

Lent 3rd Sunday (A)

15th March 2020

‘Planned Giving wk III: the Lord invites the gift of ourselves’

Ex 17: (at Massah in the desert ...)

Rom 5: *Christ died for us while we were still sinners*

Jn 4: 5–42: *Sir, give me some of that water ...*

On these 3 middle Sundays of Lent, we have some very long passages from the Gospel of St John. We’re going to hear each week the *whole* of these wonderful dialogues — with the Samaritan Woman; the Man Born Blind; and the sisters of Lazarus whom He raised from the dead, to hear exactly, and fully, what the Lord has to say to us ...

But this week, in place of the homily, we have reached the weekend when we are making our [parish financial commitment](#) after the reflection over the past 2wks. In some ways, of course, this is not an ideal w/e, because of the growing virus outbreak, and understandably those who are more vulnerable in their health may already have made the decision not to attend Sunday Mass for the time being; that’s understandable. It may well be that the Finance Committee feels that at a later date we may repeat this Planned-Giving appeal for those who missed out at present on their opportunity to increase their giving, to set up Standing Orders, to request Offertory Envelopes, and to sign Gift-Aid declarations.

But, for us who are here today, I ask for your patience and co-operation as we complete this exercise. *Especially* in the current situation, I would ask that as many of you as possible who can reasonably do so move to giving by Standing Order, which saves volunteer parishioners who count the collection a lot of time and effort, and which gives us a guaranteed income. Most banks’ debit cards have your a/c no., and sort-code on them. And please don’t forget the Gift-Aid Declaration on the l.h.s. As long as you pay enough tax in the year to cover what the taxman returns to the charities that you gift-aid to, then you can sign the gift-aid declaration, which helps the parish enormously.

I invite you to spend a few minutes filling out the [forms](#) that are in your Newsletters. Members of the Finance Committee are on hand with spare forms if you need one; and are ready in due course to collect them in. If you have a query and need to speak to a member of the Finance Committee after Mass, they’ll be available to help you at the table in the porch. I do plead your patience and generosity. It’s 5yrs since we had the last Planned-Giving campaign, and we most certainly need as a parish to renew our giving. I thank you.