



Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish

Catholic Diocese of Bunbury

Dunsborough, WA



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First Reading

Exodus 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?'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

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

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.)

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.)

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

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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!

Gospel

John 4:5-15. 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 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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.

Pope's Intention for March 2026: FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



REFLECTION

Exodus 17:3-7

Is the Lord in our midst? (Exodus 17:7)

Today marks the third Sunday of Lent, and your enthusiasm for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving may be fading by now. Perhaps your Lenten sacrifices have been more challenging than you anticipated, or you don't feel any closer to God. Like the Israelites in today's first reading, you may wonder, "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" (Exodus 17:7).

God had freed his people from slavery, yet they doubted that he would provide for them. In their thirst, they grew impatient and hardened their hearts despite all he had done for them. They even argued that slavery in Egypt was better than freedom in the desert! So they demanded that the Lord quench their thirst. In his mercy, God granted their request. Moses struck the rock, and water flowed forth for the people to drink.

In today's Gospel, we meet a Samaritan woman who also has a deep thirst. She comes to draw water, but Jesus asks her for a drink. She wonders: Who is this? Jesus replies, "If you knew . . . you would have asked him and he would have given you living water" (John 4:10). She doesn't grasp who Jesus is, but her thirst opens her heart to him. "Give me this water," she asks, and Jesus reveals himself to her (4:15). He is the One who offers the waters of eternal life. He is the One who knows her past. He is the promised Messiah. Unlike the thirsty Israelites who grumbled, her heart is soft, receptive to God's presence. And in his goodness, Jesus quenches her thirst, and she leaves her water jar to tell everyone about him.

Jesus wants to reveal himself to you—do you recognize him? He speaks to you through the Scriptures at Mass today; he invites you to quench your thirst as you receive him in the Eucharist. He is present in both the simple and the profound moments of life, in your dirty dishes and a beautiful sunrise. So, open your eyes and "harden not your heart" (Psalm 95:8). The Lord is in your midst!

"I'm thirsty, Lord! Soften my heart so that I can recognize you today!"

- from *The Word Among Us*



PRAYER INTENTIONS

Special Intentions:

- For the intentions of our EMHC, acolytes, commentators, lectors, musicians, mass servers, sacristans, greeter, and collectors;
- For the intentions of our PPC members, Parish Finance Committee members, bookkeeper, and bankers;
- For the intentions of our church and ground cleaners, morning tea manpower and food donors;
- For the intentions of God's Farm & Bove Farm; and for all the residents of Cape Care Dunsborough;

- For the intentions of our RCIA candidates and our RCIA Team;
- We also pray for some members of our parish, and our families who are sick - we pray for their speedy recovery.

We Pray for the Repose of Souls (Death Anniversaries):

- 07/03 - Wilma Ramsbottom; Carmel Keanneally, Mary Elle Rhodes
- 08/03 - Reginald Lock
- 09/03 - Tom Morris
- 10/03 - Jo Adams
- 11/03 - Ong Ho Ping
- 12/03 - John L. Walker
- 13/03 - Evaline Chisnall
- 14/03 - Lourdes Rebise Chugani



Pope Leo XIV urges diplomacy amid Iran tensions

The pontiff warned that "stability and peace are not built with mutual threats" and appealed for dialogue to avert a wider crisis.

Pope Leo XIV voiced concern on Sunday about developments in the Middle East and Iran, urging the parties involved to stop what he called a "spiral of violence" before it becomes an "unbridgeable chasm."

"Stability and peace are not achieved through mutual threats, nor through the use of weapons, which sow destruction, suffering, and death, but only through reasonable, sincere, and responsible dialogue," the pope said on March 1. He appealed for diplomacy to "regain its proper role," and for the "well-being of peoples, who yearn for peaceful existence founded on justice," to be upheld.

The pontiff added: "And let us continue to pray for peace."

Leo also appealed for peace in the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan, calling for an urgent return to dialogue. He asked Catholics to pray that concord may prevail in conflicts around the world, saying: "Only peace, a gift of God, can heal the wounds between peoples."

The pope also said he was close to the people of Brazil's state of Minas Gerais following severe flooding, offering prayers for victims, families who have lost their homes, and those engaged in rescue operations.

Earlier, before reciting the Angelus, the pope reflected on Sunday's Gospel account of the Transfiguration, describing Christ as the living wisdom who fulfills the Law and the Prophets. He said the Transfiguration foreshadows the light of Easter—an event of death and resurrection, of darkness and new light that Christ radiates on all bodies scourged by violence, crucified by pain, or abandoned in misery.

Pope Leo said the Lord "transfigures the wounds of history," illuminating minds and hearts with a surprising revelation of salvation. He added that grasping this mystery requires time: time of silence to listen to the Word, and time of conversion to savour the Lord's companionship.

This story was first published by ACI Stampa, the Italian-language sister service of EWTN News, and has been translated and adapted by EWTN News English.

PARISH NOTICES

World Day of Prayer - 13 March

Let us join with our brothers and sisters of the other churches in Dunsborough in celebration of World Day of Prayer on 13th March at St. George's Church, 10 am. This year, we are praying for Nigeria.

Project Compassion of Caritas Australia

Let us continue to generously support Caritas Australia in alleviating poverty. Please choose any way of sending your financial help to Caritas Australia. Instructions are at the foyer.

Initial Parish Activities to Celebrate our 35th Anniversary of Consecration of the Church Building and Altar

- Renewal of Baptismal Promises in April.
- Spiritual Formation in April: Prayer Workshop
- Marian devotion event in May.
- Renewal of Marriage Vows in June.
- Parish & School Fun Day in November.
- Coming up with a commemorative photo book; etc.

Lenten Weekly Spiritual Formation

Our Diocese, through our parish, is offering a spiritual formation program every Friday at 5 pm during Lent. It uses the gospel reading of the following Sunday as material for prayerful reflection. Coming and praying together can be a grace-filled exercise. We will end with Stations of the Cross.

Calling for More Liturgical Volunteers

Our parish is still in need of more volunteers to take on the following roles at our liturgical celebrations:

- Commentators
- Acolytes
- Lectors or Readers
- Collectors
- Mass Servers
- Choir members

Please approach Father Archie.

OLC NOTICES

Did you know that at OLC, we have specialist teachers in the following areas: Science, Visual Arts, Sport, Music and Language other than English (Indonesian for Pre-primary to Year 3, and Italian for Years 3-6)? Students really enjoy these classes, when they get to move around the school and experience different learning areas with different teachers. School life is certainly interesting for our students!

As part of our Lenten journey, next week, we are having a rice day, where students give up treats in their lunch boxes for a day and have a simple bowl of rice for lunch. This is a way for us to raise money for Project Compassion and to build awareness and empathy for those who do not have as much to eat as we take for granted.

Several times each term, teachers select one student from their class who always makes good choices, shows respect, and is a role model for their peers. These students always do the right thing, and we want to acknowledge them, to let them know that we appreciate their presence in their classes and our school. They get to go to the staff room and have a Hot Chocolate and a chat with the Principal and Assistant Principal. We like to celebrate our amazing students.



HOT CHOCOLATE WEDNESDAY
Week 5

Congratulations to this week's awesome students who had a hot chocolate and a chat with the Leadership Team.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

Episcopal Ordination Anniversary Mass

Bishop George Kolodziej SDS DD will be celebrating his Episcopal Ordination Anniversary Mass on Thursday 19th March 2026 at 9.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral. You are very welcome to celebrate his wonderful first year in the life of the Bunbury Diocese. A morning tea will follow.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD



At Sweet Stylin we style, design and create couture cakes & sweets for any Special Occasion: cupcakes, naked cakes, Macarons, donuts, and dessert bars. 0411 438 639 / eatcake@sweetstylin.com.au or visit our Website: sweetsylin.com.au
WEDDINGS PARTIES EVENTS



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CHURCH COLLECTION 28th Feb—1st March 2026

Mass Collections : \$ 1,270.75
Direct Deposit : \$ 100; 10; 10; 40
EFTPOS : \$ 245.00
10-c Recycling : \$

A Tap & Donate machine is located in the foyer for the convenience of parishioners and visitors who may prefer to use the EFTPOS Machine.

If you wish to make a DONATION, please deposit it directly to our Parish Bank Account:
BSB: 086-006 ACCT: 848054647

Acct. Name: **The Roman Catholic Bishop of Bunbury Dunsborough Parish**

Parish Bulletin Editorial Staff:
Jude Kelly, Joan Smurthwaite, Fr. Archie



FREE CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- free pregnancy tests
- emotional support: before, during and after pregnancy
- material assistance: maternity clothing, baby clothing, baby items (nappies & toiletries, prams, cots etc.)
- pre-natal and post-natal information
- assistance with access to other resources/services

PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE BUNBURY

9792 4759
pregnant@westnet.com.au
151 Spencer Street, South Bunbury
Hours: 11am-5pm Tuesdays & Thursdays or by appointment



OLOTSC Parish supports Pregnancy Assistance Bunbury.

Please share the information above and donate any items for babies. God bless!