor BREWTY
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	N/A	TONGAN CHOIR
POWERPOINT	Parish Choir	Need Volunteer	Tongan Choir
LECTOR/S	Sharon SEBASTIAN	Ingrid SCHARENGUVEL	Hilary RIOFRIO
	Roshan SEBASTIAN	Maria SIMEONE	Rosalind EVANS
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Winnie CHIU	Margaret THAM

Cleaners SPC: Roland & Aida Javier

Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Anna Manganaro, Veronica Zaitseff

Saturday 8AM**18 MARCH**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Joy SKERRITT

"Family that prays together stays together"

**PILGRIM STATUE**

This week the statue will be with the:

Amarille & Olie Families

To host the Pilgrim Statue and Rosary prayer please contact Mona Goubran on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603 or Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Doreen Stanmore, Pauline Lian, Gerard Del Rosario, Romaine Cheema, Virginia Naidu, Veronica Jacobs, Nazih Melhem, Danilo Carreon, Fiya Gourani, Zekia Al Asady, Graham Turner, Patsy Dutton, Aurora Flores, Olive Torino, Maureen Hynes, Giovanni Simeone, Joey Kiraz, Richard Langford, Maria Nobilo

Recently Deceased: Theresa Chan, Steve McParlane

Deceased: Rudolph Mortillero, Edmond Mortillero

Anniversary: Elena Latorre

Other Intentions: Conversion of Sinners, Anka & Family, Pat & Family, Hanna, Dalida & Family, Cyril & Family. All Parish Priests. Holy souls in purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24:15-16

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.

First Reading

Ex 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

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

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

Rom 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. 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

See 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 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42 (Shorter Form)

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.'

Communion Antiphon

Jn 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

2nd Reading: Eph 5:8-14

Gospel: Jn 9:1-41

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 4:5-42

Historical Context – Jews and Samaritans

Samaritans descended from one of the tribes of Israel. They held faithful to Mt Gerazim as the first place for the worship of God even when the prophet Elijah declared a new place for worship. In the 7th and 8th Centuries BCE, the Assyrians descended on the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. The Samaritans in the north assimilated with the Assyrians, whilst the Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. When the Jews returned from exile, the Samaritans offered to assist in the reconstruction of the Temple. This infuriated the Jews and led to centuries of distrust and animosity.

Gospel Focus – Transformation

The woman has obviously come to the well to draw water for herself. Her encounter with Jesus is a moment of transformation for her. At first, she fails to comprehend his reference to 'living water' and never being thirsty again. However, in the end 'the woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town.' Leaving her water jar behind was a sign of the transformation that had taken place within her. She had indeed drunk of the living water of Jesus and no longer paid attention to the need for water that had brought her to the well.

Living the Gospel – Personal encounter

The Samaritan woman's personal encounter with Jesus compels her to start spreading the good news about the amazing man she has met. She meets Jesus face to face and feels compelled to act on what she has felt. Lent is a time for each of us to again – or for the first time – seek out a face to face encounter with Jesus. Through prayer, contemplation on scripture or reflection on encountering Jesus in the face of others, we build a one to one relationship with Jesus. When we acknowledge this relationship, like the Samaritan woman, we are compelled to act on it.

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Friday, 17 March - St Patrick, Bishop (Solemnity)



St. Patrick was born in Britain c.385 and as a young man was captured by Irish pirates and sold into slavery. After six years in Ireland he escaped, returned to his family and trained for the priesthood in Gaul. In c.435 he returned to Ireland as a missionary bishop. Through his work, Christianity flourished and the church became organised. Although not extensively learned, St Patrick was known for his sincerity and pastoral care, and was largely concerned with abolishing paganism and idolatry and encouraged monasticism. There are many legends about Ireland's most beloved saint, including his use of the shamrock for explaining the trinity, and his banishing of all snakes from Ireland.

Mass of the Feast at 6.45am

NEWS

Dorothy at the Threshold of Century



Dorothy Boyd is celebrating 99 this month. A long time parishioner still keen to participate in the Weekend Liturgy. She has served the parish in many different capacities, including Legion Mary for over three decades.

She has fond memories of the parish celebrating the Mass in the school/parish hall on Regent Street, before the present Church was built. The hall was used for the primary school during the week, and set up for Mass on the weekends.



In that moment you take a breath before blowing out your candles, consider that you are among the greatest wishes the Lord has made. Wishing you a very happy and blessed 99th birthday Dorothy!



THREE ELECTED

David Allan Phillips, My Nghi Hong, and Ekaterina (Katy) Korolkova have been catechised since last year by our RCIA Team led by Andrew Tham and Katrina Yip. On the first Sunday of Lent, they joined hundreds of Catechumens and Candidates in a Rite of Election in the city. They were formally greeted and welcomed by bishop Danny Meagher at St Mary's Cathedral in front of a huge congregation that filled the nave and wings of the mother church in Australia, and prayed for them. With the support of the parish, especially the sponsors, they are on the spiritual journey of purification before their initiation at the Easter Vigil on 8 April. They will have the first of the three 'Rites Of Scrutiny'

this weekend. It is a public occasion for the parish community to affirm its support. Keep up your prayers for them, and make them welcome into your fellowship.

AGEING WELL MASTERCLASS 6 (Final Session)

Ageing Gracefully, Living Fruitfully
Explores Catholic spirituality and the blessings
and challenges of a more faith-filled life.



Tuesday, 14 March at 11AM |
Jubilee Hall, St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Parish, 62 Kingsland Road, Berala
Register for free! | Phone Lea on 9644 7787
or email info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Sacristan Workshop

The Liturgy Office, in cooperation with St Mary's Cathedral, has organised a **one day workshop for Sacristans**. It will be run by Chris Backhouse, the Cathedral Sacristan, on **Saturday 25th March 2023, 9:30am-12:30am in St Mary's Cathedral**. The course is free and everyone is welcome, both those who already serve in the sacristy, as well as those who are willing to start.

For more information and to register visit: <https://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/lay-ministry-training/>.
Printed copies of registration forms are available at the church foyer.

On **Sunday, 19th March from 7.30am to 11.00am**, the Night Patrol Van from St Vincent de Paul will be parked in the St Peter Chanel Church Berala car park to collect donations for the homeless community.

Families wishing to donate items to Fill The Van, may take their contributions directly to the car park on the day.

FILL THE VAN DAY

A ST VINCENT DE PAUL FUNDRAISER



Items needed are:

- Scarves, beanies, gloves (dark colours)
- Nappies
- Toiletries (toothpaste, razors, soap)
- Paper towels, Glad Wrap

Donations of money can also be made on the day and are tax deductible.

For further information, email
amanda.gahan@syd.catholic.edu.au

JOURNEY TO EASTER
WEEK 3 - GIVE

The focus for Easter can often be the material things. The chocolates, holidays and show bags may over-shadow the true meaning of the most important season in our church year.

The story of Lent, Holy Week and Easter is the basis of our faith. Through this gentle activity, the few moments spent together preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter can be a time when your family can slow down, pray together and remember what is important in our lives.

Each week during Lent you will receive a reflection with a specific focus. Of course these are things we do on a continual basis throughout Lent but the specific weekly challenges give a depth to each task and helps us reflect more deeply.

Each week during Lent a member of the family can choose which activity the family will practice, I have included ideas, you may wish to come up with your own ideas. I have also included prayers your family may use for each week during Lent. These prayers can be read by the children during mealtimes or bedtime. This family activity concludes with the joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, by lighting a candle in the center, just as the Paschal candle is lit at the Easter Sunday Mass.

May this Lenten journey bring you closer together as a family and lead you closer to Christ's unfailing love.

THE FOCUS OF THIS WEEK IS: GIVING

The challenge for week 3 is to explore your gifts and talents and use these to serve others. Below you will find a few suggestions:

- Talk to your children about Project Compassion (you may wish to contribute to the School collection for Caritas).
- Give to the poor either directly or through an organisation.
- Donate blood at the Red Cross Blood Bank.
- Donate clothing you no longer need to St Vincent De Paul.
- Give up your personal time and help the school community, Parish community or an organisation.
- Visit family, relatives and friends you haven't seen for awhile.



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:1-9

Loving God,
help me to remember the many things Jesus taught us.
His word and actions were always right.
Sometimes rules can be hard to follow.
I don't always want to do the right thing
but the rules help me to live peacefully and respectfully with others.
Guide me Jesus when I am tempted to break the rules and hurt others.
Amen



? I WONDER IF ANY OF THE PEOPLE DOING THE WRONG THING IN THE TEMPLES SAID SORRY TO JESUS AFTERWARDS?

When we give ourselves by using the gifts of God has given us to serve others, we are able to uniquely worship God. This week challenges you to explore your gifts and talents and then creatively us those to serve those around you.



The Roman soldiers

The Romans were the ruling power at the time of Jesus and it was Pontius Pilate, a Roman official, who decided that Jesus would be tortured and crucified.



The Whip

The cat-o-nine tails whip was used to torture Jesus before His crucifixion. Jesus endured this terrible agony because of His love for us.



Lenten Bible Reflections
Tuesdays of Lent at 7 - 8 PM | At St Peter Chanel Church
Based on Lenten Sunday Gospel Readings.
Enter into the mystery of Christ and his passion.

SCAN TO REGISTER



Amazing Catholic Speaking Event: A night with Joelle Maryn
Don't miss this!

Please join us for a special event at St Joachim's Lidcombe, as ex-Hollywood Actress and TV Host, turned Catholic Speaker, Joelle Maryn, joins us to share her unique and inspiring story. There'll be food, Catholic resources for sale including Joelle's book, lucky door prizes and much more. This is a wonderful community event so join us to hear a story you won't forget. This would be a great mother and teen-daughter night out too. Everyone is welcome!

When: Thursday, 16 March at From 7pm
Where: St Joachim's Lidcombe Parish Hall | **Cost:** Free



Third Sunday of Lent
11 & 12 March



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, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Way of the Cross



You are invited to Stations of the Cross to share in a prayer and reflection experience.

When: Wednesday 15th March 2023
Where: Waterway Chapel, Rookwood Cemetery
Time: 10.00am to 11.30am

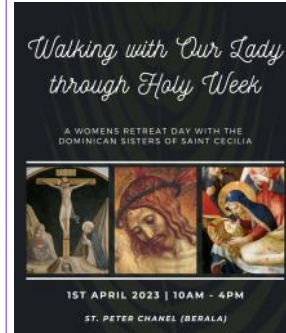


Please direct enquiries and RSVP to -
 Natasha Ellis - natasha.ellis@syd.catholic.edu.au
 Jenny Michael - jenny.michael@syd.catholic.edu.au

Morning Tea and a Light Lunch will be provided on site.
 Toddlers are welcome.



Walking With Our Lady Through Holy Week



Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia for a retreat day.



This day will help you enter into the holiest week of the year. In addition to talks and discussion, the day will include time for silence and prayer during a Holy Hour. An opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Morning tea and lunch are provided.

To register visit:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CGHGO> |
 For queries email sydney@op-tn.org

The Church Shop is stocked with new items! Check out some great items perfect for gifting!

The Church Shop is open on Saturdays before and after the 5.00pm Vigil mass and on Sundays after the 8.00am & before the 10.00am masses.



Drop by our Church shop and grab a gift for that special someone.

Playgroup is back on!!!

Thursday mornings 9.15am to 10.45am in the school hall
 (enter via the ramp on Renshaw Street)



Join us for storytime, singing and dancing, craft, painting and games. Please let your family, friends and neighbours with preschool aged children know that they are welcome to join us at our Playgroup sessions. For all enquiries contact our Family Educator at natasha.ellis@syd.catholic.edu.au.

Welcome to
ST PETER CHANEL PLAYGROUP
 EVERY THURSDAY
 STARTING FEBRUARY 16, 2023
 St Peter Chanel Parish Hall
 9am - 10.30am
 (enter via Kingsland Rd)
 Free Play, Craft, Music, Dance and LOADS OF FUN!
 Your child will develop social skills,
 fine motor skills and collaborative skills.
 Cost - \$2
 Bring a snack for your child. Morning tea is provided for mums and carers.
 Email - jenny.michael@syd.catholic.edu.au

"Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to Him as He speaks to us". ~Pope Francis

A Samaritan woman came to draw water

From a treatise on John by St Augustine

A woman came. She is a symbol of the Church not yet made righteous. Righteousness follows from the conversation. She came in ignorance, she found Christ, and he enters into conversation with her. Let us see what it is about, let us see why *a Samaritan woman came to draw water.* The Samaritans did not form part of the Jewish people: they were foreigners. The fact that she came from a foreign people is part of the symbolic meaning, for she is a symbol of the Church. The Church was to come from the Gentiles, of a different race from the Jews.

We must then recognise ourselves in her words and in her person, and with her give our own thanks to God. She was a symbol, not the reality; she foreshadowed the reality, and the reality came to be. She found faith in Christ, who was using her as a symbol to teach us what was to come. *She came then to draw water.* She had simply come to draw water; in the normal way of man or woman.

Jesus says to her: Give me water to drink. For his disciples had gone to the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman therefore says to him: How is it that you, though a Jew, ask me for water to drink, though I am a Samaritan woman? For Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.

The Samaritans were foreigners; Jews never used their utensils. The woman was carrying a pail for drawing water. She was astonished that a Jew should ask her for a drink of water, a thing that Jews would not do. But the one who was asking for a drink of water was thirsting for her faith.

Listen now and learn who it is that asks for a drink. *Jesus answered her and said: If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," perhaps you might have asked him and he would have given you living water.*

He asks for a drink, and he promises a drink. He is in need, as one hoping to receive, yet he is rich, as one about to satisfy the thirst of others. He says: *If you knew the gift of God.* The gift of God is the Holy Spirit. But he is still using veiled language as he speaks to the woman and gradually enters into her heart. Or is he already teaching her? What could be more gentle and kind than the encouragement he gives? *If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," perhaps you might ask and he would give you living water.*

What is this water that he will give if not the water spoken of in Scripture: *With you is the fountain of life? How can those feel thirst who will drink deeply from the abundance in your house?*

He was promising the Holy Spirit in satisfying abundance. She did not yet understand. In her failure to grasp his meaning, what was her reply? *The woman says to him: Master, give me this drink, so that I may feel no thirst or come here to draw water.* Her need forced her to this labour, her weakness shrank from it. If only she could hear those words: *Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you.* Jesus was saying this to her, so that her labours might be at an end; but she was not yet able to understand.

OTHER NOTICES

Sisterhood Catholic Womens' Conference

The Sisterhood conference is a weekend for women aged 18 + to grow in their faith and encounter a community of like minded Catholic women committed to their faith. The conference will be held at The Tops Conference Centre at Stanwell Tops 17-19th March. This is a live in weekend. Places are limited. For more information visit www.sisterhood.org.au | info@sisterhood.org.au .

Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat, 25-26 March 2023

An opportunity for single women aged 16-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Catholic Help with Alcoholism and Addiction

Do you, a family member, or friend need help with an addiction concern? You can reach out to the Calix Society. Calix is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12 Step program. Email: calixsydney@outlook.com

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Trace the journey of Jesus from the land of his birth to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice in this 14-day Holy Land pilgrimage to Jordan & Israel led by Fr Salas Muttathukattil MSFS. For inquiries & bookings 1300 721 561 or info@magiholidays.com.au

Just for Laughs

My boss calls me "the computer".
Nothing to do with intelligence, I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

