

St. Joseph's Grey Lynn

470 Great North Road
Tamaki Makaurau

15th March 2020

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life

Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

COME TO CHRIST, THE ETERNAL LIVING WATER

"As the deer longs for running stream, so my soul longs for you, my God" (Ps 42:1). Today, the holy Mother Church encourages us to come to Christ the Eternal Living Water. She calls us to break all cultural barriers and prejudices in order to let the eternal living water flow into all hearts.

Water is one of the most important requirements for the sustenance of all lives. In fact, according to scientific studies, water makes up to 60-75 percent of the total body fluid. Hence, total withdrawal or extraction of water from any person will result to death. In the Old Testament, water is a common metaphor for spiritual satisfaction (Is 12, 3)

The first reading of today tells us of the ordeal of the Israelites in the wilderness. After four hundred and thirty years of slavery in Egypt, God came to deliver them (Ex 12, 40). Yet, they grumbled against Moses, and consequently, against God because they were thirsty. God instructed Moses to strike the rock. From it water came forth. The Israelites drank, and were satisfied.

Both the rock Moses struck, and the water that gushed out from it allegorically and metaphorically prefigures Christ. He is both the rock of our salvation, and our eternal living water. On this third Sunday of Lent, we also need a spiritual drink from the living water that flows from Christ, the Rock of Ages. Hence, we must: *"Draw water from the well of salvation"* (Is 12:3) in order to quench our spiritual thirst this Lenten season.

In the second reading, Paul described how the love of Christ, *"is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit."* Here, Paul implicitly mentions water by the use of the verb: *"to pour."* He reminds us also of how helpless our life was and could still be without Christ, the Living Water. In other words, through his death, Christ made himself the source of our own life.

In today's gospel, Jesus presents himself to the Samaritan woman as the Eternal Living Water. This underscores the importance of Christ in our life. The lesson from this, is we must not discriminate against people on the basis of their race or culture. Jesus knew quite well who the woman was (a Samaritan) and her life history. Yet, he approached her for a drink. Jesus' aim was actually, to draw her closer to himself, the Eternal Living Water.

Hence, by breaking the silence and going against the social customs, and prejudices between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus becomes the gift of God to this woman and her people. Like Jesus therefore, we must be ready to take risks. This is by challenging the unjust rules of social structures and norms. It is by breaking down walls that excludes people, and by opening up possibilities to others. This is, so that they can experience Christ.

Finally, the argument that ensued between Jesus and the woman represents the obstacles, that we must overcome in order to draw people to Christ, the Eternal Living Water. In other words, they represent the *"rational" stubbornness* that the society will present to us before they finally yield to the gospel. However, if we ourselves are connected to the Eternal Living Water, we shall have a better and more convincing witness without getting weary.

Fr. Joseph Thirumala

MASS TIMES

WEEKEND

Saturday: 8:15am, Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am (in Samoan)

WEEKDAYS

Monday - Friday: 9:00am

Confessions: Saturday at 5pm

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Sunday at 8am

Adoration: 1st Sunday of the Month at 4pm

Novena Mother of Perpetual Help: Thursdays at 5:45pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sunday 8:30am mass

A reading from the book of Exodus Ex 17:3-7

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?’

Kote kupu o te Ariki (This is the word of the Lord) *Whakamoemiti ki te Atua (Praise be to God)*

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

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.)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

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.

Kote kupu o te Ariki (This is the word of the Lord) *Whakamoemiti ki te Atua (Praise be to God)*

Gospel Acclamation cf. Jn 4:42-15

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again* **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Shorter Form) John4:5-42. 19-26. 39-42

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. I see you are a prophet, sir. 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.’ Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman’s testimony, 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.’

Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti. (Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ)

PARISH NOTICES

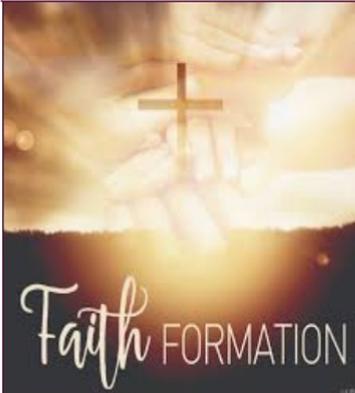


OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN YOU, O LORD!
- St Augustine

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Friday During Lent at 6:30pm.



Class starts on Sunday, 15th March at 3pm sharp.
Please all meet inside church for roll call and prayers.
For registration or Inquires please email Joey
Email Joey: joeyakeli@gmail.com



HEADZ UP

Our first session for the year of Spiritual Faith Formation on Sunday,
Today 4:30pm in the Hall
All young people invited to attend, bring along your family and school friends.
Age 13yrs - 30yrs

MARCH ROSTER

Lectors	Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion
5:30pm	
07-Mar Norma/Jessica T	Taumaia/Nerisa
14-Mar Jessica G/Lisa	Trish/Alex
21-Mar Norma/Jessica T	Taumaia/Nerisa
28-Mar Jessica G/Lisa	Trish/Alex
8:30am	
08-Mar Teresa/Jaime	Elisa/Saraia
15-Mar Ana M/Viavia	Pelenatete/Silia
22-Mar Teresa/Jaime	Elisa/Saraia
29-Mar Lelava/Tutulu	Taumaoc/Tutulu
10:30am	
08-Mar Ana S/ Taumaoc	Matai/Silia
15-Mar Norma/Jessica	Sefulu/Bella
22-Mar Viavia/Vicjalina	Taupo/Akenese
29-Mar Upuia	Tialino/Sefulu

Liturgy Meeting - Liturgy committee members to attend our meeting Today at 5pm. This is a very important meeting to discuss the Easter programme and the First Holy Communion and Confirmation programme as well.
Thank you. MaeE.T

<u>Date</u>	<u>Upcoming Event</u>
15-Mar	First Holy Communion Class 3pm
15-Mar	Confirmation Class 3pm
15-Mar	HEADZ UP 4:30pm
15-Mar	Liturgy Meeting 5pm
19-Mar	Novena - European
20-Mar	Stations of the Cross
26-Mar	Novena - Legion of Mary
26-Mar	Executive Meeting

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Registration Forms are available in the Foyer if you wish to serve our parish as a Lector/Reader or Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Parish collection last week: \$1,422.80
Total for March: \$2,716.13
Parish Needs: (4 x \$1,500 per week) \$6,000.00
Thank you for your generosity

AUCKLAND DIOCESE NOTICES



A truly wonderful, grace-filled celebration today as Bishop Michael Gielen was ordained and installed as Auxiliary Bishop of Auckland! More than 3,000 filled the Vodafone Events Centre and the joy and excitement was palpable. How uplifting to see so many young people involved! The music and ceremony, representing our ancient traditions as well as the culture of the many communities who form part of our Church. Thank God for such great blessings! Thank God for Bishop Michael's wonderful family who took an active part in today's liturgy and for our diocesan staff whose organisational skills made it such a success!

Bishop Patrick Dunn

DO NOT LEAVE THE CHURCH TILL THE FINAL BLESSINGS!!

A priest that I heard of, if and when he sees people leave Church early (especially after receiving Holy Communion), stops them and reminds them that only one person left the Last Supper early!

Well, I am not going to do that, but I am tempted to do what St. Philip Neri did: He saw someone leaving church right after Communion and he sent servers with candles and bells to accompany the man. The Guy stormed back into the church and confronted the priest. "What kind of joke is this?" he demanded. St Philip Neri said, "It's no joke. The rules of the liturgy say the Blessed Sacrament should be treated with reverence. You left the Church immediately with no prayer of thanksgiving. You were carrying the Blessed Sacrament within you. So I asked the boys to accompany you to honour Him."

After Communion you and I are tabernacles - the physical presence of Jesus continues in us for a brief time. That's why we have the Communion hymn, a time of silence, the Communion Prayer - and even the announcements - to build up the Body of Christ in practical ways.

I encourage you to use well the time after Communion to say thanks, to express your gratitude.

~a sincere sharing from church brothers & sisters ♡ *PLEASE DO SHARE*

CATHNEWS NEW ZEALAND Monday, March 9th, 2020.

Sharing Chalice at Mass a minimal risk

The Catholic Church in New Zealand has not as yet prohibited sharing the chalice and sharing a handshake at the sign of peace at Mass.

"Should there be a need for restrictions on receiving Communion or the exchange of the Sign of Peace, these will be immediately notified to parishes throughout the country," said the acting director of New Zealand's National Liturgy Father John O'Connor.

O'Connor noted some churches have taken it upon themselves to stop giving holy communion from a communal cup because many of their members had recently come back from China, for example."

President of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, Patrick Dunn says the current advice of health professionals is there is no need to take further precautions.

"Following discussions with health professionals about the implication of COVID-19 Coronavirus on Catholic gatherings for liturgy, our advice is that the current standard procedures for safeguarding health continue to be followed and there is no need for churches to take further precautions at this stage", Dunn said.

Candlelight Vigil praying for healing, mercy, and life. Join us for a peaceful prayer vigil on Sunday 15 March at 7:30pm outside the local abortion centre, AMAC. This is a meaningful way to pray for an end to abortion, remember those who have died, those who have been wounded by abortion, and to be a sign of hope. The vigil is part of the 40 Days for Life prayer effort. All welcome. For more information phone Michelle 027 526 1199 or visit fli.org.nz/40daysforlife