



KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

St Augustine's - Kyabram ~ St Patrick's - Tongala

St Augustine's - Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620

Tel: (03) 5852 1026 Email: kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

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Parish Priest – Fr Uday Marneni ALCP/OSS

Donation QR

Third Sunday of Lent – Year A

8 March 2026



Readings for
this week:

Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42



Readings for
next Sunday:

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



Liturgy Jottings

Lenten Prefaces

Each Sunday in Year A the Gospels and the Prefaces (prayer before the Holy, Holy, Holy Lord) are linked, especially on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays in Lent. Today the Gospel tells on the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan by Jacob's Well. Jesus gently initiates a long discussion, the woman raises historical, cultural and theological issues. The homilist may touch on some of these.

The Preface, however, focuses on faith of the Samaritan; Jesus begins with thirst for water and moves to thirst for faith. Water is a gift of God's creation; faith is also a gift from God. She thirsts for water but soon thirsts for faith. The Preface proclaims that Jesus had already created the gift of faith within her and then kindled in her the fire of divine love. It is a Baptism journey for her and many RCIA participants as well as an Easter journey for Christians who accompany them during Lent.

Looking at the Readings

For Jesus the forty days in the wilderness was a testing time for him, confronting the devil and temptations (First Sunday Gospel, Matt 4:1-11). For the Israelites, the forty years in the desert was a testing time for them as they confronted a pursuing army, hunger, pestilence (snakes and scorpions), the attacking Amalekites and now thirst. Moses interceded for them to God, God delivered. For the Israelites their relationship with God deepened. God made a covenant with them with the gift of the Ten Commandments, beginning with the words: "I am the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:1) and a vow that he would bring them into the promised land.

Today we come in touch with the God of Salvation and the Life of Christ. We, too, have the time of testing, time to deepen our faith through this Lenten season. We, too, experience the God who saves and the promises of Christ Jesus as expressed by St Paul in the second reading: "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." (Romans 5:1-2,5-8)

Jesus meets the woman at the well in the passage from the Gospel according to John. Why did Jesus stay there when the disciples went into the town? Why was the woman at the well at midday, not early in the morning with the other women? How awkwardly did the conversation commence! Yet it became a great opportunity and a moment of conversion and faith. The woman came a missionary to the townsfolk, and they believed her and remarked: "we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world." (John 4:52)

Prayer for the Week

God of life, throughout history we hear stories of your wonders. Help us to reach out our hands for the water that gives life instead of looking for satisfaction in the things of this world that will not quench our thirst. Amen.

Words from Pope Leo XIV

At the well of Sychar, Jesus overcomes the barriers of culture, gender and religion. He invites the Samaritan woman to a new understanding of worship, which is not limited to a particular place – "neither on the mountain nor in Jerusalem" – but is realised *in Spirit and truth*. This moment captures the very core of interreligious dialogue itself: the discovery of God's presence beyond all boundaries and the invitation to seek him together with reverence and humility. General Audience, 29 Oct 2025

On the Lighter Side

In January in 44°C heat, funeral staff were handing out bottles of cold water to mourners at the cemetery. But to the priest they offered a bucket of sand. A real desert experience!

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PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Pat Commons, Julie Kleinert, Shane Boyd, Kady Mitchell-Treacy, Noreen Gallardo, Olive McElroy, Philip Bowman, Millie Perry, Frances Corso.

Recently Deceased: Kathleen Kennedy, Marie Wilson

Anniversaries: Mary Ward, Rocco DeMaio, John Georgiou.

ROSTERS

Sunday 15 March 8.30am

Commentator – B Elliot

Lector – P Jenner

Special Minister – M DiPetra

Saturday 21 March at 6pm

Commentator – L Ratcliffe

Lector – C Anderson

Special Minister – L Busch

Sunday 22 March 8.30am

Commentator – J Chant

Lector – C Cabaraban

Special Minister – A Brunt

PLATE AND ENVELOPE COLLECTION

Last weekend Collection: \$ 843.40

Thank you for your generosity and support for our Parish. May God bless you, always.

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Uday Kumar Marneni ALCP/OSS

PARISH SECRETARY

Vicki Arnel – 0417 147 695

PARISH PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mary Zobec – 0427 190 282

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am-4pm

PRINCIPALS

St Augustine's College -Tim Campbell – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary - Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

MASS TIMES

KYABRAM

Week Day: Tuesday Rosary 4pm, Mass 4.15pm & Thursday 9.15am

Saturday: 2nd and 4th weekend of month: 6pm EDT (5pm EST)

Sunday: 8.30am

TONGALA: First Sunday of month 11.30am

RECONCILIATION: Second Saturday (Weekend) of month 30 mins before Mass in St Augustine's Church.

ANointing MASS: First Thursday of the month at 10am in St Augustine's Church.

JOINT PRAYER FOR MIDDLE EAST @ EVANGELICAL UNITING CHURCH

Next Wednesday 11 March from 5- 6pm. Come for 5 mins or the hour your choice. Open to all.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed during lent before mass on Saturday 21 March at 5.30pm and Good Friday at 2.30pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation is highly recommended in our Catholic tradition throughout the liturgical year especially during Advent and Lent. For individual Reconciliation, Fr Uday will available before Saturday night Masses at 5pm.

"Penance requires... the sinner to endure all things willingly, be contrite of heart, confess with the lips, and practice complete humility and fruitful satisfaction." (CCC 1450)

LADIES CUPPA AND CHAT

Ladies are invited to Cuppa and Chat at Fauna Park Café on Wednesday 11th March at 2pm. If you need a ride, please contact Mary Elliott on 0427 822754.

"THE HARVEST OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD" – CCR HEALING DAY

Saturday 21 March 2026 | 9.30 am (Cuppa) to 3.30 pm
Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre, St Brendan's, Shepparton
Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Sandhurst invites you to a day of prayer, healing and renewal, including a Charismatic Mass celebrated by Fr Arun Korlakanti, Spiritual Chaplain, CCR Sandhurst. Lunch: Please bring a plate to share. An offering will be taken up. All welcome. Enquiries: Brigita 0412 042 196 Mary 0427 190 282 Denise 0407 506 813

MASS TIME TABLE

Weekly Masses

Sat 7th March - 6pm Mass

Sun 8th March - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 10th March - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 12th March - No Mass

Sun 15th March - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 17th March - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 19th March - 9.15am Liturgy Year 1/2 & 7/11

Thu 19th March - 2.15pm Mass St Patrick's Tongala

Sat 21st March - 6pm Mass

Sun 22nd March - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 24th March - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 26th March - 9.15am Mass Foundation & Year 12

Sun 29th March - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 31st March - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

LENTEN PROGRAM

Sandhurst Diocese has produced a series of reflections for Lent. You are warmly invited to attend weekly sessions on **Wednesdays at 4pm** in the **Parish Meeting Room**, commencing 25th February. All are welcome to join us for prayer and reflection during this Lenten season.

STATEMENT OF REFLECTION

Each year since 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a statement for reflection and discussion on Social Justice Sunday in August on a key issue in society. This year, the bishops have chosen to release two statements, the first in February, titled *The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good*. Read the Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2026/01/29/the-cost-of-our-living-economic-and-social-justice-for-the-common-good/>

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

Presented by the Central Victorian Irish Association. **Tuesday 17 March | 7.30pm.** Bendigo Southeast College Theatre, Ellis Street, Flora Hill. The evening opens with an excerpt from the sacred oratorio *Saint Patrick at Tara*. **Tickets:** Adults \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (16 & under) \$5. [Book via TryBooking \(Event ID: 1541256\)](#). Limited tickets may be available at the door from 7 pm (cash preferred).

LENT 2026 REFLECTION BOOKLET

To help us prepare for Easter during Lent, the Diocese has again prepared its Lenten resources for prayer and reflection, offered in a single booklet covering both Lent and Easter, replacing the weekly leaflets. The booklet can be [downloaded](#) from our website or the diocesan website. There are printed copies available in the gathering space.

MONTHLY WORKING BEE

The next working bee is Saturday 4th April at 9.30am.

SANDPIPER E-NEWS

Catch up on news and events across the Diocese with the next edition out this Friday. You can find it on our website under "News".



Third Sunday of Lent
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:** <https://www.projectcompassion.org.au/fundraisers/kyabramcatholicparish> **or by calling:** 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of our Parish Child safety officers Mary Zobec 0427 190 282 or Annete Ryan 0408 502 858.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honored. May we join and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

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"Look upon your crosses as stepping stones to the eternal life of happiness." – St. Mary MacKillop

Breaking Open the Word

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.

Longer form 4:5-42

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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FOR WHAT DO WE THIRST?

The first two Sundays of Lent are from Matthew's Gospel, the Gospel of this liturgical year. They recall Jesus' temptation (Mt 4: 1-11) and his experience of being transfigured (Mt 17: 1-9). For the remaining Sundays of Lent, we listen to John's Gospel. These Sundays will explore the central religious and theological questions especially relevant for contemporary disciples in their Lenten journey: For what do we truly thirst (today's Gospel)? How might our eyes be opened to Jesus (next Sunday)? What is the life for which we deeply desire (the final Sunday of Lent)?

In today's Gospel a Samaritan woman comes to a well at noon—the brightest moment of the day—and encounters the source of Light, Jesus. She comes to draw water and only later realises that she has met the one who can quench her deepest spiritual thirst. The whole scene is replete with theological symbolism, a characteristic of John, as Jesus invites the woman to explore the depths of her thirst that only he can address. We learn that she has had several 'husbands'. This is not an admission of the woman's adventurous liaisons, as many commentators have interpreted, but an acknowledgement of her attraction to the 'husbands' (the 'Baals') of religions that are 'not her own'. She is looking for the true one from God, not these other counterfeits.

Jesus reveals himself to her: He is the 'I AM', the Old Testament name for God. Through him the woman comes to encounter the Sacred and sets her on a journey back to her townspeople. Like the woman, we, too, thirst for God and for a deeper religious life as we journey through Lent.



Fr Michael Trainor

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

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?'

■ The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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

8 MARCH 2026

THE SAVING WORD

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 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

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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:

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT – 8 March**MONORANJON from BANGLADESH**

Monoranjon, 47, lives in a coastal village in southwest Bangladesh, one of the regions most affected by climate change. He and his family face extreme heat, cyclones, water scarcity, and rising salinity that is destroying crops and livelihoods. As a farmer and father of two, Monoranjon struggled to provide for his family and keep his daughter and son in school.

"In this dry season no seedlings come out from seeds. Due to heat of the sun and lack of water, plants are dying," Monoranjon said.

Thanks to support from Caritas Australia and its partner Caritas Bangladesh, Monoranjon joined the Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program. He learned climate-resilient farming techniques, including organic vegetable cultivation, livestock vaccination, crab fattening, and salt-tolerant crop production. His income has improved, allowing him to send his children to school and access better nutrition. Monoranjon now teaches others in his village, inspiring change and resilience across the community.

"Doing this I maintain my livelihood, but we have to work very hard. Seeing me, many people started. This is how they grow vegetables," Monoranjon said.

Monoranjon also works with his community to plant mangrove seedlings on the mudflat coastlines across the delta they live on, to prevent further erosion and flooding of their lands.



Monoranjon working on his farm in southwest Bangladesh.
Photo: Caritas Australia.



Monoranjon with his wife Anita, daughter Sushmita and son Chandon outside their home in southwest Bangladesh. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Despite these improvements, the region remains at grave risk. With the looming threat of increased strength and frequency of cyclones, rapid sea level rise, dangerously high temperatures and drought, more people like Monoranjon desperately need an increase in support, so they can continue to provide a future of education for their children, and a way out of poverty.

Along with your generous support, this project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

REFLECTION for THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

Exodus 17:3-7 | Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9. R. v.8 | Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 | John 4:5-42

Every summer seems to get a little longer and a little hotter. We have all become conscious of issues surrounding water. Either there seems to be too much, as when we see summer floods or rising sea levels in the Pacific. Other times, there seems to be too little water as when the rivers in our country run low or members of God's family around the world experience drought. Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has been responding to the dire needs of water justice in a range of vulnerable countries.

Today's readings may well cause us to reflect on the current state of God's creation. In the book of Exodus, we hear that people are complaining to Moses because they are dying of thirst. In the Gospel, Jesus meets a woman in a Samaritan town. She has come to draw water from the well in the hottest part of the day. In both cases, access to water is precarious. Yet God responds not only to a thirst for water but to a deeper thirst as well. Moses' people are thirsty for direction, leadership and hope. The woman in John's Gospel has a thirst for love and acceptance which, Jesus tells her, will come from within if she is able to accept him and his message of life. As the story unfolds, we learn of her loneliness and see her reconnecting with her community.

In reflecting on this story in Listening Together, Cardinal Radcliffe reminds us that Jesus' first words are abrupt. 'Give me a drink.' He considers the times in John's Gospel when Jesus expresses thirst, including when he is on the cross. Radcliffe concludes that Jesus is thirsty on our behalf. He longs for our freedom.

Thirst is a great spiritual metaphor, one which Pope Leo XIV has used. But let's not forget the millions of people for whom physical water is a real challenge. 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.

Our thirst for freedom and justice enables us to *Unite Against Poverty*.



Register your parish for
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and then download
your unique QR code
to replace this box.



**CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
SANDHURST**

***“The Harvest of the
Spirit of God”***

Healing Day

Charismatic Mass celebrated by

Fr Arun Korlakanti

Spiritual Chaplain CCR Sandhurst

Saturday 21st March 2026

9.30 cuppa, 10.00am-3.30pm

St Brendan's Knight St, Shepparton

at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre

Lunch: Please bring a plate to share

All welcome

An offering will be taken up

Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196

Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282

Denise Illot: 0407 506 813



LENT 2026

BOOKLET AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM OUR WEBSITE

You are invited into the Gospel stories of Lent (Year A) and the words of fellow travellers to reflect on Jesus and those who encountered Him during desert experiences in their lives.



sandhurst.catholic.org.au



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst



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STRENGTH & KINDLINESS

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Saturday 28 March 2026

Campus Tours (10am, 11.30am & 1pm)

Bookings required: www.sje.vic.edu.au/events

Gala Dinner \$60 (6pm - 11pm)

Brigidine Campus Oak Centre - 21 Dickson St, Echuca

RSVP: Friday 27 February 2026

www.sje.vic.edu.au/events

Sunday 29 March 2026

Mass at St Mary's Parish (11am)

All community members welcome

*Three events across
two big days!*