



PARISH OFFICE: 44 Margaret Street, Launceston T250 **PHONE:** 6331 4377
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OFFICE HOURS: 10.00AM - 3.00PM on MONDAY - FRIDAY; CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS
PARISH TEAM: Fr Ben Brooks, Fr Chathura Silva, Fr Jessie Banez
Carolyn Gutteridge—**Parish Secretary**
Rosie Caelli—**Sacramental Co-ordinator**
FACEBOOK: @CatholicParishLaunceston

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 12 MARCH 2023

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:3-7 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

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.)

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.

**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 (Shorter Form) 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 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.'

Dear Parish family,

Images of the Australian continent often found on postcards, posters and online material are beautiful and awe-inspiring as they open up the vastness of this land – from sand-swept beaches to lush rainforests; from snow covered mountains to arid deserts. The dry outback areas perhaps most frequently come to mind when stories of this country's indigenous culture are shared, as well as those of early European settlers who battled to establish farms and towns.

Fortunately, despite the harsh environment, and the effects of drought from time to time, we in Australia are largely blessed with clean water for drinking, sanitation and farming. We know this isn't the case for many communities around the world who constantly live with the threat of dehydration and starvation.

The Samaritan Woman in today's Gospel, without realising it, was deprived of a particular kind of water that offered her an abundance of life. As a result, she was largely isolated from her community and the love of God – even love of herself. Her encounter with Jesus at the well opened up for her a new possibility of life as he revealed to her that he is the source of "living water" that assures that we will "never be thirsty again" and will "turn into a spring inside...welling up to eternal life".

This living water is offered to us in baptism, assuring us that in the baptismal waters, we are offered the same eternal life in God's love. This weekend, those elect who are preparing for Baptism at Easter participate in the First Scrutiny, a Rite that uncovers their need for God's healing and opens up for them the possibility for this as they are filled with the spirit of Christ, the living water.

Please pray for **Melissa Jago** and **Jackie Divall** who participate in this Rite this weekend, that they may experience the call to Christ, the living water from which they will never be thirsty again!

Have a blessed week!

Fr Ben Brooks



Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

An important aspect of the parish's mission is to bring the Eucharist to those who are unable to attend Sunday Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are needed to ensure that we can reach out to those at home or in hospital. If you feel called to participate in this life-giving ministry, you are invited to an information and discernment session at the

Parish Pastoral Centre on Wednesday 15th March at 6:00pm. Or please contact Fr Ben on 0448 5527140/ email benbrooks88@live.com

TRAINING FOR ALTAR SERVERS: The second training evening will be held at Church of the Apostles on Wednesday 15 March, 6pm-7pm.. For further information, please contact one of the Priests.

Making the most of Lent.....

JOIN A LENTEN PROGRAM GROUP "God is on the Journey too" Lent is a time of prayer, penance, renewal of faith and re-focusing on God in our life. Join one of the following groups for prayer and sharing based on the Gospels as we journey through Lent to Easter: **10.30am Mondays or 10.30am Wednesdays downstairs in the the Pastoral Centre.**

Lenten Program Books Limited copies of the Parish Lent Program are available from the office @\$10 a copy for your personal lent journey.

Virtual Lent Program Offered by Garratt Publishing, Tuesdays in Lent. Further details can be found at <https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/2023-virtual-lenten-series/>

Friday Holy Hour Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place for one hour every Friday after the 12noon Mass at the Church of the Apostles.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Church, Newstead on the Fridays of Lent. Make this a focus for your Lenten prayer and renewal.

PROJECT COMPASSION is a way to make your Lenten efforts practical in assisting those most in need. Make sure every home has one of the boxes or a set of envelopes.

YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED especially **Lexie McDonald** (Alec and Skye) and **Marigold and Juniper Keleher** (Cameron and Megan) who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

FOR THE NEWLY MARRIED Congratulations, prayers and encouragement to **Joshua Brinski and Angelina Verezub** who celebrate their Marriage in our parish this weekend

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Fr Martin Aye Ngwe, Fr Terry Yard, Greg Hopwood, Noelene Bye, Nanette Gunton, Maria Holton, Myra Conway, Kathy Aldred, Teresa McMahon, Kim Izard, Danielle Evans, Louisa Buttazzoni, Lalla Smethurst, Sally Griffin (Smethurst), Pauline Heazlewood, Patsy Heath, Alex Thrower, Marie Cousins, Alida Moolenschot, Archivaldo Pechon, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Qian Zhang-Allchin, Carole Cleary, Bev Callahan, Helen Wright, Alfred Weeding, Maureen Saunders, Mary Morgan, Mary Carter, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Tony Long, Kristel Latham, Joan Keefe, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Vincent Burke, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Hudson, Brian Beardwood, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, Max Jamieson, Jan McClean and Peter Marshall.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Sr Teresa OCD, Henryk Gebka, Tim O'Sullivan, Jesse Youd, Pam Dalton and **Graham Quinn** who have died recently, Kevin Sullivan, Leonore McKay, Fay O'Malley, Emil Johnston, Milka Njegac, Alfredo de Angelis, Kate-lyn Taylor, Agatha Schouten, Bruce French, Michael O'Dowd, John Maher, we remember all victims of the COVID-19 virus and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY: As the COVID virus continues to affect our lives, we pray in a special way for all those involved in frontline services. We pray for the gift of healing and peace for all who contract the virus, especially for those who are in hospital, and for their families.

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

MORNING MEDITATION at the **Emmanuel Centre Tuesdays at 10.30am**. Newcomers are welcome. Enquiries: phone 6334 1082

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place for one hour every Friday after the 12noon Mass at the Church of the Apostles.

ROSARY: is recited every Monday at 7:30pm in the comfort of your own home. Enquiries: Jan (0409 175 940) or Adrian & Liz (0407 074 693)

THE CARMEL SHOP: 7 Cambridge Street, West Launceston is open on Wednesdays between 11.00am - 4.00pm

*Copies of the latest edition of **The Catholic Standard** are available in the Church and the foyer of the Pastoral Centre or look for the online version on the Archdiocese of Hobart website.*

Lenten talk by Fr Michael Tate

'Shakespeare, Jesus of Nazareth, and the Mercy of God'

7 pm on Wednesday 22 March, Pastoral Centre—Upstairs
All parishioners are welcome

A VOCATION VIEW

Only the Lord can give true living water, the fullness of life. Our body cannot survive without water; our spirit cannot survive without living water. Now is the time to renew our lives in the waters and Spirit of Baptism.

whoever drinks of the water
I will give him will NEVER thirst again
John 4:14



WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday	6.00pm Vigil	Sacred Heart, Newstead
Sunday	7.30am	Carmel
9.00am	St Finn Barr's	Invermay
9.00am	St Patrick's Chapel	Prospect
10.30am	Apostles	
6.30pm	Apostles (Oct—March)	

WEEKDAY MASSES 13th—18th March

7.30am Monday to Friday at Carmel

Tuesday:	12noon	Newstead
Wednesday	12noon	Apostles
	5.30pm	Apostles
Thursday:	12noon	Invermay
Friday:	12noon	Apostles
Saturday:	9am	Carmel

RECONCILIATION

Saturday:	10.00am - 11.00am	Apostles
	5.15pm - 5.45pm	Newstead

PALM SUNDAY VIGIL PILGRIMAGE

SATURDAY 1 APRIL 2023

2:30pm Start - St Finn Barr's Church, Invermay

5.15pm Finish - Sacred Heart Church, Newstead

Sacrament of Reconciliation available

6pm - Vigil Mass

For further information and
Registration, scan here



Registrations close 12 noon on Wednesday 29 March, 2023

PALM SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE—Volunteers needed

We are looking for assistant volunteers for our pilgrimage event, both walking participants and those that cannot walk due to mobility issues.

We are seeking qualified **first aid persons** (2 preferably) [these persons can walk as well if they wish], **route marshals** (2 preferably) for road crossing assistance, a **support driver** for tired or injured pilgrims (1), **catering assistants** for refreshments (3-4) [these persons can walk as well if they wish].

Please note: a current Police Check and Working with Vulnerable People registration will be required to comply with the Archdiocese of Hobart –Safe Communities Policy for these roles.

Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help.

The Apostles of Perpetual Adoration thank the Priests and parishioners for the support in the recent Lenten Eucharistic Adoration Mission.

The local Adoration team will be putting together a roster and contacting those whom have put their name down to be a guardian, for one Holy Hour a week. If you were unable to sign up or missed the mission talks please feel free to contact the Emmanuel Centre on adorationemmanuelcentre@gmail.com or call 0428003642 for more information. Casual, Substitute and visitors are encouraged and more than welcome to visit the Adoration chapel – Please contact the Emmanuel Centre to book a Holy Hour at a time that suits you.

Bank details for direct debit donations to support the financial needs of your Parish:

Account Name: Launceston Catholic Parish

BSB: 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153.

Reference: "your surname"



The Catholic Parish of Launceston embraces and whole-heartedly supports the Archdiocese of Hobart Safe Communities Policy and Framework.

Enquiries: Parish Office 63314377 or email: launceston@aohtas.org.au

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



*My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.*



PROJECT COMPASSION

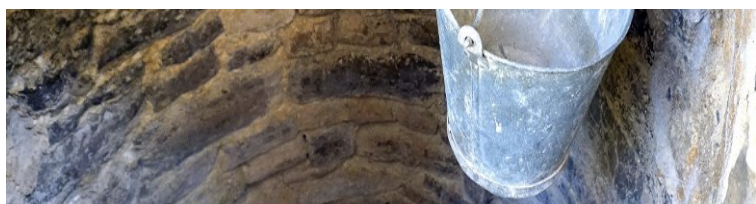
For All Future Generations

Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Boxes and envelopes are available in the Church.

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



Children's Corner

Unscramble the letters in the bucket to reveal who the Samaritan woman discovered Jesus to really be.



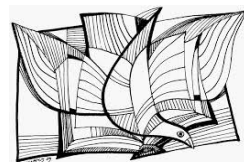
GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Monday 13th:	Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday 14th:	Matthew 18:21-35
Wednesday 15th:	Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 16th:	Luke 11:14-23
Friday 17th:	Luke 10:1-12, 17-20
Saturday 18th:	Luke 18:9-14

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7
Psalm 22 R v 1
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



Ponder and pray the living Word of God

Volunteers required for the Choir for Easter Liturgies

If you have the ability to sing in tune and can make a commitment to attending Rehearsals please contact the Parish Office or talk to Janet Hoare (Organist) after the 10.30am Mass at Apostles.

(As there are only stairs to the choir loft, you will need to be able to get up and down the stairs without any difficulty).

ANNUAL ST PATRICK'S PILGRIMAGE

Saturday 18 March – Sunday 19 March 2023

Please note: change of direction from previous pilgrimages

Join Archbishop Julian Porteous for Mass following a pilgrimage in celebration of the feast of St Patrick. Pilgrims will set out from St Patrick's Church, Colebrook and concludes at St John the Evangelist Church, Richmond. This popular pilgrimage is open to all young adults between the ages of 16-35 years and will conclude with Mass at St John the Evangelist Church in Richmond on Sunday afternoon. **Cost: \$55**

Register at: <https://>

StPatricksPilgrimage2023.eventbrite.com.au

Alternatively, contact youth@aohtas.org.au if you have any questions.