

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

First Reading Ex 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

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

(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 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

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 shorter form

Jn 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

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.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

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ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PARISH, KILMORE

Parish Administrator: Rev. Fr. Anh Nguyen
Pastoral Worker: Sr. Yen (Anne) Phung LHC

Phone: 03 5782 1084

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri | 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

(Emails or calls outside of office hours will be attended to when we are next in the office.)

Parish Secretary: Caterina Bosevski

Bookkeeper: Lorraine Nagle

Email: kilmore@cam.org.au

Website: www.melbcatholic.org/s/kilmore



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

8 MARCH 2026

Parish Sacramental Program 2026

First Reconciliation

Information day: Friday April 24th, 2026 at 4 pm.

Classes: will be held in the church from 4 pm to 5 pm on the Friday afternoon of the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th of May & 5th, 12th, 19th of June 2026.

Celebration: will be held at St. Patrick's church on Friday June 26th, 4:30 pm.

Confirmation:

Information day: Friday July 17th, 2026 at 4 pm

Classes: will be held in the church from 4 pm to 5 pm on the Friday afternoon of the 24th, 31st of July, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th of August, 4th, 11th of September.

Celebration: will be held at St. Patrick's church on Saturday September 12th, 2026 at 12:30 pm & 2:30 pm.

First Holy Communion:

Information day: Friday October 9th, 2026 at 4 pm

Classes: will be held in the church from 4 pm to 5 pm on the Friday afternoon of the 16th, 23rd, 30th of October, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th of November, 4th of December.

Celebration: will be held at St. Patrick's church: Sunday December 6th, 10:45 am.

Please contact the parish office if you wish to enrol your child into our sacramental program in 2026, by emailing: kilmore@cam.org.au

Vocations office update: We had 3 new seminarians enter Corpus Christi this year:

George Becerra, Luke Rochford and Ambrose Meehan. **Please keep them in your prayers.**



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**Third Sunday of Lent
7–8 March 2026**

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS: Pauline Duff, Brian O'Dwyer, Ben Boyd, and Laura Garland (Northern Region, Safeguarding Unit).

kilmore@cam.org.au or Laura.Garland@cam.org.au

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH OPEN DAYS: Please note that St Patrick's Church will be open from 9.30am to 2.30pm on Monday, Wednesday & Friday, for private prayer.

CHURCHES

St. Patrick's, Kilmore

Our Lady Help of Christians, Broadford

Our Lady of the Way, Wallan

St. Michael's, Wandong

SUNDAY MASSES

Sat (Vigil) 5 pm, Broadford

6.30 pm, Kilmore

Sun 8.45 am, Wallan

10.45 am, Kilmore

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue, Thu-Sat 9 am, Kilmore

Wed 9 am, Wallan

(Please note: out of school terms,
Wednesday Mass will be at Kilmore)

CONFESSION

8.15am, Tuesday to Saturday before
9am morning Mass

DEVOTIONS

Adoration & Benediction

Thu 9.30 am, Kilmore

Divine Mercy Chaplet

15 minutes prior to
each weekday Mass, Kilmore

Rosary

after each weekday Mass, and
Sunday 8.20 am (Wallan) & 10.20 am
(Kilmore)

DONATE

To support our Parish
and Priests, scan the QR
code with your phone
camera to donate.



First Collection (Presbytery Support)

Presbytery Account

BSB 083 347 | ACC 684 632 382

Second Collection (Church Support)

Church Account

BSB 083 347 | ACC 672 646 971

**St. Patrick's Parish is committed to
safeguarding the safety, wellbeing,
and dignity of children, young
people, and adults.**

PARISH DIARY

Sat, 7 Mar : SATURDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's
11 am Baptisms, Our Lady of the Way
5 pm Vigil Mass, Our Lady Help of Christians
6.30 pm Vigil Mass, St. Patrick's

Sun 8 Mar: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8.45 am Mass, Our Lady of the Way
10.45 am Mass, St. Patrick's

Mon, 9 Mar: MONDAY OF THE 3RD WEEK OF LENT

NO MASS

Tue, 10 Mar: TUESDAY OF THE 3RD WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's

Wed, 11 Mar: WEDNESDAY OF THE 3RD WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, Our Lady of the Way
11 am Funeral of Harry Purcell, St Pat's
RCIA Session 17 (7.30 pm, St. Patrick's Church)

Thu, 12 Mar: THURSDAY OF THE 3RD WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's

Fri, 13 Mar: FRIDAY OF THE 3RD WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's
5 pm Parish Council Meeting (Parish Office)
7 pm Stations of the Cross (Kilmore & Wallan)

Sat, 14 Mar : SATURDAY OF THE 3RD WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's
5 pm Vigil Mass, Our Lady Help of Christians
6.30 pm Vigil Mass, St. Patrick's

Sun 15 Mar: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8.45 am Mass, Our Lady of the Way
10.45 am Mass, St. Patrick's
12 noon Baptisms, St. Patrick's

ROSARY @ KATE'S HOME

Next Rosary will be held on Wednesday, 11th March, at 1 pm.
All welcome! (12 Andrew Street, Kilmore)



Stations of the Cross will be held in the church at Kilmore and Wallan at 7 pm, each Friday during Lent.

(Confessions at Wallan Friday 13/3/2026 at 6pm)



On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A 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' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- Young discipleship
- Missionary leadership
- Formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

In the synodal Church 'the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions (ITC 68) for mission' (Final Document, §87).

VOLUNTEER ROSTERS:

	<u>7/8 Mar</u>	<u>14/15 Mar</u>
BROADFORD 5pm (Sat):	7 Mar	31 May
Reader	J Dixon	E. Leahy
EMHC	A. Putker	A. Leahy
KILMORE 6.30pm (Sat):	7 Mar	31 May
Reader	R. Emmanuel	J. O'Callaghan
EMHC	C. Clancy	M. Fleischmann
PowerPoint	P. Duff	P. Duff
WALLAN 8.45am (Sun):	8 Mar	1 Jun
Reader	C. Quinn	C. Banon
EMHC	A. Moore	J. Sapiano
EMHC	C. Banon	M. Hoban
PowerPoint	F. Thompson	R. Quinn
KILMORE 10.45am (Sun):	8 Mar	1 Jun
Reader	A. Matthew	C. Edulan
EMHC	A. Liddle	C. Mathew
PowerPoint	K. Curry	W. Reece
FLOWERS:	J. Jain	M. Fleischmann
HOME EUCHARIST:	H. Clancy	J. Dixon
	P. Duff	M. Donovan
CLEANERS KILMORE:	L. Beaumont	G. Kim
	C. Eid	N/A

LET US PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Recently Deceased

Henry (Harry) Joseph Purcell, Yvonne Laffan & Camilla Banon

Anniversaries

Ern Best, Elizabeth Douglas, Joan Lawler, Graham Alexander Reeves, Thomas Rodda, James Jones, Guenter Siebold, Claire Moore, Eleanor Molan, Jean Clark, Bryan Rodda, Vinko Rostan, William Barry Gilbo, Frances O'Connor, Patrick John Scully, Annie Nugent, Muriel Mavro and all anniversaries which occur at this time.

The Sick

Fr Prakash Cutinha, Pina D'Agostino, Theo Aitchison, Julie Ahearn, Bernadette McWhinney, Pa'i Su'a, Daisy Aguinaldo, Liam Heffernan, Nancy Ryan, Joan O'Brien and all people who are in need of our prayers.

PLEASE NOTE: Names in the sick list will remain there for 4 weeks. If you wish for that person to continue to be prayed for, please advise the parish office again. If you are submitting the name of someone other than yourself and family, please obtain their permission.

St. Patrick's Parish is a Child Safe Environment. All children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.