



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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12th March 2023 Psalter Week 3	<i>Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)</i> THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL	
First Reading	Exodus 17:3-7 <i>Give us water to drink</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 5:1-2 5-8 <i>The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!	
Gospel	John 4:5-42 <i>A spring of water welling up to eternal life.</i>	
Saturday 11th March +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass (For the Parish)
Sunday 12th March +	10.30am	Mass (Bernie Wogan RIP)
Monday 13th March <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 14th March <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Throckmorton family)
Wednesday 15th March <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Ron Monk & Bernie Wogan RIP)
Thursday 16th March <i>Feria</i>	6.15pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Mary Canning RIP)
Friday 17th March ST PATRICK, Bishop – Patron of Ireland - Feast	9.15am 10.00am 3.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Chas Harris RIP) Stations of the Cross
Saturday 18th March St Cyril of Jerusalem - Commemoration	10.00am 10.30am- 3.00pm	Mass – (Patricia Hill RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession available
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Laetare Sunday		
Saturday 18th March +	5.45 pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass (For the Parish)
Sunday 19th March +	10.30am	Mass (McCarthy family Int.)

EASTER CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH PORCH



Sr Hannah Sullivan DHS – RIP – we were all truly saddened to learn of the death of dear Sr Hannah. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at on **Monday 20th March at 11am**. Please do continue to pray for the repose of her soul and for comfort for her family, friends and of course the Sisters here at St Joseph's & those at Burlington Hall.

Stations of the Cross - Throughout Lent, we will be praying the 'Stations of the Cross' here at Our Lady's each **Friday afternoon at 3pm** – everyone welcome.



LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY – This **Thursday 16th March at 7.30pm** we continue our series of talks for Lent **about prayer** – what prayer is and some different kinds of prayer, how we can learn to pray, and what we can use to help us to pray. Fr David will lead the talks but there will be time for questions and discussion as well. The last in this series will be on **Thursday 30th March**. The talks will begin at **7.30pm** after 7.00pm Mass. Everyone is welcome!



SVP - PARISH LUNCH

The SVP, now energised by new members, are holding a little get together over lunch this coming **Friday 17th March at 1.00pm in the Parish Room**, to celebrate together all the good things that happen in our parish. We have had a wonderful response, but it appears that we have reached the full number the hall can accommodate. If you would like to go onto a reserve list, please sign up at the back of church. Also, please do let us know if you would like transport. We look forward to seeing you.



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY PARISH SOUP LUNCH

Thank you to all who supported this event. Your generous donations amounted to the magnificent sum of **£715**. Your compassionate and most generous response will provide much needed food and shelter for those affected by the earthquake in Turkey & Syria. Thank you from the CAFOD PARISH GROUP
(A huge thanks also to those in the Parish CAFOD Group who work so tirelessly throughout the year to bring to our attention those less fortunate than ourselves.)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – the twelve children who, please God, will be making their First Holy Communion in June will be making their First Confession on Saturday 18th March. Please do keep them & their families in your thoughts and prayers.

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER – 7pm Thursday 6th April – we are looking for six volunteers – 3 Male + 3 Female – for the Washing of the Feet during the Mass. If you would like to assist, please contact Denise.



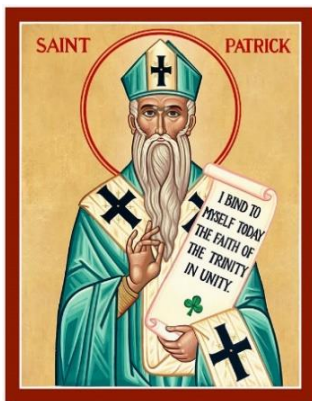
FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - Please join us for light refreshments after Mass on the First Sunday of every month. If you can help with serving tea/ coffee or washing up on any on any of these days please speak to Áine Cooper or email her on aine.cooper@me.com. Many thanks



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Pope Francis asks all Dioceses of the world to ensure that some churches will remain open for 24 hours as a time for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and ready availability for the Sacrament of Confession. This year's 24 Hours for the Lord will take place on 17th – 18th March. The theme for this year's initiative is taken from the Gospel of John: "Neither do I condemn you." (Jn 8:11).

Our church will be open on Friday 17th March from 9.00am until after the Stations of the Cross and on Saturday 18th March from 9.00am and Exposition will take place from 10.30am until 3.00pm with Confession available throughout Saturday.



ST PATRICK, Bishop – Patron of Ireland was born in Great Britain about the year 385. As a youth he was taken captive to Ireland as a slave and worked as a herdsman. After making his escape he wished to become a priest and after being made Bishop for Ireland he was untiring in preaching the Gospel and he converted many to the faith. In addition, he organised the Church throughout Ireland. It is believed that he died in 461 and was buried at Downpatrick.



Thought for the Week: "Almost always when we talk about prayer, we are thinking of something that we do. Prayer is essentially what God does, how God addresses us, how God looks at us... not something we are doing to God... giving to God, but what God is doing for us"

Sr Ruth Burrows – Quidenham Carmel, Norfolk



In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: *"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"* Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: *"Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."* With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have travelled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands." Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship. After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him. The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people. The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St Patrick, St Cyril of Jerusalem, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter