

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.



Turkey/ Syria Earthquake Appeal: The total given by Parishioners is £1,562 and we are matching this from Parish Funds. The money has been sent to DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee). Once again, thank you for your generosity.

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 10am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

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Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



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

12th MARCH 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 11th March	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 12th March	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 13th March		No Mass
Tuesday 14th March	10:30am	No Mass Coffee morning
Wednesday 15th March		No Mass
Thursday 16th March		No Mass
Friday 17th March		No Mass
Saturday 18th March	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 19th March	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

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 Lisa Chilton Evans

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

“Preach the Gospel
always, if necessary
use words”
St Francis of Assisi

Safeguarding: After many years of dedicated service from our Parish Safeguarding Representative, we are now looking to identify a new volunteer that would be willing to support the parish in this role. This safeguarding role is vital to the diocese ensuring we maintain our high standards of care and safeguarding provision. If you are interested and would like to know more about the role please contact Fr Simon - or the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, Mr Andrew O’Brien on 07557731492 - who will be happy to answer any queries and provide further information.

Coffee morning: The next coffee morning will be Tuesday 14th March at 10:30am, everyone is welcome.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

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

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.”