



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

3rd Sunday of Lent | Year A Cycle II | 8 March 2026



Things of this World

On the surface, today's Gospel seems to be the story of two people drawing water at the well. However, careful examination reveals a complex of meanings and levels of reality. A conversation develops between Jesus and a Samaritan woman about water, but things are not as they seem. Jesus asks for a drink, but is this what he really wants? The woman is interested in the water which will quench all thirst, but is this what she really wants? It is not a coincidence that Jesus meets her. He is at the well for her sake. It is not water but her soul that he wants. He speaks to her heart, opening her to new and more profound possibilities. As he speaks she begins to change, though she does not understand what is happening. A changed woman, she runs to the town where Jesus now stays for two days. By the end of the story she and many Samaritans believe in Jesus. As the story unfolds the woman comes to realise that water and the things of this world are not what she really desires. Her heart desires God. Jesus moves the place of worship from a physical reality, Jerusalem or this Mountain, to the inner space of the soul, where we pray in Spirit and Truth.

God's Word Bishop Greg Homeming OCD

Satisfied

The way Jesus led the dialogue with the Samaritan woman and her consequent transformation provides us a model which we can use to bring the best out of a relationship. At the time of Jesus, the Jews disliked the Samaritans. Though it was abominable for a Jewish rabbi like Jesus to speak to a Samaritan woman, he enters into a dialogue with her to save her.

One of the truths that the Samaritan woman learns from Jesus is about the 'living water'. The 'living water' is the symbol of God's Word and the Holy Spirit. A life based on the Word of God and the indwelling of the Spirit will satisfy a person completely. One of the important conditions which facilitate the possession of these gifts is the awareness of one's sins and repentance for them.

God's Word Fr (Dr) Robert D'Souza

PARISH PRIEST & DEAN OF THE CENTRAL COAST: Fr Brian Moloney

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr Rosan Mathew

DEACON: Rev Tony Hoban

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Leanne McGill

Address: PO Box 189 THE ENTRANCE 2261

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9.30-5.00pm

Email: info@ourladyoftherosary.org.au

Web: www.ourladyoftherosary.org.au

DEACON: Rev Paul Simmons

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Colleen Smith

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MANAGER: Karen Green

239-243 The Entrance Rd THE ENTRANCE 2261

Office Hours Telephone No: 4332 2216

After Hours Emergency No: 0493 364 448

Facebook: Our Lady of the Rosary Parish The Entrance



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Delve Beyond the Surface

“For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.” This lack of relations between Jews and Samaritans had deep historical and religious roots. The woman to whom Jesus spoke was herself aware of it, mentioning the difference in belief between her people and the Jews concerning where people should worship. Yet Jesus’ request is unusual for other reasons, too. It would have been unusual at that time for a man to speak in public to a woman, and especially to a woman who would have been considered a sinner. (This woman already had five husbands and was living with a man who was not her husband.) Jesus therefore breaks down several barriers when he asks the Samaritan woman for a drink: barriers that are religious, social and ethnic. In his response to the woman’s pointing out the religious divisions between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus reveals the universality of his message. True worship is not dependent on origins or place, but on spirit and truth. What follows in today’s Gospel is a story of dialogue between two “others”, delving beyond the surface of tangible traditions and differences towards truth. The Samaritan woman moves from being a person who, viewed superficially, people might expect Jesus to ignore – because she is a woman, a Samaritan, and a sinner – to one who is invited by Jesus to labour with him, evangelising among her people through her testimony.

Today’s Gospel challenges our expectations concerning who might reveal God’s word in our lives. Faithful parishioners, who may say very little, but whose whole life proclaims the Lord non-verbally, are the women and men full of faith and inner peace, who encourage everyone and have become great witnesses in their local church and community. Every parish has such people. And each of us has the capacity to be like them. We can play our part in helping others see beyond the water that quenches thirst only temporarily, to the water Jesus brings that wells up to eternal life.

Sunday Living Word Majellan Family Media

Lenten Practices Reminder

Lenten penance is a practice of self-denial, prayer, and almsgiving intended to purify the heart, make reparation for sin, and grow in virtue. It involves interrupting daily comforts to foster a closer relationship with God and demonstrate charity toward others throughout the 40-day season.

The Three Pillars of Lent

Prayer: Deepening your connection with God through practices such as daily Mass, family prayer, reading the Bible, praying the Rosary, visiting a Church, or making the Stations of the Cross.

Self-Denial: Interrupting normal comforts to rely more on God. Examples include abstaining from meat (required on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday), limiting screen time to spend more time with family, giving up sweets or entertainment, limiting food or drink, or accepting daily inconveniences - like traffic or minor irritations - with patience instead of complaining.

Helping Others (Almsgiving): Actively serving those in need. This can include volunteering at food banks, donating money saved from fasting (e.g., to Mary’s Meals or Project Compassion), or performing acts of kindness for the sick, lonely, or elderly, with special attention to someone who is overburdened or feeling isolated from our Church community; or in other ways.

These suggestions are designed to assist our Lenten journey from the material to the spiritual, and make a great practice not only for Lent, but for all year round.

Masses: Saturday Vigil 5pm | Sunday 8am & 9:30am | Reynolds Court 11am | Maronite Mass 5pm

Weekday Masses: Monday Communion Service 9am | Tuesday - Thursday 9am | Friday 11:45am
Saturday 9am | Reynolds Court Wednesday 10am

Reconciliations: Saturdays 9:30am - 10am | 4pm - 4:30pm **Liturgy of the Hours:** Saturday 8:40am

Rosary: Monday-Thursday 8:35am | Friday 11:20am | Saturday 9:30am

Holy Souls Crusade Prayer Group: Tuesday 9:30am **Cenacle Prayer Group:** Wednesday 9:30am

Christian Meditation Group: Friday 10:30am - 11:30am Reynolds Room



A Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love

Walking into the Wilderness Lenten Reflection Mornings

Walking in the Wilderness Lenten resource calls us to a deeper experience of communion, participation and mission, growing in reverence for the sacred mystery of our faith and the Eucharist. Take time to pause and ponder on our earthly and spiritual lives before God. Thursdays after 9am Mass in the Reynolds Room. All invited! For more information call 4332 2216.

Presentation of Reconciliation Candidates

This weekend we welcome the children who are participating in the First Reconciliation Programme, to be presented to the parish, and to ask parishioners to pray for them on their faith journey. Please take a child's prayer card to support them along the way.

Parish Bus to Ordinations

All are invited to attend the Ordinations to the Priesthood of Tán Nguyen, Shayne D'Cunha and Huy Tran on Wednesday 29 April at 7pm at Waitara Cathedral. Those who would like to travel on the parish bus please book through the office – limit of 22 passengers. Pick-up from the Church carpark at 4:30pm, return approximately 10pm. Please pray for Tán, Shayne and Huy as they prepare for their Ordinations.

Seaside Youth Group

We are a youth group made by youth, for youth! A space for young people to connect with friends and faith. We welcome youth in School Years 5-12. We gather next Saturday 14 March after the 5pm Mass, in the Upper Room, until 8pm. Newcomers welcome – bring a friend!

Congratulations Catechists and Helpers!

Several of our Catechists and Helpers were Commissioned to go into the State Schools for 2026 at last weekend's Mass. The Catechists then hosted a lovely Morning Tea in the parish centre.



3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7 | Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 | John 4:5-42

Entrance Antiphon: 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.

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

Gospel Acclamation: 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!

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



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Please Note

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross is being held on Fridays of Lent after the 11:45am Mass.

Lenten Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is being held on Saturdays of Lent after 9am Mass, for one hour.

Nursing Home Mass

Mass will be held for residents at Opal Killarney Vale on Tuesday at 11 am.

Parish Morning Tea

The Ambrosian Family Group is hosting our Morning Tea this Sunday after the 9:30am Mass. Come along to the parish centre for a cuppa and a biscuit. All welcome!

Central Coast Secular Franciscans

The next Franciscan Prayer Meeting is on Friday 13 March in the Reynolds Room. We have a bite to eat after the 11:45am Mass and then begin our meeting. All welcome – contact Sandra 0499 811 177.

Divine Retreat Centre

The Divine Retreat Centre offers a variety of programmes each month including Weekend Retreats and Outreach Ministries. Held at the main Centre at 160 Hensons Road Somersby and various locations. Contact 4372 1598, drcsydneyrego@gmail.com or go to www.divineretreatcentre.org

How Do We Make Abortion Unthinkable in Australia?

Join us for this important talk on upholding the dignity of life in our society, presented by leading Australian pro-life speaker, Dr Joanna Howe. Friday 20 March 7:30pm Light of Christ Centre Waitara. Google: 'how do we make abortion unthinkable in Australia?' and click on the 'Eventbrite' page.

Thank you from Catholic Mission

On behalf of the Church in Zambia I would like to thank your parishioners for their generosity which is helping empower women, provide essential healthcare, and bring hope. Total amount raised: \$3146.

Project Compassion

Please remember Project Compassion this Lent - boxes are on the information tables.

Keep Us in Your Prayers

Recently Deceased: Liam Gilmore, Bill Trodden, Josephine McGrath, Antoni Szczur (father of Fr Pawel, PP of Gosford), Lin Ortiz, Sheila Tobin, Manda Vrtaric, Mary Bracewell.

Remembrances: Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, John Giutronich, Mario Cauchi, Delma Clarke, Richard Falzon, Nona Redman, Fr Michael Kelly, Steve Gribbin, Simon Butcher, Michael Langley, Mervyn O'Sullivan and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Sick: Susie Reyes, Harry McCarthy, Josephine McMahan, Lynette Falken, Steve Bond, Fr David Taylor, Lynne White, Fr Geoff Bugden, Fr Brogan, Julie Fletcher, Walter Knoke, Pat McCudden, Linda Read, Rod Slater, Pam Elliott, Janine Harpley, Patrick Yeo, Stjepan Tuka, Pauline Fowler, Anne Knoke, John McClement, Emma Horton, Kelly Will.

Welcome Newly Baptised: Leo Harvey, Howard, Billy & Albie Elliott, Sadie & Macy Laing, Rory Rosenberg.

Our Lady of the Rosary



Sacred Gifts

Welcome!

We open on Saturdays before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass and Sundays before and after the 9:30am Mass.

Also weekdays by appointment.

You'll find us in the foyer of the Church.

4332 2216