



Weekly Bulletin

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

St. Michael's Church, 58 Orwell Street, Blacktown & St. Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

8 MARCH 2026

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Mary Queen of the Family (MQOF) parish strives to grow as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, continuing to deepen in understanding the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church and to live as a faithful and committed Catholic community, evangelising and responding to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

LITURGY TIMES

Sunday Masses

5.30pm Sat Vigil (St Patrick's)
7.00am Sun (St Patrick's)
8.00am Sun (St Michael's)
9.30am Sun (St Michael's)
10.00am Sun (St Patrick's)
11.00am 4th Sun - Filo Mass (St Michael's)
2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)
1.00pm - Syro-Malabar Mass (St Michael's)
5.30pm Sun (St Patrick's)
6.00pm Sun (St Michael's)

Weekday Masses

St. Michael's:
8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri;
7.30pm Wed only
St. Patrick's:
9am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat;
7.30pm Fri only.

RECONCILIATION

St. Michael's: Wed 6.30pm—7.20pm
St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm -7:20pm &
Sat 9:30am -10:30am

HOLY HOUR

St. Michael's: Wed 6.30pm -7.30pm
St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm -7:30pm (except during Lent)

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Anointing of the Sick by appointment.

Third Sunday of Lent

"The woman said to Jesus: 'I know that the Messiah, that is the Christ, is coming; and when he comes, he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'" John 4: 5-42



When we get to the end of today's long gospel-reading from John, we still don't know whether he received the drink of water from the woman whom he had risked engaging in conversation. All the prejudices the Jews had about woman and Samaritans prescribed that he should have avoided her in the first place. Strange women, especially Samaritan women, were taboo. Whether or not he got the drink he requested is irrelevant. What eventuated has given us a gripping story about God's thirst for humanity and humanity's thirst for God. Hundreds of years later, using a different metaphor, St

Augustine said something the same: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." (Augustine, *Confessions*, 1.1.1.)

There are no wasted words in John's Gospel and Letters. All three are brimful of purpose and meaning. For instance, the setting for Jesus' encounter with the woman, who is central to today's gospel, was Joseph's well in the small Samaritan town of Sychar. John noted Jesus' decision to rest beside the well. However, he had nothing to collect the water he wanted for a drink. When a woman came along, he broke all the rules of social engagement and asked her for a drink of water. That was the trigger for the conversation that ensued. Wells were essential for survival in desert climates. They were also places of socialisation among all the women who came to collect water for their domestic needs. Moreover, they were also places at which shepherds and cattle herders first encountered women who might eventually become their wives. For example, when Moses was fleeing from the Egyptian Pharaoh who was pursuing him for murder, he headed for the land of Midian and sat down beside a well where he went to the assistance of the seven daughters of the local priest. The women had come to collect water for their father's sheep but were being chased away by shepherds who wanted first use of the well. Moses stepped in and watered the sheep for the defenceless girls. When they arrived back home earlier than their father had expected, they told him how an "Egyptian stranger" had helped them. Their father's response was: "Why did you leave him there? Ask him to come and eat with us." (Exodus 2: 20) The narrative continues: "So Moses settled with this man, who gave him his daughter Zipporah in marriage." (Exodus 2: 21) There's a similar story of how Jacob came to the help of Rachel by rolling aside the large stone at the mouth of a well when Rachel had come to water the sheep belonging to Laban, her father. Laban was Jacob's uncle and, for his kindness, was rewarded with two wives, Leah and Rachel. (Genesis 29: 1-14) (Cont'd...)

Parish Directory

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown &
St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown.

Parish Office: At St. Patrick's Church. **Office Hours:** Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm
Telephone: 02 9622 1125 **Emergencies only:** 02 8705 0830.
Website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au **Email:** admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Wim Hoekstra
Assistant Priests: Fr Stephen Onyekwere, Fr Tom Green
Deacon: Rev. John Cina
Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole **Email:** accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au
Parish Secretary: Jill Franco **Email:** jfranco@mqofblacktown.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team
Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au
Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chairperson: Vince Tabone; **Deputy Chairperson:** Daniel Mangabat; **Secretary:** Eva Cheetley. **Members:** Don DeMello, Erica Luiz, Helena Vea, Josh Carr, Marian Asiegbu, Mary Mondeddu, Savita Surendra, Trevor Brewty, Fr Wim Hoekstra, Fr Tom Green, Fr Stephen Onyekwere & Deacon John Cina.

Parish Schools:

St Michael's Primary: Phone 8869 6200
St Patrick's Primary: : Phone: 8869 6000
Nagle College: Phone: 8887 4500
Patrician Brothers College: Phone: 8811 0300
Ambrose Early Learning Centre (St Michael's): Phone 0458 508 444

Aged Care Facilities:

Opal Nursing Home (37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 9852 9600
Mullauna Retirement Village (61 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148)
P : 8822 2100
St Hedwig Village Blacktown (140 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown 2148)
P: 8822 9920

(Cont'd...) In John's theology, the fact that Jesus had settled himself near a well, the source of life, was a sign of what would eventuate between Jesus and the woman he would soon encounter. It was not by chance that John noted the time of the encounter: "It was about the sixth hour" John 4: 6), the very time at which Jesus would give up his life on Calvary out of love for humankind.

When the woman arrived, carrying a jug, Jesus nonchalantly asked her for a drink. Her response was predictable. It was both sarcastic and revealing; she disclosed that she was fully aware of what Jews thought of Samaritans: "What? You're a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan for a drink?" (John 4: 9) It was that which was the catalyst for the discussion between the two of them about "living water". In the exchange that followed, the woman revealed her own familiarity with the Samaritan religious tradition and its hope for the coming of a Messiah. She was eventually moved to ask Jesus for some of his promised "living water". And, while he did not precisely describe himself as "the water of life", he identified himself to the woman as the Messiah and affirmed her integrity when she admitted that, despite her many relationships, the man with whom she was living was not her husband. As a result, she set her bucket down beside the well and hurried off to urge the townspeople of Sychar to "come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?" (John 4: 30) That unlikely woman was the very first of Jesus' Samaritan disciples, a missionary to the people of Sychar, who soon discovered for themselves that "he really is the saviour of the world". And they begged him to stay with them. Their prejudices evaporated and, in the process, his own disciples learned something about the consequences of harbouring prejudice.

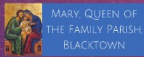
When the woman heard Jesus disclose to her details of her past life, she was quick to conclude that she was in the presence of someone worthy of attention. Accordingly, she raised a question about whether Mt Gerizim (on which was a Samaritan temple destroyed by the Jews) or the Temple in Jerusalem was the more appropriate place for people to worship. Instead of selecting a location, Jesus' answer was that the time had come when God's Spirit was to be seen alive and active in people rather than in designated places of worship: "The hour will come - in fact it is already here - when true worshippers will worship God in spirit and truth; that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants." (John 4: 23)

In the course of their exchange, Jesus' words served as something of a mirror into which the Samaritan woman looked and found herself and the God for whom she was unconsciously searching. Moreover, Jesus did not say a single word about sin or any need for repentance or conversion. He accepted the woman exactly as she was, trusting that she was now on the path to living with truth and integrity. She had already discovered that none of the circumstances and desires of her past life could ever offer her the deep satisfaction for which she was searching. This gospel account of the meeting of Jesus with the Samaritan woman is a timely reminder to us that our faith is built on our relationship with Jesus, the Christ of God. It is a clear statement that God loves us deeply, exactly as we are. That personal relationship with God and with Jesus is such that it will well up in and out of us and empower us to share it with others just through the way in which we engage with them in our everyday interactions. Relational faith of that kind does not go unnoticed.

Today's first reading from Exodus shows us a people searching for water in the desert and complaining against Moses for leading them to a place where they were anticipating they would die of thirst. That journey was more than a trek across a barren landscape. It was a pilgrimage into faith in God and into a realisation that those being led by Moses were God's chosen people. Their thirsting for water was a symbol of their thirst for an identity in which God was central. In faith, Moses trusted God to slake their thirst. They still had a long way to go to come to faith in God. (Cont'd next page...)

Our second reading today from Romans raises the topic of "justification by faith", an expression that is an essential part of Lutheran theology, in which the adjective "righteous" is also prominent. Righteous simply means having a healthy relationship with God, full of faith and trust and free from fear. That's the gift the Samaritan woman experienced, symbolised by "living water" and expressed in her discipleship

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FIRE UP MINISTRIES


Lenten Parish Mission

with Simon Carrington



Mon, Mar 9	The Four Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving and Forgiveness
Tue, Mar 10	The Four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell
Thu, Mar 12	True Repentance: Avoiding the Three Nooses of Satan



St Patrick's Catholic Church Blacktown
 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown NSW 2148

6:30pm Rosary
7:00pm Talk


PROJECT COMPASSION

Third Sunday of Lent

7-8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.




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Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Ezekiel 36:23-26

When I prove my holiness among you,
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;
and I will pour clean water upon you
and cleanse you from all your impurities
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

**R ~ If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts**

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 to us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 4:42.15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again:
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, 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 do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when
true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

2026 when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food
is to do the will of the one who sent me,
and to complete his work.
Have you not got a saying:
Four months and then the harvest?
Well, I tell you:
Look around you, look at the fields;
already they are white, ready for harvest!
Already the reaper is being paid his wages,
already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life,
and thus sower and reaper rejoice together.
For here the proverb holds good:
one sows, another reaps;
I sent you to reap
a harvest you had not worked for.
Others worked for it;
and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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THE FILIPINO CHAPLAINCY
DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH



Saturday, 14 March 2026

St Patrick's Church

Mary Queen of the Family Parish

51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown 2148

Solemn High Mass @ 10:30 am

Main Celebrant:

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen

THE SACRAMENTS / MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving of the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or after office hours number 02 8705 0830.

PARISH GROUPS

CHRIST'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GROUP



Contact: Jane Cauchi, 0433 173 177
Meeting Time and Venue: Fridays, 9.30am
Sid Moseley Centre, St. Michael's Church
All are welcome!



Love arts and crafts? Join us on every Tuesday, 10am -1pm in the Sid Mosely Room, St. Michael's and Fridays from 10am-12pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St. Patrick's Church. Activities include embroidery, crocheting, knitting, painting and sewing.
Contact Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS



Contact: Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 am at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S



Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533 (for statue bookings) President: Steve Attard.
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Thursday, 9am-10.30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

LEGION OF MARY ST PATRICK'S



Contact: Doris Zammit, 0419 274 002 (for statue bookings)
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, 6:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS—CENACLE



Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533
Meeting Time and Venue: Monday 9:30am-10:30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.
All are welcome!

MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP—MARY'S PANTRY

ROSARY GROUP

Contact: Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877

Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday after the 8am Mass, at St Michael's church.

CATECHIST MINISTRY

Contact: Sandra Baker
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
For more information, please contact the parish office.

TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando, 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday (during school term only), 2pm - 4pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St Patrick's Church.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 3.00pm at Sid Mosley Centre St Michael's Church

YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Parish Office
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
For more Information please contact our Youth Minister through the parish office.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

If you wish your child to be baptised here at MQOF Parish, please contact the parish office or go online.

If this is your first child, you will need to attend a Baptism workshop.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 7th May, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Cardinal Clancy Room. (No meeting in April due to Holy Thursday)**

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Johan Jaegger, Lolita Olayres, Paloma Escarlan (Fr John Paul's mother), Veronica Mondeddu

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Carlisle Bartley, Sunil Castelino, Josefina Garcia, Nemesio T. Macahiya, Joseph Anthony Dias, Santan & Lavinia Sequeira, Hector Zabala, Victoriana Asombrado Kibir, Joseph Sultana

DECEASED

Lucio & Salud Gonzales, Maria Carmen Mendoza, Anastacia Malab Marasigan, Deogracias Goyena, Denis Monteiro, Stephen Monteiro, Minan Bugeja, Juze Cassar, Beverley Gougeon, Edgardo Asombrado, Joe Aquilina

SICK

Lela Vella

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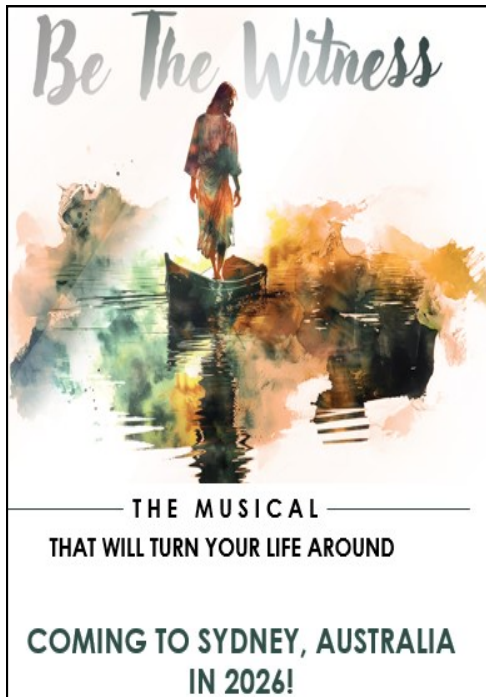
Parish News

The new Parish Pastoral Council will be commissioned next Sunday 15th March at the 9.30am Mass.

The Powerhouse Museum is developing a short film on the green Sebel chairs, and will be recording at this Sunday's 10am Mass to see the use and non-use of the chairs.

St Michael's Children's Liturgy group is hosting a movie night for 7-12 year olds at Sid Moseley Centre on March 28th from 4pm to 8pm. Not restricted to those attending St Michael's. More details next week

Fr Wim



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Tuesday 3rd March 3:45pm
Friday 6th March 9:30am
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our website.

"WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS LIFE?"
"IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?"
"WHAT AM I DOING HERE?"
"IS THERE A GOD?"

"DO I HAVE A PURPOSE?"

Alpha

FIND OUT ABOUT THE ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha program is starting on 13 April 2026, and you're invited!!!

Alpha is a safe space where you can ask questions about life, faith and meaning. Right now a seat at the table has been prepared for you.

When: Every Monday, from 13th April for 11 weeks in the MPA at St Patrick's.

The series includes a vibrant video, healthy discussion and a heart warming dinner,

For more info email: alphablacktown2148@gmail.com or register using the QR code on the right.




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The Tap & Go Machine. The machine amount is variable, please use the screen to donate the amount you wish to give. It also accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay and Pay Wave. All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.

Planned Giving (Direct Debit or Credit Card) is also an option if you wish to do cashless donation to the parish, forms are available in the foyer and on our parish website or contact the parish office on 9622 1125.

Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to: www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations.

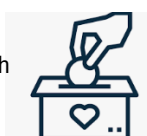
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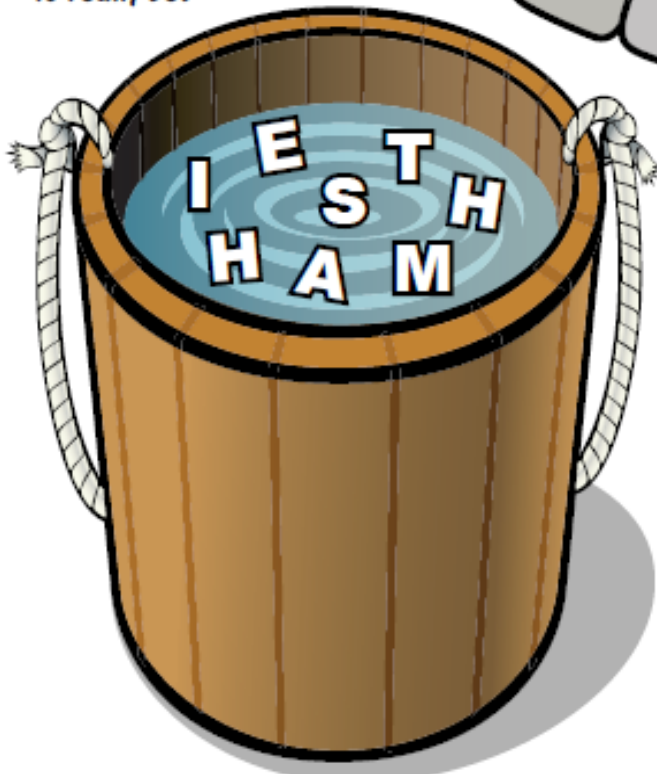
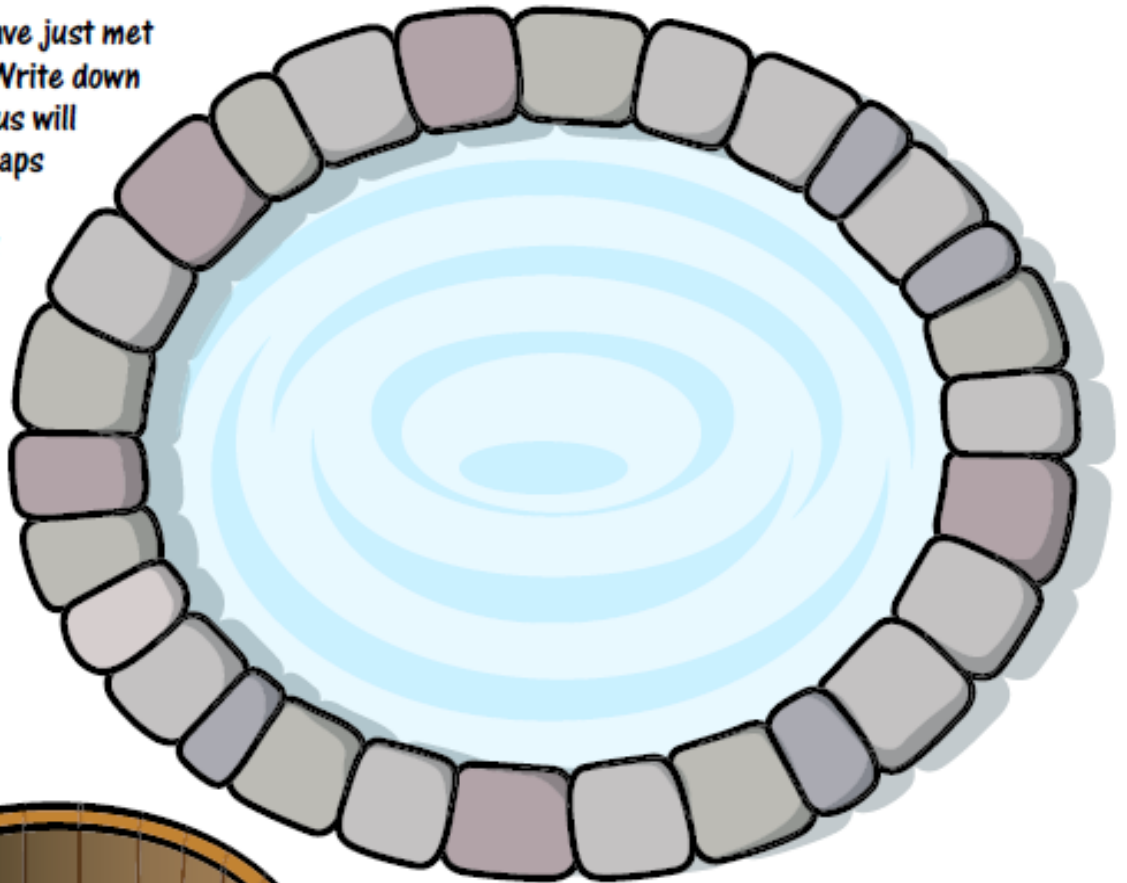


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3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A

Imagine that you have just met Jesus at the well. Write down what you think Jesus will ask of you, or perhaps share with him something that you are really in need of in your life right now.

Unscramble the letters in the bucket to reveal who the Samaritan woman discovered Jesus to really be.



The Samaritan woman led many people to believe in Jesus. How can we share our faith with others?

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