

## NEWSLETTER

### Gospel Reflection

The woman who approached Jesus at the well was so unclean. This Samaritan woman (especially this one) was considered to be an outsider in the Jewish tradition; the Samaritan culture prohibited one to have any dealings with Jews – but even this Samaritan woman couldn't even have any dealings with her own culture. Here we see that Jesus broke the walls of separation and became relational with this woman, this outsider, this unclean being on that day.

Through this encounter with the Samaritan woman – Jesus offers her salvation and the way to eternal life while at the same time revealing her sin in front of her. Her realization of this causes her to immediately be overwhelmed with amazement and with a new found epiphany, this woman, this unclean unworthy woman runs around town proclaiming the name of Jesus. The transformation was authentic – the joy was complete and her focus on the true Messiah was aligned.

Now, understanding how Jesus and the Samaritan woman crossed paths, we began drawing parallels on how Jesus does the same with us in the spiritual sense these days. Seen in our sin and our mess – Jesus uses opportunities to encounter us. He meets us where we are at – in that moment of desperation and he offers us living water: a way to eternal life while convicting us through the Holy Spirit of our sins.



**COFFEE MORNING 29<sup>th</sup> March 10:30am.** Please come along and meet parishioners who go to a different Mass to the one you usually attend. There will also be a Bring and Buy Stall - so bring something along.

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning..

### **St Joseph's RC Church Woodford Lane Winsford CW7 2JS**

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"United in conviction and united in love, with a common purpose and a common mind"  
Philippians 2:2

### **19th MARCH 2017 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 18th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Hilda & Albert Clarkson RIP
Sunday 19th March	9:30am 11:00am <b>Noon</b>	Jack Hunt RIP People of the Parish <b>St Joseph's Day - Shared Table</b>
Monday 20th March	9:30am <b>7:30pm</b>	Mass – Bill Fay <b>Scripture Group</b>
Tuesday 21st March	9:30am	Mass – Joe Davies (Get well soon)
Wednesday 22nd March	Noon	Mass – Alan Isherwood RIP
Thursday 23rd March	9:30am	Mass – Kathleen Harrison RIP
Friday 24th March		<b>No Service</b>
Saturday 25th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Frank Rose RIP Birthday & Wedding Anniv.
Sunday 26th March	9:30am 11:00am	Frank Chedotal RIP People of the Parish
Monday 27th March	7:30pm	<b>Scripture Group</b>

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

## 200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize  
This week – Mrs A Bradbury

## WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

**Healing Mass:** This will take place on the 25th March at St Werburgh's in Chester. Please see the poster on the notice board.

**PARISH RETREAT TO LINDISFARNE:** Sadly we have had to cancel this event as there were insufficient numbers wishing to go. We hope to organise a Retreat later in the year at a more local venue.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** The new Boxes are available today. Please take home your new box - but please don't start using them until the 9<sup>th</sup> April. If you are not already making your Offertory donations by Envelope – or by Standing Order – and would like to, please speak to George Snape or Derek. Similarly, if you wish to Gift Aid your donations please ask for a Gift Aid form.

### OUR LENTEN CHARITY

*"Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me'".*

**Please see the flier in the Newsletter about our collection.**

### PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Derek on- 01606 889048

### Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish  
and grant us a new vision of your glory,  
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word  
and a new consecration to your service,  
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,  
through Christ our Lord.

.....  
St Joseph pray for us

## SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

We are still collecting unwanted spectacles/cases to be sent to the Missions. If you have any that you no longer need please bring them in.

## Gospel John 4

Jesus left the Judean countryside and went back to Galilee.

To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was still there.

Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give me a drink of water?" The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, "How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"

Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water."

The woman said, "Sir, you don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this 'living water'? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?"

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst - not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life."

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't ever get thirsty, won't ever have to come back to this well again!"

"Oh, so you're a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?"

"Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God's way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come - when what you're called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.

"It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself - Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."

The woman said, "I don't know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we'll get the whole story."

"I am he," said Jesus. "You don't have to wait any longer or look any further."

"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi

