

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

24th February 2008

THEME: John 4: 5-42

Today's Gospel passage is one of the most beautiful stories in all of scripture. A woman, rejected by her own neighbours because of her great sinfulness, is recognised by Jesus as one with potential for great faith, and, indeed, she is transformed into someone who brings others to faith.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Saturday 1st March - First Saturday - Fatima

GOD THIRSTS FOR OUR LOVE

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the woman now called the "Saint of Calcutta" named her thirst for God "a deep loneliness" and a "darkness" from which she longed to emerge. Mother Teresa wrote that her thirst for knowing the joy of God's presence was her "travelling companion", and she asked for prayers to be able to keep to her journey of serving God's least ones: "Pray for me, for within me, everything is icy cold. It is only blind faith that carries me through for, in reality to me, all is darkness". Despite her seemingly unquenched thirsts, Mother Teresa continued radiating God's love and compassion, for, as she said, she was only a "carrier of God's love", and she was compelled "by the love of an infinitely thirsty God".

God's thirst for us, our thirst for God - these are the factors that move us nearer to God and draw us deeper into the divine embrace.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Melda McDonald, Fr Wilf Plunkett, May Smith, Kristi Cassandra, Kathy Hendry, Cameron Thompson, Betty Hunter, Allanah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Joe Mullavey, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Sharon Witteveen, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Fr John Fitzwalter, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Patsy Hanley, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Brenden Aldridge, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook, Luke Westaway, Bishop Brennan, Lloyd Bell-Chambers and Len Egan.

Grant eternal life to:

Fr John Wilkinson, Harold Phibbs, Mollie Higgins, Pauline Blissett, Alma Whitehead, Zenaida Medina and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Bishop Francis Henschke, Patricia Roche, Fred Wilkes, Margaret Dortkamp and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Bert Scammell, Eileen, Gus, Bonnie & Kerry Roche, Mary, Frank, Phillip & Anne-Maree Percy, Anthony Kell, Lorraine Hill and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

LAINE SULLIVAN
LEVI GEERING

FOR YOUR DIARY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday evening during Lent at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, works with communities in ways that respect, enhance and build their dignity. This week's story takes us to rural West Java, Indonesia and gives us an insight into the struggles, hardships and commitment of families there. With the support of Caritas they now have clean water and basic toilet facilities, enabling them to look forward to the future with improved health.

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes which are at the back of the church.

CARPENTERS' BREAKFAST

All men of the parish are invited to the next Carpenters' Breakfast on Saturday 8th March 2008 at 7.30am in St Patrick's Meeting Room behind the Hall. The Agenda will be:

1. Complementary breakfast
2. Introduction/develop community
3. Mons. William Fulton to address all gathered on 'The Continuing Development of St Patrick's Parish'
4. Close

The next meeting will be held in approximately four weeks time.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Patrick's Meals on Wheels Team will deliver meals the week commencing Monday 3rd March 2008.

GALONG MAY PROCESSION

Change of Date: Sunday 18th May 2008

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites the Youth of the Archdiocese to join this Marian Pilgrimage at St Clement's Retreat & Conference Centre, Galong, as a Day of Prayer in preparation for the Journey to World Youth Day .

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- * Suicidal people need support - not lethal aid, says bishop
- * How the miracle of Lourdes, inspires, endures - bishop's homily

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for Easter will continue next Saturday 1st March at 12.00noon at St Patrick's Church. All welcome. Please contact John Harrold on 6021 4079.

FR JOHN WILKINSON RIP

Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Father John Wilkinson, C.M. will be celebrated at St Mary's Chapel, Vianney College at 6.00pm, Thursday 28th February. All welcome.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

The St Patrick's Day Concert will be held next Saturday 1st March at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Hall. A plate for supper would be appreciated. The cost is \$8.00 per adult, children free. Proceeds to aid an African student to come to World Youth Day.

2008 ALBURY SWIMATHON AND FAMILY FUN DAY THIS SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

Supporting women and children in our community for a new culture of life

North Albury Olympic Swimming Pool Complex, Moore Street, North Albury from 12.00pm-4.00pm. Come with the family or as a spectator. Lots of games and prizes during the afternoon. Sausage Sizzle, Volleyball and live band.

REGISTER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

Please pick up a '**Step by Step Guide to Registering**' or an '**Expression of Interest**' form from the back of the Church. Registrations with the Diocese close 31st March.

JOURNEY OF THE CROSS & ICON (JCI)

The WYD Cross & Icon will be at St Patrick's on Thursday 6th March.

BILLETING FOR WYD DAYS IN THE DIOCESE

If you are able to provide accommodation for young people coming from Europe in July 2008 for the days in the diocese, please fill in a billeting form from the back of the church.

For more information on WYD, Registering, Journey of the Cross & Icon and Billeting, please see the WYD Notice Board at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email mizmim@gmail.com

ST PATRICK'S PRAYER GROUP

St Patrick's Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 8.00pm. For details contact Kath: 6021 3821 or Maree: 6021 4533. All welcome.

ST PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP

First Sunday of every month after 5.30pm Mass in St Patrick's Hall. For ages 12+. Dinner provided. For more information please see the poster at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email: mizmim@gmail.com

SNIPPET

The water that Jesus is offering is the love pouring out from his heart, from the wells of salvation, quenching our thirst for God and cleansing us. (Michael Fallon, MSC)