



PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST DYMPNA

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Parish Newsletter - Third Sunday of Lent Year A - 15 March 2020

Holy days of Obligation: In Australia we have the Feast of the Assumption (15 August) and Christmas Day (25 December).



Exod 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42 We all know how refreshing a glass of cold water is on a hot day. We also know these days, because it is on so many television shows, that water has a lot of health benefits as well. It maintains our fluid balance, helps control our kilojoule intake, gives energy to our muscles, keeps our skin clear, our kidneys functioning properly, prevents cramp and muscle ache, promotes clearer thinking, etc. Water is key to life.

Yet, fizzy soft drinks are more popular than water. Tea and coffee and alcohol are always popular thirst quenchers, and we know that they all have negative consequences when we consume them. Not everything we drink is good for us. Today's scriptural passages speak of the human thirst for life and how that thirst is met.

The people of Israel, we are told, after they had fled Egypt, wandered in the desert for forty years before they reached their ancestral home, the Promised Land. There are at least two things going on in this Exodus account just proclaimed. On the one hand, the people are thirsty; in fact they are tormented by thirst in the desert. God provides life-giving water for them. On the other hand, the people complain and grumble about being thirsty in the desert. As the psalm said, at Meribah and Massah their hearts hardened in the desert and they put God to the test. Even though God had liberated them from slavery in Egypt, this was not enough: they wanted more. I think we can say it is okay to want more, but the people of Israel questioned the gift of freedom God had given them through Moses. When they said they would have been better off staying in Egypt rather than being led by God through the desert, they were rejecting, or at least doubting, the gift of new life God was offering.

The Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, or the well of Shechem, also wants more out of life. In her dialogue with Jesus she begins to realise that she is thirsty for meaning in her life, thirsty for fulfilment, thirsty for satisfaction, and that she had not yet found it. The story, found only in John's Gospel, tells us she had been married and divorced many times; she had drunk the fizzy soft drink, the tea and coffee, the alcohol of life, but had not discovered the one thing that would benefit her: living water. Marriage can be a way of finding fulfilment and a way of finding God, but it had not worked that way for her. But rather than grumble about the failures of her life, this woman—this foreign woman, let us not forget—remained opened to promise. When Jesus offers her living water, she is ready to say yes to that.

Not only was the Samaritan woman thirsty, but Jesus was thirsty too. This is the part of the story we probably do not think much about, but St Augustine of Hippo did when he preached on this passage about 1600 years ago. He said, 'Yet in asking her for a drink, he was really thirsting for that woman's faith'. Augustine continued, 'He asks for a drink and he promises a drink. He is in need and wants to receive; he is rich and wants to satisfy the needs of others'. [Footnote: *In Euangelium Iohannis Tractatus 15. The excerpts from the translations of Augustine's homilies on the Gospel of John come from Augustine, Homilies on the Gospel of John, trans. Edmund Hill, in The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century, part III/12 (New York: New City Press, and Augustinian Heritage Institute, 2009).*]

What God is offering this woman through Jesus, according to Augustine, is the Holy Spirit. He asks her for her faith and she offers it to him by recognising him as the messiah. She runs to share this discovery with the rest of her village. Faith is not just for personal benefit: it is to be shared. As Augustine reminds us, 'She is a symbol of the Church not yet justified, but about to be justified, for this is the drift of their conversation'. She is also a symbol of those preparing for initiation. Jesus asks them to give him their faith and in return he gives them his body and blood as nourishment for a life that is full of meaning and satisfaction.

We are thankful today for the God who has given us living water in baptism to quench our thirst and give our lives true purpose, we are thankful for Jesus who breaks down all the barriers that divide us and reaches out to us in our need, we are thankful for the Spirit who fills us with faith.

Excerpt from *Liturgia.com.au* Geoffrey D Dunn

Liturgy of the Word

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 94:1-2,6-9

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

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42

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!

Acclamation of Faith:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross
and Resurrection you have set us free.

Prayer Requests



We give praise and thanks for blessings given and prayers answered. We pray for all our family members, parishioners and benefactors who are in need of prayer and for all those who are facing difficult times. We pray for them and for those who have asked for our prayers.

CONDOLENCE: Our prayers and thoughts are with those who are mourning the death of loved ones. Especially:

- **Emeritus Archbishop John Bathersby, Dorothy, Charles and Greg Lennon, Father Gary Russell, Anthony D'Sousa, Phillip D'Souza, John Mascarenhas, Maria Mascarenhas, Marie Lillian Scanlan and Raymond Viera.**

If you would like the parish to pray for and have someone's name listed in our prayers each week, Mass Intention envelopes can be collected at the Church or from the Parish office.



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**Celebration of the Feast of
Saint Dymphna**

**Sunday 17th May 9.00am
Mass followed by
celebration.**

Lenten Activities



Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church every Friday evening (excluding Good Friday) from 7 pm from the 28 February 2020. If you are unable to attend the Stations of the Cross with other members of our Parish family, you may wish to consider praying the Stations 'online' using your computer or mobile device. Simply log on to <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/station.php> Each station is accompanied by a short three-minute video and prayers.

RECONCILIATION DURING LENT

 Reconciliation	Friday	7.00am - 7.30am
	Saturday	8.30am - 9.00am
5.00pm - 5.30pm		

Please Note: No Reconciliation on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday.

Sacrament of Penance Update

**3RD SUNDAY OF
LENT:**

PENANCE PROGRAM



This weekend twenty-four children received the Sacrament of Penance. The reception of Penance for the first time is usually celebrated in the Lenten Season which is in keeping with the liturgical penitential season. Throughout these weeks, parents and children have reflected on how they have lived their daily lives in the light of God's love for them. Thank you to all who have shown an interest in the children's preparation at this time.

First Holy Communion Enrolments Open Now

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM



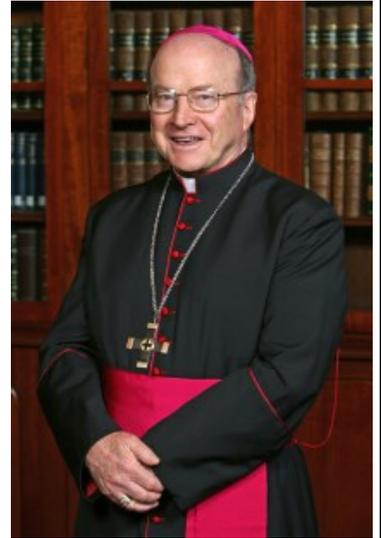
Enrolments for First Holy Communion are open on the [parish website](http://www.ourladyandstdympnaparish.com):

<http://www.ourladyandstdympnaparish.com/holy-communion.html>

OPEN NOW and
CLOSES on Friday 27th April at 5pm.
(No enrolments will be taken after this time)

FUNERAL DETAILS FOR RETIRED ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE, JOHN BATHERSBY 1936 - 2020

The retired Archbishop of Brisbane, John Bathersby, died on Monday March 9, following a recent stroke. Archbishop John led the Archdiocese from 1991 until 2011, retiring upon reaching 75 years of age. With his passing, we recall with gratitude the episcopal ministry of our sixth bishop which was characterised by a deep desire to know and love Jesus and to share this with all. It is also a time of thanksgiving as now he is released from the debilitating illness that has been with him in these latter years. The liturgies that will usher Archbishop John into eternal life are being held at the Cathedral with a Funeral Vigil Liturgy at 5.00pm on Sunday March 15, Morning Prayer for the Dead in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Cathedral at 8 am on Monday morning, and a Solemn Funeral Mass and Rite of Committal at 11.00am on Monday (n.b no public parking available on this business weekday). A number of tributes will be offered at the Sunday night Vigil. Webcasts of the Vigil and the Mass can be watched live at www.archbne.org/bzw



ASPLEYCARE Thursday Outing

Reminder for all Thursday outing drivers and food volunteers for **Thursday 19 March**. Contact Roger on 3263 3458.

CHRISM MASS - Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites you to the Annual Chrism Mass to be held in the **Cathedral of St Stephen on Thursday 2nd April 2020 commencing at 7.00pm**. This is a celebration for the entire Archdiocese and all are welcome.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID19) LATEST - The Archdiocese of Brisbane provides the latest updates and advice from the Queensland Government on the Coronavirus at archbne.org/zhz

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Third Sunday of Lent
15th March 2020

Caritas
AUSTRALIA

Barry grew up in a tough environment. With the support of a program from Caritas Australia's partner, Red Dust Healing, Barry has overcome many of life's challenges. He is now an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help vulnerable people like Barry, so that they are empowered to assist members of their communities in Australia.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Next week liturgy

Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,1--13

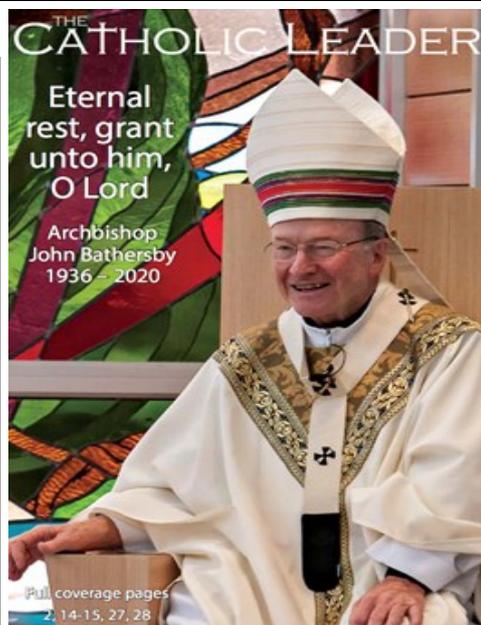
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22
The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians
5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-14

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



Dympna's Diary

Sun	15	Third Sunday of Lent
Mon	16	
Tues	17	St Patrick, bishop
Wed	18	Collect of Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor
Thurs	19	St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Fri	20	
Sat	21	
Sun	22	Fourth Sunday of Lent

Date Claimers: Sunday 17 May Celebrations of the Feast of Saint Dympna 9.30am Mass

Mass Times and Services

Weekend Mass		Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:	
Saturday	6.00pm	Exposition held after Mass Friday 7am - 9.00am All are invited to join this devotion.	
Sunday	7.00am, 9.00am & 5.00pm		
Weekday Mass		Reconciliation	
Mon, Tue, Wed and Friday	6.30am NO Thursday Mass	Saturday (excluding Holy Saturday)	5pm-5.30pm
Exceptions		Baptism	
Saturday and Public Holidays	8.00am	Infant Baptism: 2nd & 4th Sunday after 9am Mass Baptism preparation: 3rd Saturday 10.30am	

Rosters

Notice to Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Altar Servers

Our Parish Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Altar Servers perform an important role in the celebration of the Mass. In order to ensure that we have sufficient numbers of these ministries available for Mass on weekends, please ensure that if you are rostered for any of these ministries, you inform the Mass Coordinator for the relevant Mass of your arrival at **least 10 minutes** before Mass commences.

22/21 March	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Ministers of the Word	Altar Servers	Laptop Operator	Music Ministry
6.00 p.m. Mass in anticipation of Sunday	S. Hughes (B)	First Reading I. Dove Second Reading S. Cuaycong Prayers of the Faithful F. Xavier	S. Stevens Volunteer	Volunteer please	Judith Di
7.00 a.m. Mass	H. Hollamby (B)	First Reading D. Francis Second Reading J. Mascarenhas Prayers of the Faithful G. Bortuzzo	J. Colebourne	M. Blight	Claude and Sylvester
9.00 a.m. Mass	S. Lopez (B) G. Webley C. Heskett	First Reading J. Frayne Second Reading L. George Prayers of the Faithful J. Ferris	J. Mascarenas	Volunteer please	Yvonne Suzan
5.00 p.m. Mass	K. O'Donnell (B)	Children's Mass	F. Paul J. Paul	School Mass	School Mass
Children Liturgy: TBA 2020	Cleaning Church: 20 March Savio and Jinella 27 March Nigel Hughes and Volunteer 4 April D. Francis 10 April Volunteer	Counters 15 Mar B. Donohue R. Meekcoms T. Gillam M. Hopewell L. Junker	Counters 22 Mar A. Dunn N. Dunn R. Heskett D. Salvati	IN FAITH AND HOPE AND LOVE SHEPHER ME O GOD THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD GO NOW YOUR ARE SENT FORTH	

Weekly Offerings 8 March 2020

Collections During Mass : \$2908.00 Direct Deposit at Bank: \$ 493.00 Total Income : \$3401.00