

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Third Sunday in Lent (Year A)

8 March 2026

readings

Next Week
4th Sunday of Lent

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Ps 22

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41

in a nutshell

The water of Life. Jesus is the saviour of the world. In today's Gospel he offers the water of life to a Samaritan woman who, in turn, becomes the first missionary of Jesus. She hurries to tell the people of the town about him. We, who have received the life of God in baptism, are also called to be missionaries by inviting others to come and see Jesus.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, And For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Stations of the Cross celebrated every Friday during Lent at 6pm at Mount Evelyn

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

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

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.)

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.)

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.)

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!

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the
water I shall give will become in him a spring
welling up to eternal life.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours
Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass
Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass
Wednesday—9:00am
First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation
Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm
Mount Evelyn: Saturday
11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition
Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings
Please contact the office

Baptisms
Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

St Josephs
Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:
www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday
mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Meetings: April 8
6:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

Convocation of the Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne

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). The Archbishop's letter is available in the foyer.

Stations of the Cross During Lent 6pm (Mount Evelyn)

We will be praying the Stations of the Cross at St Mary's every Friday during Lent. Please come and pray this traditional devotion following the path of our Lord to Calvary. Jesus said to St Faustina: There is more merit to one hour of meditation on My sorrowful Passion than there is to a whole year of flagellation that draws blood; the contemplation of My painful wounds is of great profit to you, and it brings Me great joy. Mount Evelyn: 6:00 pm.

Lenten Bible Study: Images of Hope (Mount Evelyn)

Come and join us for a Lenten Bible Study on Wednesdays in Lent concluding Wednesday, 25 March. Bring your Bible! Bible passages we will study:

1. Binding of Isaac: Gen 22.1-19 (cf. Mt 26.36-46)
2. Ecce Homo: Jn 18.38-19.6 (cf. Is 52.13-53.12)
3. My God, My God: Mt 27.32-56 (cf. Ps 22)
4. There came out blood and water: Jn 19.17-37 (cf. Zech 12.10-13.1 & Gen 2.18-25)
5. Mary Magdalene (The Christian Life): Lk 7:36–8.2 & Jn 12:1–8 (cf. Lk 10:38–42 & Jn 20:11–18 & Mt 21.28-32)

Palms for Palm Sunday

Time to start thinking about palms for the weekend of March 28/29. Bring them with you to Masses that weekend for blessing. If you can bring extra to share with other parishioners that would be appreciated.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.

Confession: The season of Lent is a time of intense recollection concerning the state of our souls. The truth of who we are, what we have become, what we have done, what we have failed to do is necessary because without such a reckoning we would remain in that dark place of denial, and in that dark place, we would languish in misery. (Fr. Steve Grunow)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

International Eucharistic Congress 2028

Eucharist28 prayer cards are available in the foyer.

Stewardship Corner

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” JOHN 4:13

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

Project Compassion—Third Sunday of Lent

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 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*.

Interested in Spiritual Direction?

The Catholic Encyclopaedia defines Spiritual direction as an interpersonal relationship in which one person, a director, accompanies another on the journey of faith. Its form is a conversation around the events and concerns of the directee's life and prayer that focuses on the leading of the Spirit and the directee's openness, awareness and response to the mystery of God's presence and action in his or her life.

Volunteers for Spiritual Direction needed

My name is Mary Ryan, I am studying at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Croydon, which is part of the University of Divinity. I am doing a Spiritual Direction course and need volunteers to help me perfect my skills as a Spiritual Director. This would entail an 1 hour session, once a month free of charge to have a conversation. Anyone interested in helping can contact me on 0437101274. Thank you.

Easter Schedule — (Both Parishes)

Holy Thursday

NO 9am Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Yarra Junction 6pm, Mt Evelyn 8pm

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross: Yarra Junction 10:30, Mt Evelyn 9am

Passion of the Lord: Mt Evelyn 3pm

Easter Vigil

Yarra Junction 6pm, Mt Evelyn 8:30pm

Saturday Confessions Mt Evelyn 11:30am-12:30pm

Easter Sunday

Yarra Junction 8:30am, Mt Evelyn 10:30am & 5pm

Readings Reflection

Striking the Rock

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert.

Though they saw His mighty deeds, in their thirst they grumble and put God to the test in today's First Reading—a crisis point recalled also in today's Psalm.

Jesus is thirsty, too in today's Gospel. He thirsts for souls (see John 19:28). He longs to give the Samaritan woman the living waters that well up to eternal life.

These waters couldn't be drawn from the well of Jacob, father of the Israelites and the Samaritans. But Jesus was something greater than Jacob (see Luke 11:31–32).

The Samaritans were Israelites who escaped exile when Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom eight centuries before Christ (see 2 Kings 17:6, 24–41). They were despised for intermarrying with non-Israelites and worshipping at Mount Gerazim, not Jerusalem.

But Jesus tells the woman that the “hour” of true worship is coming, when all will worship God in Spirit and truth.

Jesus' “hour” is the “appointed time” that Paul speaks of in today's Epistle. It is the hour when the Rock of our salvation was struck on the Cross. Struck by the soldier's lance, living waters flowed out from our Rock (see John 19:34–37).

These waters are the Holy Spirit (see John 7:38–39), the gift of God (see Hebrews 6:4).

By the living waters the ancient enmities of Samaritans and Jews have been washed away, the dividing wall between Israel and the nations is broken down (see Ephesians 2:12–14,18). Since His hour, all may drink of the Spirit in Baptism (see 1 Corinthians 12:13).

In the Eucharist, the Lord now is in our midst—as He was at the Rock of Horeb and at the well of Jacob.

In the “today” of our Liturgy, He calls us to believe: “I am He,” come to pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How can we continue to worship as if we don't understand? How can our hearts remain hardened?

[Dr. Scott Hahn](mailto:Dr.Scott.Hahn@stpaulcenter.com)
stpaulcenter.com

God Thirsts for Us

In today's biblical texts for the Third Sunday of Lent, useful ideas for meditation can be found that are particularly appropriate for this important occasion. Through the symbol of water, which we find in the First Reading and in the Gospel passage on the Samaritan woman, the Word of God transmits to us an ever lively and timely message: God thirsts for our faith and wants us to find the source of our authentic happiness in him. Every believer is in danger of practising a false religiosity, of not seeking in God the answer to the most intimate expectations of the heart but on the contrary, treating God as though he were at the service of our desires and projects.

In the First Reading we see the Jewish People suffer in the desert from lack of water and, in the grip of discouragement, complain and react violently, as on other occasions. They even reached the point of rebelling against Moses and almost of rebelling against God. The sacred author says: "They put the Lord to the proof by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" " (Ex 17:7). The people demanded from God that he meet their expectations and needs, rather than abandoning themselves trustfully into his hands, and in their trial lost their trust in him. How often does this also happen in our lives? In how many circumstances, rather than conforming docilely to the divine will, do we want God to implement our own plans and grant our every desire? On how many occasions does our faith prove frail, our trust weak, our religious sense contaminated by magical and merely earthly elements? In this Lenten Season, as the Church invites us to make a journey of true conversion, let us accept with humble docility the recommendation of the Responsorial Psalm: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works" " (Ps 95:7-9).

The symbolism of water returns with great eloquence in the famous Gospel passage that recounts Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman in Sychar, by Jacob's well. We immediately perceive a link between the well, built by the great patriarch of Israel to guarantee his family water, and salvation history where God gives humanity water welling up to eternal life. If there is a physical thirst for water that is indispensable for life on this earth, there is also a spiritual thirst in man that God alone can satisfy. This is clearly visible in the dialogue between Jesus and the woman who came to Jacob's well to draw water. Everything begins with Jesus' request: "Give me a drink" (cf. Jn 4:5-7). At first sight it seems a simple request for a little water in the hot midday sun. In fact, with this question, addressed moreover to a Samaritan woman—there was bad blood between the Jews and the Samaritans—Jesus triggers in the woman to whom he is talking an inner process that kindles within her the desire for something more profound. St Augustine comments: "Although Jesus asked for a drink, his real thirst was for this woman's faith (In Io ev. Tract. XV, 11: PL 35, 1514). In fact, at a certain point, it was the woman herself who asked Jesus for the water (cf. Jn 4:15), thereby demonstrating that in every person there is an inherent need for God and for salvation that only God can satisfy. It is a thirst for the infinite which only the water that Jesus offers, the living water of the Spirit, can quench. In a little while, in the Preface we shall hear these words: Jesus "asked the woman of Samaria for water to drink, and had already prepared for her the gift of faith. In his thirst to receive her faith, he awakened in her heart the fire of your love".

Dear brothers and sisters, in this dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman we see outlined the spiritual itinerary that each one of us, that every Christian community, is ceaselessly called to rediscover and follow. Proclaimed in this Lenten Season, this Gospel passage acquires a particularly important value for catechumens who are already approaching Baptism. This Third Sunday of Lent is in fact linked to the so-called "first scrutiny", which is a sacramental rite of purification and grace. The Samaritan woman thus becomes the figure of the catechumen enlightened and converted to the faith, who longs for the living water and is purified by the Lord's action and words. Yet we who have already been baptized but are also still on the way to becoming true Christians, find in this Gospel episode an incentive to rediscover the importance and meaning of our Christian life, the true desire of God who lives in us. As he did with the Samaritan woman, Jesus wishes to bring us to powerfully profess our faith in him so that we may then proclaim and witness to our brethren the joy of the encounter with him and the marvels that his love works in our existence. Faith is born from the encounter with Jesus, recognized and accepted as the definitive Revealer and Saviour in whom God's Face is revealed. Once that the Lord has won the Samaritan woman's heart, her life is transformed and she runs without delay to take the Good News to her people (cf. Jn 4:29).

From a homily by Pope Benedict XVI, 24 February 2008