

Sunday Readings

Year A

First Reading - Ex 17:3-7; A reading from the book of Exodus

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?'

Second Reading - Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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 - Jn 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42; A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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 worshiper 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.'

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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Office Hours : Tuesday—Friday (9.00am to 2.00pm)



A house of welcome to all and a place of service to all

3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A

March 19, 2017

Breaking taboos

Over the next couple of weeks, we move from the Gospel of Matthew to the Fourth Gospel. Often described as the "spiritual gospel," the Fourth Gospel presents Jesus' teachings in the form of long theologically-charged speeches or his many-levelled interactions with various characters representing key groups within first-century Roman Palestine.

Today's gospel is no exception. The dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria in this passage is among the most historically interesting and the most theologically profound in the New Testament. To astute readers of the gospels, this story comes as a surprise. One would not expect the Jewish Jesus to be found in conversation with an unaccompanied woman in public; and, more significantly, a woman from neighbouring Samaria; a territory and people with whom the Jewish community had a hostile relationship.

Samaritans shared with their Jewish neighbours a common ancestry and a common faith in God (YHWH). But they were considered ethnically and religiously tarnished because they had intermarried with foreigners and adopted aspects of pagan worship into their religious practice.

The story reflects something of this history. It indicates the Samaritan woman had 'many husbands' prior to her present partner. Typical of the Fourth Gospel, there are various levels of meaning here. On the one hand, the reference can be understood as an obvious allusion to the dubious ethnicity of the Samaritans. On the other hand, it

Weekly Mass Times:

Monday:	7.00 am	Tuesday:	5.30 pm	Wednesday:	8.00 am
Thursday:	7.00 am	Friday:	5.30 pm	Saturday:	8.30 am
Saturday:	Vigil 6.30 pm (Novena 6.00 pm)				
Sunday:	8.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am & 6.00 pm				

Reconciliation: Saturday: 11.00am - 12.00 noon and 5.00pm - 6.00pm



Fr. Phong Nguyen
Parish Priest



Fr. Garner Vargas
Assistant Priest



Fr. Thi Lan
Priest in Residence



Deacon Bruce
Parish Deacon

may be meant literally, indicating that the woman's irregular relationships had made her an outcast in her own community too.

Jesus breaks several social taboos in first speaking to the woman, and then sharing her drinking vessel. In the eyes of his fellow Jews, Jesus acted shamefully in speaking with the woman alone. And in drinking from the same cup he rendered himself ritually "unclean" – unfit to enter the precincts of the Temple and offer prayer to God.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple, even though she is neither a Jew nor a "respectable" member of her community. Nevertheless, she returns to her town. There, she proclaims the gospel and succeeds in leading others to Jesus.

There are at least two lessons to be learned from this passage. First, there is nothing that we have done in our past or in our present situation that prevents us from finding God in our lives. Second, genuine Christian communities must be open and welcoming. Christianity is meant to be counter-cultural. It cuts across all conventional boundaries that separate people, communities and nations from each other. But such boundaries do not separate us from God, who loves us all unconditionally and is open to give us a second chance. More importantly, there is nothing in our past that should prevent us from proclaiming the gospel, especially to those closest to us: our family, friends and neighbours.

Ian Elmer

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Baptisms:

We welcome Asher Jacob Yeo into our Parish Community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Deaths: Please pray for Sheila Winnett who passed away recently.

Anniversaries:

Please pray for Jacob Alexander Dutton, Sheila O'Ryan, Eliza Alex, whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

for 26TH MARCH

NEXT WEEK					
Bulletin:	George Lopez				
Flowers:	Diana Puspa				
Counter:	1. S Lau	2. B Galpo	3. A Chong		
	Saturday 6.30pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 11.00am	Sunday 6.00pm
Greeters	J Santosa J Standing	J Hidajat M Ivanac	E Orr R Sinagra	Y Wangdra C Wibisono	J Murphy E Ring
Acolytes	D Morais	P McManus	M Bragansa	T Roper	S Carrello
Altar Servers	L Apango C Budiman K Chapman	L Cherry O Mapfumo	A Royal D Phoon S Ratnasing	J Pinto Yan Ni Sng L Sanchez	A Gan K Tanr J Radici
Special Minister	J Doss S Fuderer K Gamba G Garreffa C Lasrado D Liew L Morzenti A Mourad V Ng	C A Norris R Norris C Price P Price J Sciorilli M Woolford C Cox B D' Cruz	M McFarlane L McMinn P McMinn G Mo J Moeljadi J Moeljadi C Nonis M Murray	J Roper S Saverimut C Tan G Tedjakunt R Triuntari L Yeo R Yeo R D'Annunzi O D' Mello	D Talbot M Talbot C J S Tan M J Tan C Tan J Tan C Wijaya Y Yustira
Catechists	(Yr 1 - 3) Ira Kusnadi (Yr 4 - 6) C Adams		(Yr 1 - 3) S Fuderer (Yr 4 - 6) C Plottke		
Readers	A Fernandes M Doray	L Gabriel J Gallimore	S Hart Jo Hicks	E Yustira A Gunawan	C Talbot A Taylor
Readers Coordinator:	Michele Doray		9310 4051		
Piety stall	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Safeguarding Officer:	Fatima Basilio (fatima.safeguarding@gmail.com)				

MORE CARE

Do you need help or know someone who does?

† Geraldine	9332 8795	(Visiting)
† Monica	9364 9358	(Meals)
† Caroline	9313 5452	(Transport/Meals)
† Silvia	9417 7131	(Transport)
† Juliana	9310 1747	(General-office hrs)

Rose Garden
March 2017

Section A
Craig Mdiver

Section B
Robyn Guyton

Youth

GODSQUAD Teens Group on Friday 24th March

The next GODSQUAD will be on Friday 24th March from 7pm - 8:45pm in the church hall. So if you're in years 7-12 come down and be sure to bring along any friends that might be interested to.

Young Adults Program

For those of you who are 18+ and have finished high school we'll be starting our young adults Theology of the Body program **starting on Sunday 12th of March**. The cost of the program will be \$25 and it will be **running fortnightly on Sundays from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM**. A meal will also be provided after for a small donation of \$5. It is a great way to meet young people like yourselves in the community. So be sure to spread the word to others who might be interested. For more information on this please contact our youth leaders via email youth@batemancatholic.org

DIOCESAN NOTICES

CYM MASS AND HOLY HOUR EVERY WEDNESDAY

Come and join us in prayer on Wednesday night with mass at 5:30 PM, Holy Hour (Adoration 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM) and dinner after (\$5 donation) with other young Catholics. At the **Catholic Pastoral Centre on 40A Mary Street, Highgate (entrance from Harold Street)**

For further inquiries about the St Thomas More Youth Ministry please don't hesitate to contact our youth leaders Bronagh and Brien via email at youth@batemancatholic.org

CYM Young Adults Retreat

Need some time away to rest, reflect, and grow closer to God? Join other young adults for a weekend away reflecting on the Easter theme, "Christ is Risen". The retreat run by Catholic Youth Ministry includes inspirational talks, music, prayer, mass, discussion, meals and accommodation!

Who: Adults aged 18-35.

When: 6:30pm Friday 21st April – 1:30pm Sunday 23rd April.

Where: Eagles Nest Retreat Centre, Gidgegannup.

Cost: \$130. To register (before April 7th)

for info: cym.com.au | 9422 7912 | admin@cym.com.au

Parish News

"A Lenten Journey"- continues on Wednesday 22 Mar at 9am

In this week's session of the video series "A Lenten Journey" we focus on the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. In his presentation, entitled God Sees Into the Heart, theologian Fr Michael Himes, expands on the theme of light and darkness. We learn how God sees into the heart with the unlikely choice of David for king and we will hear a vivid description of the Easter Vigil in the early Church, when people literally stumbled through the darkness to receive the light of Christ

When/Where: Wed 22 Mar 9 – 10am Place: Meeting room next to Parish office

Next week, Wed 29 Mar: The Lenten video program continues with the topic Endless Possibilities, based on the readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Same place and time.

Enquiries: Carolin 0432 855 605 / Su 0413 560 033

Seniors Mass and Morning Tea—Wednesday 22nd March

Our first Seniors gathering for 2017 will be Mass and Morning Tea on Wednesday, 22nd March at 10.30am. Please bring a plate of goodies to contribute to the morning tea.

Lenten Reflections—Wednesday 22nd March

The Lenten Reflection Program will be held over 5 weeks and continues this Wednesday.

Date: Wednesdays 22nd and 29th March 2017

Time: 7.00-8.15pm

Place: Bateman Parish Hall

Coffee and tea will be provided after each session. Come and help us build a vibrant and faith-filled community.

St Thomas More Parish Religious Education After School Program

Bateman Parish runs an after school program for both primary and high school students on Wednesdays from 4pm-5pm (school terms).

Enrolments are now being accepted for **high school students** who may not have celebrated all of their age relevant Sacraments. High School classes commence on 3rd of May. Enrolments will close 17th May.

Please contact Jenny Figliomeni on 93101747 (Tuesdays/Wednesdays 9am-5pm) or 0435896399 at other times, to enquire or enrol.

SVDP CAKE STALL

St Vincent de Paul cake sale is on 26th March from 9am, 10.30am and 12noon. Please support this worthy cause by donating cakes and savouries. For further enquiries contact Juliana (secretary) on 9310 1747

Second Rite of Reconciliation at neighbouring parishes

Canning Vale	Tuesday 28 th March,	7.00pm
Willetton	Wednesday 29 th March,	7.00pm
Bateman	Thursday 30th March,	7.30pm
Applecross	Tuesday 4 th April,	7.00pm
Langford	Tuesday 4 th April,	7.30pm
Attadale	Wednesday 5 th April,	7.30pm
Manning	Friday 7 th April,	7.00pm

Parish News (continued)

Dear Parishioners,

At the last Parish AGM, a proposal was put forward to change Mass times, which mostly affect the current Masses during the week. Having further discussed this matter with the Pastoral Parish Council, I would like to hold a process of consultation by asking for your comments and/or suggestions on the proposal to change Mass times. For your information, the table below has a list of current and proposed Mass times:

Day of the week	Current Mass times	Proposed Mass times
Monday	7.00am	9.00am
Tuesday	5.30pm	6.00pm
Wednesday	8.00am	9.00am
Thursday	7.00am	9.00am
Friday	5.30pm	6.00pm
Saturday morning	8.30am	9.00am
Saturday evening (Vigil)	6.30pm	6.00pm

The reasons for the change of Mass times are:

- The new Mass times are more consistent and will be easier for parishioners to remember. There will no longer be a need to change Mass times for public holidays on an ad hoc basis.
- The times for morning Masses will encourage more parents to attend after they drop-off their children at school. It is also to encourage children from the school to attend daily Mass on a weekly basis.
- It will be easier for retirees and senior parishioners to follow their routine and attend Mass at a later time in the morning.
- It will be advantageous for the senior parishioners to attend the Saturday Vigil Mass from 6.00pm in winter and not have to worry about going out to the car park in the dark.
- Parishioners who work will find 6:00pm a more convenient time on Tuesday and Friday evenings to attend Mass.

Please write your comments on a slip of paper available in the Church Foyer and place it in the wooden box labeled "Your comments/suggestions on Mass times". The closing date for comments will be **Tuesday 28th March 2017**. Your participation in this consultation process is important and will assist members of the Parish Council to be better informed in their deliberation and decision. Thank you! Fr. Phong Nguyen

Diocesan Notices

2019 YIDARRA 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

A reminder that an application for enrolment form should be lodged at Yidarra no later than FRIDAY 7 APRIL 2017.

Kindergarten classes operate on 3 full days per week on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 8.55am-2.45pm. To be eligible for Kindergarten 2017, your child's birthday must fall between 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015.

An application form and enrolment information package may be collected from the Yidarra office between 8am-4pm Monday-Friday, or you may download a copy from New families please note: A Parish Priest Reference is required as part of the enrolment process.

NB: SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN AT YIDARRA

An application for enrolment form still needs to be lodged at the school, even though you have other children already at Yidarra.

Our website: web.yidarra.wa.edu.au.

CATHOLIC FAITH RENEWAL

We are pleased to inform you that Fr Gino will be presenting a two day live-in weekend retreat on Friday, 12 May (8.30pm) - Sunday, 14 May (5.00pm).

Venue will be Advent Park—345 Kalamunda Rd, Maida Vale, WA, 6057

Details and registration will be available at a later date. Please keep these dates free for you to attend this retreat

PRAYING OUR EXPERIENCES – growing awareness of God in my everyday

This focused prayer and contemplation time is assisted with talks on a theme, followed by personal time in the chapel or garden. Optional sharing of one's faith with others on the journey, adds to the richness of this experience.

Theme: Mid-Lent/life and washing feet. As we journey deeper into Lent, we reflect on our own journey thus far, and in particular the interior disposition and act of washing feet.

When: Friday 31st March 2017 **RSVP Essential by Tuesday 28th**

Time: 10.30am -12.00noon and repeated 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Contact: (08) 9334 0999 Email: prayingourexperiences@gmail.com

Venue: Mary MacKillop Centre, 16 York Street, South Perth

SOUTHERN CROSS SOCCER TOURNAMENT

A one-day soccer tournament for Catholic youth and young adults is back for its 4th year.

Saturday 1st April, John XXIII College, Mt Claremont, ages 15-35, teams 6-8, \$10/player.

Many prizes up for grabs. www.southerncross.soccer for registration and info.



Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation offers Uncle Richard and other former Stolen Generations survivors the chance to heal after a childhood of suffering, and manage the intergenerational effects of their pain.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help members of the Stolen Generations support each other on the journey to wellbeing.



You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

