



BACK TO THE COVENANT UNION

Bible scholar Jerome Neyrey points out what's wrong with the picture in today's Gospel reading. At that time, a Jewish man was not supposed to talk with a woman, much more with a stranger, in public. In turn, a woman should not talk with a man who is not her kin in public.

As John notes, 'Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans.' The Samaritans were a mixed population composed of Israelites and peoples from other regions brought in by the Assyrians after the fall of the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC. The Samaritans had built their own cult centre in Mt. Gerizim. The Jews questioned the legitimacy of the Samaritans' worship of God and considered them unclean for having intermarried with the Gentiles.

Despite this, Jesus chooses to converse with a Samaritan woman in public. The story marks a gradual process of perception and recognition of Jesus by the woman. It shows her journey of faith and discipleship. First, she sees Jesus as just another Jewish man, and then addresses him politely as 'Sir.' Then she thinks that Jesus may be someone greater than Jacob, a prophet who knows intimate details about her life, and possibly the Messiah. She ends up witnessing about him to her fellow Samaritans. Her program of discipleship, that includes Jesus' revelation to her and her witnessing to him to others, is complete.

Jesus gently guides her by recognising her dignity as a person, offering God's gift to her, and revealing himself to her. This woman, representative of all Samaritans, is led to a covenant union with God, through the work God's Son, the Messiah.

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

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FIRST READING

Ex 17:3-7

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 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:

St Clement of Rome Church

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Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00am-3:00pm



Parish Priest : Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Office 9850 3262) or (Presbytery 9850 6073)
Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Heenan (9850 1216)
Pastoral Associate: Cecilia Tan (9850 3262), **Assistant Pastoral Associate:** Mariangela Prib (9850 3262)
Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262) **Communion to the Sick:** Trish Atherton (9850 2746)
Clifton Centre: Mary Hansen (9850 1860) **St Vincent de Paul Helpline** (1800 305 330)

Third Sunday of



During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 7.30pm in the Church.

Project Compassion 2017 :



Please donate to Project Compassion 2017. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Thank you

'Up from the Waters' - Piety Stall

Extra books for sale at \$10.00 for your own reflection at home or come and join us on Thursdays at 7pm during Lent.

Latest edition of **Melbourne Catholic Magazine** is now on sale for \$4.00.

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER
 Wednesday 29th March : 7.00pm

PALM SUNDAY – 8TH /9TH APRIL 2017
 Saturday 8th April : 5.30pm
 Sunday 9th April : 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite)

HOLY THURSDAY – 13TH APRIL 2017
 Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.30pm
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight (Clifton Centre)
 Reconciliation : 9.00pm (Clifton Centre)
 Remembrance of the Last Supper and the Washing of the Feet : 9.30pm (Maronite)
 Meditation on the Stations of the Cross : 10.00pm (Clifton Centre)

GOOD FRIDAY – 14TH APRIL 2017
 Stations of the Cross : 9.00am
 Via Crucis (Italian) : 10.00am
 Stations of the Cross : 12.30pm (Maronite)
 Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

EASTER VIGIL – 15TH APRIL 2017
 Mass in English : 5.30pm
 Mass in Italian : 8.00pm
 Maronite Mass : 10.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 16TH APRIL 2017
 Mass in English : 9.00am
 Mass in Italian : 11.00am
 Maronite Mass : 6.00pm

Baptism Welcoming

This weekend, we welcome :

Emilio Mosca
Thomas Tilley
Alessia Mirabile

Please pray for these children and their families

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)

Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Sat 9:15am. Eucharistic Adoration: Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)

Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request). Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.

Baptisms: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th weekend) every month. Weddings: By Appointment.

Recently Deceased : Giovanna Russo

Death Anniversaries : Salvatore Calafiore, Angela Russo, Carmelo Proietto, Maria Paolilli,

Eustachio Smarrelli, Tony di Bartolomeo, Josef Job, Mimma Blasetti

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Mon 20th Mar @ 9.15am—St Joseph's Solemnity (Grade 4) - School Mass
 Tue 21st Mar @ 9.15am—Sick & Elderly (Grade 6) Mass followed by morning tea
 Tue 21st Mar @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation Classes in the Clifton Centre
 Thurs 23rd Mar @ 5.30pm—Youth Group Meeting in the Parish Office
 Thurs 23rd Mar @ 7pm—Scripture Studies in the Clifton Centre
 Thurs 23rd Mar @ 7.30pm—Finance Meeting in the Parish Office
 Fri 24th Mar @ 7.30pm—Stations of the Cross in the Church

Collections Last Weekend
1st Collection (Thanksgiving)
 Actual — 1,986
2nd Collection (Presbytery)
 Actual — 1,072
Many thanks & every Blessing!

Mario's and Angela's Café: Next 26th March after the 9.00am Mass. All are welcome. If you attend the 11.00 am Mass we ask you to come early and join us for a cuppa and fellowship.

Hope Ministry: This Ministry is to provide support to each other in times of adverse difficulty such as loss or bereavement. You are most welcome to attend the meetings. Our next one will be on 25th March at 10.00am in the Parish Office. Convenors: Elroy De Witt and Sue De Bortoli

Scripture Studies for Lent: "Up From the Waters"

Every Thursday over 6 weeks in the Clifton Centre. All are welcome. Sessions run from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Please confirm your attendance on the sign up sheets as resources are limited and arrangements have to be made if the course is over-subscribed. Email: cecilia.tan@cam.org.au or call 9850 3262.

RCIA News - Congratulation to Priscilla Sau Wai Wong who attended the annual Rite of Election which was held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 5 March, with over 1000 people in attendance to celebrate and affirm those journeying towards full communion with the Catholic Church this Easter.

Sacramental Program 2017

We are now taking enrolments for the Sacrament of Communion and Confirmation. Please contact the parish office or Cecilia at cecilia.tan@cam.org.au

RECONCILIATION: TERM 1

ASRE Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 1 April 2017 @ 9.15am

CONFIRMATION: TERM 2

Last Date for enrolment: 1 April 2017

Classes commence: Tuesday, 18 April 2017 @ 4.30pm -5.30pm in the Clifton Centre

Parents' Information Session: Tuesday 20th July 2017 @ 7.30pm

Commissioning Mass: Saturday 22 April 2017

Confirmation: 6 August, 2017 @ 2.30pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral

FIRST EUCHARIST: TERM 3

Last Date for enrolment: 1 July 2017

Classes commence: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Clifton Centre

Parents' Information Evening: Tuesday 20th April 2017 @ 7.30pm

Commissioning Mass: Saturday, 22 July @ 5.30pm

Reconciliation before First Communion: Saturday 23 September 2017 @ 10.00am

First Communion for After School RE children: Saturday 23 September 2017 @ 5.30pm

The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$150 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Please see Bernadine who is in charge of accounts. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office. All enrolment forms must be completed and submitted by the last date for enrolment.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9.00am
18/19 March	Sacristan John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR Paul Sammut	Christine Landsberg
3 rd Sunday of Lent	Reader May Teh	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers Cecilia Lam	David Mitchell
	Reg Lecordier	Pam Mitchell
	Maree Marsi	Gloria Ng
		Maria Papalia
		Elssa Waters
		Chris Zordan
		Trish Atherton
25/26 March	Sacristan Elroy De Witt	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR May Teh	Mark Gregor
4 th Sunday of Lent	Reader John Bruce	David Mitchell
	Special Ministers Warwick Wright	Grace Canatelli
	Martin Teh	Anne Fusca
	Enza Wilcox	Rita Gagliardi
		Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti
		Sylvia Mascitti

"May our Children Flourish" Keeping our Children Safe

All the documents are now available on the website. Thank you to those who have signed and returned the CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT. If you have not done so, please pick up a copy from the foyer and leave your signed copy in the box provided.

Holy Land Olive wood display

Religious items will be on display next Sunday 26th March after 9am & 11am Masses. Please support.

Ministry at the Austin and Repat Hospitals

Over the years many volunteers have offered ministry to the Catholic patients at these hospitals. Some volunteers offer to visit the Austin hospital during the week, offering prayer, support and communion to the Catholic patients. Others help once a month patients to attend Mass at the hospital chapel or wheel them to and from the chapel. Please consider offering some time to participate in this ministry. Contact St John's parish office, Heidelberg 9457 1066 for more information.