

THE BULLETIN

Sunday, 8th March 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again.'

John 4:14



The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and

Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law. Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Our Mission:
Building a Loving Christ-Centred Community



Parish Administrator:

Fr Joy D'Souza OCD

Chief Executive Officer:

Michael Darragh

Administration Officer:

Jennifer Oliver

Pastoral Associate:

Margaret Ryan

Church

Corner of East Street & Fourth Avenue, Sawtell

Parish Office - 02/6658 3544

1/44 Boronia Street, Sawtell
NSW 2452. Office Hours are
Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

Church Mass Times

Tuesday 9:30am

Thursday 9:30am

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 7:30am & 9am

*Reconciliation every Saturday 5:30pm
no appointment necessary*

Chapel Mass Times

Our Lady of the Way at SCC

Marian Grove, Toormina

Wednesday 9:30am

Friday 9:30am

PARISH GIVING

First & Second

Collection + Donations



WELCOME HOME FR JOY!

We were in good hands while you were away, but it is so nice to be welcoming you home!

A HEARTFELT THANKS AND A CALL TO SERVE - MASS MINISTRY ROSTERS

A huge thank you to everyone who updated their contact details and preferences recently! Our new roster (running through the end of May) begins next week. (See back cover). You will receive a copy via email shortly, and physical copies will be available to collect at the church.

Currently, a small group of dedicated volunteers is carrying a heavy load. Over the coming months, our Mass coordinators will be reaching out to invite more of you to join a ministry team. If you're asked, please consider saying a big "YES!" Alternatively, feel free to call the Parish Office to chat about what's involved - we would love to have you.

What if you are not available in your rostered week?

- **Planned Absences:** If you can't make your scheduled slot, please notify the Parish Office by 3:00 PM on Friday.
- **Last-Minute Changes:** If something comes up after Friday, don't panic!

Our coordinators will step in to ensure everything is covered.

PARISHIONER TRANSPORT

If you are available to be included on a roster to drive an elderly parishioner home after Saturday Vigil Mass (2 min from church), please speak to the Mass Co-ordinator or call the Parish Office.



CHRISM MASS

Monday, 23rd March 11am
St Carthage's Cathedral,
8 Leycester Street, Lismore.
All welcome.

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

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

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

Second Reading Romans 5:1-2. 5-8.

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

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 worshiper 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.'

Mass Roster for Fourth Sunday of Lent 15th March 2026

MASSES	Co-Ord	Welcomer	Ex. Minister	Sacristan	Offertory	Reader	Powerpoint Op	Snr Alt Srv
Sat 6pm	Greg Ryan	Pat Winter	Chris Sercombe	Les Michalik	Greg + Christie Baker	Jenny Triglone	Sue Newbury	L Michalik
Sun 7:30am	Latham	K. McWilliam	Gwen Nyhan	John Hendriks	Peter + Brenda Graham	Norma Campbell	Greg Feltis	J Hendriks
Sun 9am	Wal Samut	Madonna + Marie	Brigid	Don Kirkaldy	Gai + Bob Roff	Les Thorborough	Marthese/S. Devine	J Baiada

New Roster! - check if you have been added

If you didn't receive the new roster via email, please email us - admin@mhocsawtell.org.au



MINISTRY OF THE WEEK: POWERPOINT OPERATOR

We are looking for new volunteers to help with the PowerPoint at all Masses. If the idea of 'tech' makes you a little nervous, don't worry—it is much simpler than it looks!

To help you feel confident, we'll pair you with an experienced operator for a few weeks of 'co-piloting'. You won't have to fly solo until you feel completely ready. If you can click a mouse, you've got this!

Talk to the Mass Co-ordinator or call the Parish Office if you can help.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Envelopes available at the front doors.


PALM SUNDAY

SIGN UP SHEETS AT THE FRONT DOORS

PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME IF YOU CAN HELP

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



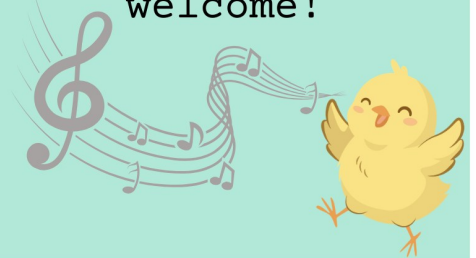


Diocesan Investment Fund
Interest Rate—3.40%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

Choir Practice for Easter

The choir will be singing at Easter Services 9am Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Vigil. Practice is Tuesday in the church 7pm-8pm, 17th, 24th and 31st March. All voices welcome!



EVERY TUESDAY

CENACLE

ROSARY

3PM IN

THE CHURCH

ALL WELCOME



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

ANNIVERSARY

Brian Walsh

Pauline Cahill

RECENTLY DECEASED

Brian Beynon

Kevin Bamber

THE SICK

Sally Towns

Carolyn Mash