



The Bathurst Anglican

The Newsletter of All Saints Cathedral Bathurst

With St Barnabas South Bathurst—St Peters Rockley— St Stephens Fitzgeralds Valley
Holy Spirit Turondale—St Pauls Yetholme

Sunday 12 March 2023—Third Sunday In Lent



The Woman at the Well

We listen fascinated to the story of the meeting by the well of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Her history reminds us of our own frailties; her finding of faith and a new life encourages us.

Thirst and hunger are such elemental experiences that they come immediately to mind, as we try to express the restless quest that shapes every human life. Though her life's searching has led her to make serious mistakes, we warm to the spirited woman from whom Jesus asks a drink. Jesus is thirsty; but what he seeks before all else is that this woman and those like her find true peace. In their memorable exchange he responds to the woman's searching. As she comes to recognise that she has found what her heart has been seeking, she 'puts down her water jar', and runs off to share the good news with the villagers she has been avoiding – by coming to the well at midday when few people are about.

This narrative has been written for a community that has meditated deeply upon basic themes of Christian faith – themes as relevant for us today as they were when the gospel was written. The Saviour is progressively presented as the one in whom humanity's long and troubled search will find what it has been looking for. He is 'greater than Jacob', the ancestor of Israel; he is not only 'a prophet'; he is 'the Christ' of Israel's hopes. In fact – as in many texts of John's gospel – he intimates a claim to the divine name itself, 'I AM he'. His coming inaugurates a new order, 'worship of the Father in Spirit and truth' – something far beyond what has been known to Jews and Samaritans. He brings 'living waters, welling up to eternal life'. John's community would have heard in these words overtones of the wonder of their baptism.

The woman's reaction to her enlightenment was a reminder to those who had found faith in Christ that they too were called to be missionaries. And this reminder has a sharp edge. It is not easy for us, today, to appreciate the bitterness of the estrangement between Jews and Samaritans – though the shocking conflicts of recent times may help us to understand the violent attitudes that divided these two groups. Of the Synoptic Gospels, Luke alone – the gentile convert - shows any sympathy for the Samaritans. A missionary outreach to these people, therefore, must have seemed almost unthinkable to early Christians, most of whom were from a Jewish background. The attitude of Jesus, and the success he had in this chance meeting with Samaritans, was an encouragement for them to take up the Church's mission, even though the difficulties seemed insurmountable.

This lesson is hammered home for them - and for us - in the words of Jesus to his bewildered disciples: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me'; the harvest is 'ready' – 'grain for eternal life'. His final lesson is a call to humility – the saving plan he is inaugurating is God's work – among God's workers, 'one sows, another reaps'

Rev. John Thornhill

Psalm 95

O come, let us sing out to the Lord : let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his face with thanksgiving : and cry out to him joyfully in psalms.

For the Lord is a great God : and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth : and the peaks of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his and he made it : his hands moulded dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down : and kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is the Lord our God : we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Today if only you would hear his voice 'Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah : as on that day at Massah in the wilderness;

'When your fathers tested me : put me to proof, though they had seen my works.

'Forty years long I loathed that generation and said : "It is a people who err in their hearts, for they do not know my ways";

'Of whom I swore in my wrath : "They shall not enter my rest."

We worship on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people and we honour and pay our respects to elders past and present.

Prayer Cycle

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Church of South India (United).

NATIONAL CHURCH

The Diocese of Grafton with Bishop Dr Murray Harvey, clergy and people. Pray that as they restructure the nature of ministry there, that new possibilities and great opportunities will open up for more effective ministry.

BATHURST DIOCESE

The Parish of Coonabarabran: the Rev'd Andrew Thornhill and Kath. Thank the Lord for their first year and the blessings they and the parish have seen. Pray for the Rev'd Gloria Shipp and Eddie with Walkabout Ministries.

LOCAL NEEDS

Pray for those who are driving: for alertness and safety on the road, joy in what they see, cheerfulness as they meet people, happiness in the reunion with loved ones, and rest at the end of the journey. Particularly pray for our bishop and other leaders as they travel in the course of their ministry that they will stay alert and remain safe.

BIBLE VERSE

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.
Psalm 119:105

DIOCESAN PRAYER

*Loving God, be with those who travel.
May their journey be one of safety,
may they arrive refreshed and return
home, awakened and enriched by their
journey. May you be with them as they
go and as they return. Amen*

Parish News

WELCOME MORNING TEA

A Welcome Morning Tea will be held for the Boardman Family this Sunday 12 March at 9:30am. Come along and join in and free to bring something to share.

SRE SPECIAL SERVICE—12 MARCH

The special speaker will be **Rachael Bell**, a fellow parishioner attending the 10 am service. With her background in both teaching and in theology she encourages and guides those who go into our High schools across the Central West to teach Christian Studies. Following the service in the Uniting Church afternoon tea will provide a chance to meet Christians from other Bathurst churches.

HOLY TRINITY KELSO

Save the date—Holy Trinity Kelso, **Annual Market Day**, Saturday 18 March. Details will follow.

MOORE COLLEGE MISSION WEEK—26 MARCH -2 APRIL

Moore College will be in the Cathedral Parish for Mission Week from 26 March to 2 April. Details will soon follow.

ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL AGM

SUNDAY 26 MARCH

11.30am CHAPTER HOUSE CATHEDRAL

All reports are now due to

cathedral@bathurstanglican.org.au

Today's Readings in Context

Exodus 17:1-7 To address their need for renewal after captivity in Babylon, Jewish leaders retold the story of their ancestors' exodus from Egypt. The story has a series of advances and setbacks, mighty deeds by God followed by difficulties. These make the people alternate between belief and doubt.

Romans 5:1-11 Some early Christians believed that pagan converts should be required to earn salvation by keeping the laws of Moses. Saint Paul knows that is not so, and much of the letter to the Romans explains how salvation is a grace, that is, an undeserved gift.

John 4:5-42 Saint John's gospel was written, in part, to provoke a decision by people who were on the fence about converting to Christ. It shows how Jesus is continuous with their religious tradition, but stretches, breaks and fulfills that tradition.

Come Along & Join A Parish Group

KIDS CLUB: Thursday 3.45-5pm Cathedral/Hall
FELLOWSHIP: 1st Monday of month, 10.30am—Bring your Handwork/Lunch. Phone 6331 4711 for venue
Tuesday 7:30pm—Call James 0449 556 566
Wednesday 7:30pm—Call Phil 0411 281 915
Thursday 7:30pm call Phil 0411 281 915
MU: Mothers Union—4th Tuesday each month, 5pm—Abbott Room, Cathedral
PRAYER: 1st Monday each month, 5.30pm—Abbott Room
CHOIR: Each Thursday, 7.00pm—Abbott Room
BELLRINGERS: Wednesday 6pm—Belltower. For enquiries phone +Richard 0409 633 789
FRIENDS OF CATHEDRAL: For enquiries phone Jane 0427 280 352

10 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE ... with Phil Howes

We've covered some big themes so far in our "Foundations" series on Genesis 1-3 with nothing really controversial. That makes it easy to agree that what God has laid down is foundational and still relevant for now. But what about things more contentious? An easy way out then, is to say that it's not foundational. But there are two big problems with this. 20 years ago our next two topics were not controversial, but this has changed. The biggest problem though is that if God is clear enough on something, we can't just dismiss it because it's contentious.



Two of our last Genesis topics are: male and female (gender) from 1:26-28; and marriage from 2:18-25. How are Christians to view these topics? Is it just a matter of saying "well it's all open to interpretation"? Something as central as gender and marriage, you would think that God would be clear on it. Of course, he is clear and so therefore it's important to take a deep breath and listen carefully. This will mean we can worship God in all life's areas and not take the easy way out of avoidance apathy. Both genders are equal, both to be celebrated, both created deliberately by God and so each have great purpose.

Lent Week 2

Let Us Fast

While fasting with the body,
brothers and sisters,
let us also fast in spirit.

Let us lose every bond of iniquity;
let us undo the knots of every contact made by violence;
let us tear up all unjust agreements;
let us give bread to the hungry
and welcome to our house
the poor who have no roof to cover them,
that we may receive mercy from Christ our God.

Byzantine Vespers

SERVICES

Cathedral	
Monday	8.30am
Tuesday	
Wednesday	8.30am
Thursday	8.30am BCP
Friday	10.00am
Saturday	5.00pm (6pm DST)
Sunday	
<i>Choral Eucharist</i>	8.30am
<i>Contemporary</i>	10.00am
St Barnabas	
Sunday	10.00am
3rd Thursday	10.30am
St Peters Rockley	
1st Sunday	10.30am
St Pauls Yetholme	
1st Sunday	11am
St Stephens Fitzgeralds Valley	
4th Sunday	2.00pm
Holy Spirit Turondale	
Third Sunday	2.00pm
Healing Service	
1st Sunday	4.00pm

PARISH INFORMATION

CLERGY

Dean	Very Rev James Hodson
Assoc Minister	Rev Phil Howes 0411 281915
Assist Minister	James Boardman
Honorary Clergy	Canon Carla Archer Rev Clare Percival Bishop Richard Hurford Rev John Butterworth

EMAIL

cathedral@bathurstanglican.org.au

WEBSITE

www.bathurstanglicancathedral.org.au

BANKING DETAILS

Account Name: All Saints' Cathedral
BSB:082441 Acct No: 392431546
If you wish to give by Direct Giving
these are the deposit account details.

WARDENS OF THE CATHEDRAL

Sue West , Graham Leatherland,
Peter Steel

OFFICE

All Saints Cathedral Parish Office
11 Church Street Bathurst. P:63314711
PO Box 258 Bathurst 2795
Tuesday 9am-1pm
Wednesday 9am-1pm

USEFUL ONLINE LINKS

Bishop's You Tube Channel

In your browser search Mark Calder
you tube. A variety of services are
available there.

Website

www.bathurstanglicancathedral.org.au

Cathedral Facebook Page

All Saints Cathedral Bathurst

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

For the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS 5.1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

For the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 4.5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son

Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, 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 know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ