

Reflection

In the heat of the day, a Samaritan woman of the town of Sychar came to draw water from Jacob's well. She probably came to the well every day, but today would be different. Jesus was there. What follows is an extraordinary encounter between Jesus and the unnamed woman.

Jesus had felt compelled to travel *through* Samaria—possibly because of this very encounter—instead of travelling the usual route taken by Jews, *around* Samaria. He was now tired from his journey and sat resting near the well while his disciples went into the village to buy food.

Jesus ignored the centuries-old hostility between the Jews and Samaritans, and ignored the deeply entrenched gender-division of the society of that day, and he engaged the Samaritan woman in conversation. It is the longest conversation between Jesus and another person recorded in the Gospels.

Jesus begins by asking the woman for a drink of water. The woman is astonished, even shocked by this request, and she points out that Jews do not “associate”, or “have dealings”, with Samaritans. The Greek word for “associate” here, is also commonly used to mean “the sharing of eating utensils and dishes”. Jesus doesn't have his own utensil to draw water, and Jacob's well is thirty metres deep. So he is asking to drink from her vessel—a Samaritan woman's vessel!

Jesus then begins talking about living water ([John 4:10, 13-14](#)). Just as Nicodemus had failed to see the spiritual meaning of being “born again” in the previous chapter of John's Gospel ([John 3:3-4](#)), the woman fails to see the spiritual significance of “living water” and only sees what will be a practical advantage for her. Living water, that is, flowing water, was preferable to the still well water that percolated through the ground. And a never ending supply meant no more trips to and from the well carrying heavy water jars ([John 4:15](#)).

Jesus knows that the woman is “thirsty”, and he promises “living water” that will completely quench a person's spiritual longing. Jesus describes this living water as becoming a spring of gushing water, eternally flowing from within the person who receives his free gift. In [John 7:38-39](#) we are told that living water represents the Holy Spirit.

As Jesus teaches her theology, the woman becomes increasingly aware of his spiritual stature and says, “I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Jesus answers this with *egō eimi* (“I am”), a term thought by some to refer to God himself. A literal translation from the Greek of [John 4:26](#) has Jesus saying, “I am he who is speaking to you.” Jesus clearly identifies himself to her as the Messiah (cf. Peter in [Matt. 16:15-17](#) and Martha in [John 11:27](#)).

The woman immediately leaves her water jar and goes into the town (cf. [Matt. 4:19-20](#)). She boldly testifies in Sychar about Jesus, and says, “Could this be the Messiah?” Many people believed in Jesus because of her testimony ([John 4:39](#)). A woman's testimony was generally not regarded as credible in that time. The Samaritans of Sychar were ready to believe; however, and they went on to trust in Jesus even more when they had heard him for themselves. They declared, “Jesus is the Saviour of the world!”

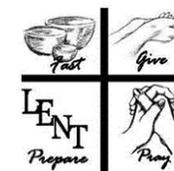


SATURDAY 14th March
Vigil Mass 4.00 pm
SUNDAY 15th March
Mass 9.30 am



Saturday	14th	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Vigil Mass 4 pm	parishioners
Sunday	15th	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Mass 9.30 am	those with Dementia
Monday	16th	Lent Feria	NO MASS
Tuesday	17th	St. Patrick Bp.	Mass 10 am Peace in Northern Ireland
Wednesday	18th	Lent Feria	Mass 6.30pm Sue Hudak
followed by Lent Course			
Thursday	19th	St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mass 10 am Those with Corona Virus
Friday	20th	Lent Feria	Mass 10 am All whose anniversary of death occurs at this time Stations of the Cross 6.30 pm in Church
Saturday	21st	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Vigil Mass 4 pm	parishioners

Next Week : THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Saturday 21st March 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm
and Sunday 22nd March Mass at 9.30am
(MOTHERING SUNDAY)



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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION :

Fr. Paul will be in the confessional each Saturday 11.30-12noon and **between 3.30 and 3.50pm** before the Vigil Mass.

OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.

The Funeral Service of Victor George Storor will take place here at St. Benedict's this Friday afternoon at 2.30 pm , 20th. March



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MOTHERING SUNDAY)

The children from the school will **not be** here unless with their parents .

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

We now have in the porch printed Mass request Envelopes on which you can write the details of your mass request and place your mass offering inside.Fr. Paul has no outstanding Masses.



Parish Meeting after the 9.30 am Mass this Sunday morning. Please stay if you can.

Who is doing what next week!

Can you see this Lent 2020 as an opportunity to be a missionary disciple of Jesus through prayer, fasting and charity?

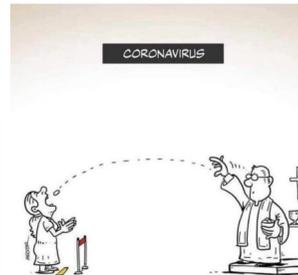


It has been decided that the cake sale will be postponed until the Covid-19 situation has been resolved.

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION ON FRIDAYS EACH WEEK.

After Mass on Friday morning the Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed on the Altar for adoration, prayer & reflection. Benediction at 11.15am Take this time to be before the Lord in his Blessed Sacrament.

Proposed Guidance on Eucharistic Practice.



The further thirst

There is a thirst in every human heart. Each of us is like that lonely Samaritan woman. We are thirsting for something, something that will satisfy all our longings. But often we search in the wrong places. We draw water from many wells: the water of praise to quench our thirst for self-esteem; the water of success to quench our thirst for importance; the water of pleasure to quench our thirst for joy; But we still get thirsty. Only God can give us what we are looking for. He alone can cause a spring to well up inside us. The water from this spring will sustain us in our journey to the Promised Land of eternal life.

Each Friday during Lent (including Good Friday) we will come together to walk with Jesus on the Way of His Cross.



STATIONS of the CROSS

6.30 pm each Friday

in Church. Also each Wednesday evening after mass at 6.30 pm there will be a Lent Reflection group focussing on Matthew's Gospel and the fact that through our Baptism we are called to be "Disciple Missionaries".

These times of scripture, Bible and reflection will be guided by Pope Francis.

