



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Fairfield

Archdiocese of Sydney Est. 1946

12th March, 2023 - Third Sunday Lent - Year A



MISSION STATEMENT

We are a believing community in the Catholic Tradition, whose heart is Jesus Christ, celebrated in the Eucharist. Our catholicity is lived through the diverse nature of our community which is open and welcoming to all. Daily we are open to the Holy Spirit who speaks to us through the Gospel, enabling us to experience personal and social transformation.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Administrator: Rev Fr Bob Bossini
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Andrew Fu
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Tibebeselassie Abza
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Ben Gandy
Parish Office: 2 Weston Street
Fairfield NSW 2165
Presbytery: 18 Vine St. Fairfield 2165
Email: admin@olrfairfield.org.au
Phone: (02) 9724 5997
Emergency Ph: 0488 693 482

Parish Office Hours:
Mondays - Fridays 9am - 12pm & 1pm - 5pm
Parish Website: www.olrfairfield.org.au

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY MASS: 8.30am

SUNDAY MASS

in English (Vigil) 6.00pm (Sat)
in Polish 7.30am
in English 9.00am, 10.30am & 6pm
in Vietnamese 4.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday: 9.30am
Monday & Tuesday: 7pm
Friday Mass: 7.00pm First Friday of the month

Business Manager: Florbela Caxala Mb: 0472 862 509
Events & Marketing Co-ordinator:
Kathryn Gerardino Mb. 0491 602 332
Sacramental Co-ord: Simone Smith 0432 437 552
Liturgical Music Co-ordinator: Fr. Ben Gandy
Parish Safeguarding Support Officer: (PSSO)
Florbela Caxala
safeguarding@olrfairfield.org.au

Novena Prayer: Our Lady of Perpetual Help - 6.30pm on Wednesdays.
Novena Mass: 1st Wednesday of the Month 6.30pm.

Holy Hour: Vietnamese Community 6pm on the last Friday of the Month.

Catechist Coordinator:
Heather Watt: Contact Parish Office

Catholic Women's League: Matilda Petersen on Mb. 0426 847 213 - Meeting 4th Thursday of month.

St Vincent de Paul - Meeting 1st Thursday of month:
Marcel D'Abrera Mb. 0418 231 368

SACRAMENTS

Confession

Saturday 5.00pm - 5.30pm, Before/After Mass or by appointment.

Baptism

Contact the Parish Office to make an appointment. A Baptism preparation class is required prior to Baptism. Baptism Enrolment form needs to be submitted to the Parish Office.

Marriage

By appointment – six months notice required and undergo Marriage Preparation Course. Check with Parish Secretary for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

Please check the Parish Bulletin for future dates for the administration of this Sacrament during Mass. Outside Mass times, requests to be anointed can take place after any Mass or by appointment.

*For all church or room bookings, please contact Florbela!
Email: manager@olrfairfield.org.au*

SCHOOLS

OLR Primary School

20 Vine Street, Fairfield Tel: (02) 9727 9064
Principal: Ms. Jackie Vella
info@olrfairfield.catholic.edu.au

Patrician Brothers' College

Boys Year 7–12 Tel: (02) 9728 4488
Principal: Mr. Peter Wade
info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au
Monastery: (02) 9724 1247

Mary Mackillop Catholic College

Girls Year 7–12 Tel: (02) 9725 4322
Principal: Ms. Gilda Pussich
info@mmcwakele.catholic.edu.au

SCECS Outside School Hours Care

Ph: (02) 9568 8218 Website: www.scecs.nsw.edu.au
Mary Mackillop Hall 20 Vine Street, Fairfield NSW 2165

Fairfield Montessori Academy Childcare Centre

20 Vine Street, Fairfield Tel: (02) 1300 000 162

A Message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



Like our Parish Facebook page *Our Lady of the Rosary Fairfield Parish*

This Parish pays respect to the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of this land.

Third Sunday in Lent - Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

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?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

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

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.

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

Jn 4:5-42

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:
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.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' '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 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.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food
is to do the will of the one who sent me,
and to complete his work.
Have you not got a saying:
Four months and then the harvest?
Well, I tell you:
Look around you, look at the fields;
already they are white, ready for harvest!
Already the reaper is being paid his wages,
already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life,
and thus sower and reaper rejoice together.
For here the proverb holds good:
one sows, another reaps;
I sent you to reap
a harvest you had not worked for.
Others worked for it;
and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

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.'

Communion Antiphon

Jn 4:13-14

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

Dear Friends,

From today we move from the Gospel of Matthew to that of John. The Gospel for the next three weeks will be: **John 4:5-52** (*The Samaritan Woman*); **John 9: 1-41** (*The Man Born Blind*) and **John 11:1-45** (*The Raising of Lazarus*). Each of these passages gives us a tremendous amount for our prayer, meditation and spiritual life.

The figure of the **Samaritan woman** is important in today's Gospel passage. She enters the scene as a person with a **latent faith** – a faith that is based on what she has been told by her ancestors, but has not been lived fully and totally. She is presented as a woman who **does not have a high social standing** within her community. This becomes apparent to the reader when John tells us that she comes at the sixth hour of the day to fetch water from the Well: the hottest time of the day – a time when no-one else will be around [v. 6]. We gain some more insight into her ostracised status when Jesus mentions that she has had five husbands [vv.16-19]. Jesus continues to reveal himself to the woman when she mentions something of her knowledge about the Messiah. He states openly: *'that is who I am, I who speak to you'* [v. 26]. The woman then **returns** to her village, **not afraid** of meeting up with the people who scorned and despised her: she is a different woman – the Holy Spirit has been given to her through her encounter with Jesus. Her newly founded enthusiasm highlights the fact that when faith appears in the life of the person, then fear is driven out. She then **becomes the catalyst** to bringing others to the faith through an encounter with Jesus [v. 39-42].

The movement and progress in this story is truly memorable. It allows us to acknowledge the **surprising ways** in which God comes into our lives – often and unexpectedly. The fact that Jesus stops in the middle of the day and sits at a well, in Samaritan (enemy) territory shows how there is **no limit to God's grace**. It is interesting that Jesus allows himself to enter into dialogue with this foreign woman, breaking many social mores of the time. His encounter shows how God's grace can come through ordinary and everyday circumstances – like the coming to a well in order to draw water.

One of the incredible aspects of this story is the way in which Jesus is aware of the woman's past – her having had five husbands but does not hold that against her. **He uses that knowledge to awaken in her a rather dormant faith.**

From there the woman recognises Jesus as a prophet and goes to her village to arouse interest in the others. Jesus **does not condemn** her for her past, but utilises it as a means of conversion and salvation. There is some connection here with the earlier story in John when Jesus encountered the woman caught in adultery [**John 8:1-8**]. Here also Jesus does not condemn her, but brings her to new life and faith, eradicating any presence of the initial fear in her life.

Jesus' motivation and purpose in revealing himself to the Samaritan woman in these terms is to show her that **nothing she has done in her past life excludes her from God's mercy** – offered to her as living water. This reminds us of the message of **Pope Francis** at the beginning of the **Year of Mercy**, when he states that **God's mercy is greater than any sin that we may have committed**. What a refreshing and inspiring thought. Approaching the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is certainly a good way of obtaining God's mercy and forgiveness at this stage of our Lenten journey.

As we begin our third week in Lent, in this encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman and the consequent discussion about Jesus as the **water that gives eternal life**, we can ask ourselves what steps have we taken (or need to take) in order for us to secure some of that **living water** for ourselves. **For what** am I **'thirsting'** at present? What do I find that **satisfies** my **'thirst'** now? Is it Jesus or something else? I need to acknowledge my **'thirst'**. Does my spiritual life need some **'watering'** at present?

Fr Robert Bossini
Administrator

We Remember and Pray for

Recently Deceased: Maria Nguyen Thi Hien, Joan McLean & Maria Doan Dang Thuy Vi.

Anniversary of Death: Michael Pham Kim My, Ana Maria Oliveira, Mauricio Pereira, Paolina Climich, Antonio Kenk & Frances Gruber.

In Loving Memory of: Catirina & Antonia Toscano, Domenica & Antonio Toscano, Joseph Bui Van Duc, Albertin & Joseph Jabroo, Charlie Camilleri, Joseph & Carmen Camilleri, Karmenu & Vincenza Ciantai, Carmel Windred, Joseph Pham Kim Chuc, Vincenzo & Vincenza Cagliostro, Domenico Marzano, Joseph Long Hoang & Tegan Whittle.

Sick: 9 Year old Archer & Aloma Pospischil.

Thanksgiving: Mr. Hoang—Safe trip to Canada.

Spanish Group

Just a reminder that Spanish Group meets every Saturday in the Divine Mercy Room from 12.00pm - 2.00pm.



JOIN US FOR THIS BIBLE STUDY!
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, FAIRFIELD
18 VINE ST, FAIRFIELD



Presented by
Charbel Raish



EVERY FRIDAY
17th February
until 31st March
Starts at 6:30pm
after the Stations
of the Cross

ASCENSION

PAROUSIA MEDIA

www.parousiamedia.com

Lenten Timetable

Friday 17 th February, 2023		6.30pm 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 1
Friday 24 th February, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 2
Friday 3 rd March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 3
Friday 10 th March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 4
Friday 17 th March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 5
Friday 24 th March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 6
Friday 31 st March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 7

Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary

According to St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort

If you are interested in going on a journey to get closer to our Lady and learn more about yourself through prayer and meditation, this is for you:

Starting: Wednesday nights 7:40pm. Via Webex and once a month at Our Lady Queen of Peace Gladesville.

INFORMATION NIGHT:

Date: Wednesday 15th March 2023

Venue: Our Lady Queen of Peace

Gladesville



*Starting with the Holy Rosary

*Talks: What is consecration?

The importance of consecrating ourselves to Mother Mary

How long does the preparation last?

Who can be consecrated?

*Testimonies

*Light Supper

For more information ring 0402020938 or 0474212388

Marriage Enrichment Session

*Marriage in the Catholic Church is a union between man and woman
It is the beginning of a life-long commitment
that mirrors the covenant
between God and His Church*



We welcome all couples to a fun afternoon.

Those married for 1 year to 50 years

Even those thinking of getting married

Date: Sunday, 12 March 2023

After 10.30 am mass

Time: 12.00 to 2.00 pm

This event is FREE
Coffee/Tea/Refreshments will be provided

Venue: Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Parish,
Harrington Hall, 18 Vine Street, Fairfield, NSW

Title: THE VOW

Presenters: Anne & Eddie Ferry

Please RSVP by Sunday, 5 March 2023

Contact: events@olrfairfield.org.au

Mobile: 0491 602 332



A good marriage is the heart of the family



Third Sunday of Lent 11 & 12 March



Priscilla lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe.

With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought.



While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the skills she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.