Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

3rd Sunday of Lent (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

**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.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

PSALM: Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R.v8

**R) O that today you would listen to 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 us.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Cf. Jn 4:42.15

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;
give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

A spring of water welling up to eternal life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jn 4: 13-14

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

VOCATION

PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE:

Lord God you call many of us
to be husbands and wives, parents,
and children, in youth and old age,
in sickness and in health.
You call us to love and holiness.
Help us be a living image of you,
and bring life to the world.
Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



The episode of Jesus and the woman at the well is one of the most powerful in the Gospels. Once again we see Jesus going against the conventions of the time. First he is speaking to a woman, who is on her own; then she is a Samaritan. The Jews despised the Samaritans and would not engage in conversation with them. Clearly the woman has had a number of men friends and therefore she was not very high on the moral scale. But Jesus holds nothing back from this "sinful" woman. He reveals to her things he has not revealed to other, supposedly "better" people. Why was this? We can only guess, but the woman has an immediate openness to this stranger at the well. And that is what Jesus wants of all of us – openness. If our lives are full with all kinds of activities, and not necessarily bad ones, it is extremely difficult to be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit. In fact, openness to the Holy Spirit is an essential element in the Christian life, without which we will never make any progress.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EVANGELIZATION

UNITY PREVAILS OVER CONFLICT

228. In this way it becomes possible to build communion amid disagreement, but this can only be achieved by those great persons who are willing to go beyond the surface of the conflict and to see others in their deepest dignity. This requires acknowledging a principle indispensable to the building of friendship in society: namely, that unity is greater than conflict. Solidarity, in its deepest and most challenging sense, thus becomes a way of making history in a life setting where conflicts, tensions and oppositions can achieve a diversified and life-giving unity. This is not to opt for a kind of syncretism, or for the absorption of one into the other, but rather for a resolution which takes place on a higher plane and preserves what is valid and useful on both sides.

The Sacrament of the Present Moment*

THE GIFT OF THE HEART

We must want to give God our heart. If we cannot manage that we must want to want it.

Good intentions can make up for weakness, for God does not ask of us extraordinary things.

Giving God our heart is to give God our freedom and our love. Anyone can do this. Surrender is the key to everything, a surrender lived out in daily life. God doesn't ask the same things of each of us. God asks according to our nature and our gifts. We must be content to be who we are and to find in our own life the traces of God's care and God's providence.

As soon as we are willing, love comes to take possession of our hearts. Love always wins through. It is invincible.

Pray for a pure heart, a single-hearted heart that knows how to see God in all that transpires, a heart where God dwells and where love is paramount.

Run along the way of love, don't just walk!

*Jean Pierre de Caussade's Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence for everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard and published by New City ISBN: 978-1-905039-11-1

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THE GOD WHO SPEAKS. A YEAR OF THE WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – 15TH MARCH 2020

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Theresa (Tessa) Abbott (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	Richard (Tich) Doyle (RIP Anniv.)
Monday 16th March	11.45am	Lent feria
Friday 20th March	11.45 am	Lent feria
Sunday 22nd March	**Fourth Sunday in Lent**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Matthew, Eileen & Geraldene Coyle (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am	Susa McGrorey (RIP)

Feast Days This Week:
17th March – St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland
18th March – St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor
19th March – St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese.

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

CAFOD Family Fast Day was Friday 6th March. Last week's collection amounted to £206.66 so far.

Please remember in your prayers: Sick; Nigel Clark, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin, Rachael Rimmer, Fergus Reynolds and Diane Boba.

Please remember in you prayers this week in The Churches Together List the residents of:
Brooke End, Apple Tree Grove, Aysgarth Road, Silk Mill Road, Flint Copse, Crecy Gardens, Cavan Road, Cheverelles Green, Flax Mews, London Road, Parkfield Road, The Coppins, College Close, Mill Lane and Pietley Cottages (Trowley Bottom)

St. Albans Abbey Gateway Orchestra will be performing a charity concert at St. John Fisher Church, Redbourn, on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm. Tickets, adults £10 and children under 16 £5, are available after all Masses.

Throughout the year 2020, the Catholic's Bishop Conference of England and Wales will be celebrating a Year of the Word called ***The God who Speaks.*** This special year marks not only the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini,* The Word of the Lord, but also the 1600th anniversary of the death of St. Jerome, known for translating the Bible into Latin, the Vulgate.

The Churches Together in Redbourn Lent Programme.
Wednesdays 10.00am at New Forge Place
Thursdays 8.00pm at St. Mary's Church
Fridays 12.15pm Lent Charity Lunches in the Garden Room of the Methodist Church
See Redbourn Common Round for more details

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal runs throughout the time of Lent.
Cardinal's Lenten Appeal – does your parish need funding?
Does your parish have a new or innovative project, which advances one of the three mission areas?
Funding is available, so please apply!
1. Marriage and Family Life – enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church.
2. Youth and Evangelisation – supporting young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith.
3. Social Outreach within Civil Society – projects that put our faith into action by serving the poor, the lonely and the marginalised, especially at a time of greater division and inequality in society

Regarding CORONAVIRUS as soon as Westminster Cathedral send us instructions and restrictions we will pass them on through the newsletter and the website.