



SUNDAY 8TH MARCH, 2026.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel - (John 4:5-42)

Those privileged to act as catechists in the RCIA (Right of Christian Initiation of Adults) program over the Lenten period are exploring with candidates some of our most treasured Gospel stories.

In 1963, Vatican II's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* called for the restoration of certain early Church practices. The two main features of Lent, baptism and penance, were to be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. More use was to be made of the baptismal elements proper to the Lenten liturgy. Some features that were part of an earlier tradition were to be restored.

In response to this call, John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus were moved from the weekday to the Sunday liturgy. Thus, three weeks into Lent, the liturgy invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group.

A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. She responds, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"

This response provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the Gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as Messiah/the Christos and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people.

Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she is said to have had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner: there is nothing in the text to support this

position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The "husbands" may refer to the strange gods, five in number, that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus on this among scholars.

At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her, a woman, for water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. She takes the risk of sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and with Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world. She becomes both disciple and missionary prophet.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for the sick of the parish, especially **Anne Kennedy**. We pray for **Teresa Lapiejko** and **Fr. Patrick Maloney** who died recently and for **Marie Kearney, Vlad & Vadimir Vranic and Milan Pernar** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

May they rest in peace.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI

On the third Sunday of Lent, 7 and 8 March, Archbishop Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The Synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening church'. There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern: **young discipleship, missionary leadership and formation and participation**. The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026.

Copies of the Pastoral Letter are available in the churches for parishioners to take home.

First Reading: Exodus 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?'

The Word of the Lord. (R). Thanks be to God.

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

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

1. 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.)**
2. 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.)**
3. 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

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. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: 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 4:4-5, 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' said the woman. '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 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.
(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.*

Communion Antiphon: John 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.

This week, **Project Compassion** shares with us the story of Monoranjon, a farmer in Bangladesh whose family has been deeply impacted by environmental damage, specifically salination of soil and water. This beautiful story reminds us of the importance of meeting people, as Jesus did, at their place of greatest need. During Lent, we are also called to make a difference by uniting against poverty and donating to Project Compassion. Boxes and envelopes are available in each of the churches during Lent.

TAIZE PRAYER

Where: St. Augustine's Church Yarraville
When: Wednesday 18th March 2026. Prayer will begin at 7.30pm and last 45 minutes to an hour. Supper will be provided afterwards. We are invited to pray through silence, scripture readings, quiet music and chants composed by the brothers of Taize.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

5.30pm Tuesdays St. Augustine's
6.00pm Fridays Corpus Christi, in Vietnamese

Take the Way of the Gospel:

A framework and process for renewal.

Vibrant, Vital, Viable

The **Viable Parish** dimension of renewal framework focuses on the faithful and effective stewardship of resources in service of proclaiming the Gospel.

Viable parishes have the financial, human, and property assets needed to support their shared vision and mission. They are able to mobilise these resources wisely and strategically. They develop sustainable income streams that allow them to grow their mission and to maintain buildings that support parish life and ministry. Through diverse and reliable sources of income, they are able to serve their local communities in a sustainable way.

They also recognise that stewardship extends beyond their own boundaries. Viable parishes generously share their spiritual, ministerial, and material resources for the good of the wider Archdiocese.

As Jesus reminds his followers:

"Which one of you, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough to complete it?" (Lk 14:28).

The three focus areas of viability are:

- **Financial sustainability**
- **Capable and effective teams**
- **Optimal use of land and property**

The Archdiocesan Stewardship Team is available to support parishes in developing efficient and effective management practices.

During Lent we invite you to gather in groups to listen to each other as we share the stories of our Parish communities:

- **Who we have been** – sharing the rich history of our faith communities and our connection to them.
- **Who we are** – sharing about what's working to support us in faith and community life. What do we want to hold on to or continue? What could we let go of?

You are invited to attend **any one of the gatherings** below that suits you. The gatherings are not specific for that church

- **(After Mass) Sunday 22 March,
Annunciation Church, 8.30-9.15am**
- **(After Mass) Tuesday 24 March,
St. Augustine's Church, 6.30 – 7.45pm**
- **Wednesday 25th March,
Corpus Christi Church, 6.30-7.45pm**

LENTEN REFLECTION EVENINGS

**Thursdays in Lent at the Presbytery at St. Augustine's
7pm start for about an hour.**

MARY MAGDALENE – THE MUSICAL

Fri & Sat 13-14 March 7pm; Sat & Sun 14-15 March 1pm

Where: at Renaissance Theatre, High Street Kew.

Tickets: trybooking.com/DHZPD. An uplifting Lenten production retelling the journey of Mary Magdalene through music and story by COG Theatre Group.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

LITURGY TIMES**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS

THE FIRST COLLECTION supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTON (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:
BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:
BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:
BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

TAP AND GO CONTACTLESS**DONATION TERMINALS**

in the foyers of the churches.

Follow the prompts and choose your nominated amount to donate.

Codes for one off donations via credit card

Unique to the Parish of St. Augustine's



Unique to the Parish of Corpus Christi

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK(7th & 8th March 2026)**3rd Sunday of Lent A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Greg Buhagiar

9.30am Pat McLaughlin

Sam Polzella

READERS: Corpus Christi

11.00am Natasha Fernandes

Imelda Gibson

Counting Team:..... John Ryan**MINISTERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm..... Maree Ryan

9.30am..... Gerald Bain-King

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Khanh Nguyen

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK(14th & 15th March 2026)**4th Sunday of Lent A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Nic Fusca

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Anna Messina

READERS: Corpus Christi

11.00am Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

Counting Team: ...Phillip Marques**MINISTERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm..... Greg Buhagiar

9.30am..... Pina Guzzardi

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Joe Fusca

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office. www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements