

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." John 4:5-7

The Gospel story we read today, is the long and inspiring story of the woman at the well. This story is filled with symbolism, much of which the casual reader could easily miss.

To begin, it is important to prayerfully imagine the scene. Jesus was all alone sitting next to Jacob's Well around noon. Few women would come to the well at that time of day due to the heat. But this woman came at this time because she knew others would not be around. She was a sinner, and many of the other women of the town knew it. Therefore, in an attempt to avoid them and avoid feeling shame, she came at a time when she could avoid the other women. So the first thing to consider is the suffering this woman was enduring because of her shame and embarrassment over her sinful life.

As she approached the well, she was surprised to hear Jesus ask her for a drink. She was a Samaritan. Jews generally considered Samaritans as ritually unclean. For that reason, Jews would not drink from their vessels. But Jesus broke this unholy custom and looked at her as a daughter of God with innate dignity and value as He engaged her in conversation.

Within the heat of the day, Jesus spoke lovingly to this woman and said, "Give me a drink." Saint Augustine states that, symbolically speaking, Jesus thirsted for her soul, for her salvation. He longed to give her the grace soon to be won through His Cross. Her willing reception of this gift would also bring satiation to the Heart of our Lord. Jesus didn't dwell upon her past; He knew all about it. He could read her soul. All He wanted to do was to rummage through the sin and rubbish that was cluttering her soul so as to discover her dignity within. If she were to allow Jesus to offer her this mercy, not only would she receive true Living Water to quench her spiritual thirst, she would also satiate the spiritual thirst in the soul of our Lord that could only be satiated by the dispensing of His mercy.

As we look at this reading, let this woman be known as a symbol of every person coming to faith in Christ. But she is also a symbol of your own soul, to the extent that it has become cluttered with the rubbish of sin and disorder. Do not let shame, fear or a sense of unworthiness deter you from engaging in this same conversation with our Lord. Hear Him say to you that He thirsts for you and longs to be satiated by the sacred act of the ongoing bestowal of His Divine Mercy, poured forth through the Living Water superabundantly given to you at your baptism.

My thirsting Lord, You see me. Peer deeply into my soul, see all the filth of sin and disorder and love me anyway. As You spoke to this woman at the well, so You also speak to me, asking me to satiate Your thirst by being open to Your mercy. I do open myself to You, dear Lord, and pray that Your Living Water will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Jesus, I trust in You.

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Readings Fourth Sunday of Lent 19 March 2023
1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Ps 22; Ephesians 5:8-14;
John 9:1-41



EASTER TRIDUUM

GUARDIAN ANGELS & MARY IMMACULATE

If you wish to be a minister at the above Masses, please print your name and phone number on the relevant sheet/s located at the back of the Church.

NB – you must commit to attend the practice session, (approximately 30 minutes), at the time listed on the sheets.

Lenten Program

Come and join us for an opportunity to reflect on ourselves, our community and our Church as we prepare this Lent for Easter

Every Tuesday for 6 weeks starting 28 February
9.30 am Mary Immaculate Church meeting room
tea & coffee available

It will be conducted by
Yuri Koszarycz

a long serving parishioner and
a teacher of Theology at ACU for 30 years

LENTEN SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

During Lent this year the following devotional activities are available to enrich your Lenten preparation for Easter.

EVERY TUESDAY to WEDNESDAY: GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH

1.00 pm Tuesday—1.00pm Wednesday: 24 Hour Vigil
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer
12.20pm Wednesday: Rosary & Confession
12.50pm Wednesday: Benediction

EVERY THURSDAY: MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH

7.45am—8.45am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
silent prayer & Benediction
9.00am: Holy Mass
6.00pm: Stations of the Cross

EVERY FRIDAY: GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH

11.30am—12.30pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacra-
ment, silent prayer, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the
Cross with scriptural meditations.
12.30pm: Holy Mass

It's Irish Time

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Hurry

Last Chance

Only 5 Spots Left

SCL

Social - Bus Trip

Still thinking of being Irish on the 17 March.

This is your last opportunity to enjoy a wonderfully fun St. Patrick's Day with 36 other parishioners. YOU can fill the remaining **five (5)** spots left **if you register quickly using the details below.**

After our bus trip to Brisbane, you will participate in Mass at St. Stephen's Cathedral at 10am where Father Gerard will be the celebrant. Afterwards, you will also **enjoy a complimentary morning tea** before heading off to Western Rugby Football Club Toowong for 12Noon lunch. This will be followed by Irish dancing and entertainment.

As well as celebrating Mass in our beautiful Brisbane cathedral, this is going to be one hoot of an event.

Our bus activities will include Irish trivia, prizes and Irish singalongs. With so much to celebrate, do and be entertained with, at only \$25 to cover the cost of the bus, this event is a real bargain NOT to be missed.

Date: Friday 17 March

Location: The bus will depart and return to Lumen Christi Centre, Labrador (44 Imperial Parade)

Times: 8.30am to 4.30pm

As with all SCL events, bookings are essential.

Please register **immediately** through
Christine by email

winlock2@hotmail.com

or by mobile on **0431 630 446.**

STOPLINE receives information about suspected abuse,
(information can be provided anonymously)
misconduct & serious policy breaches by Archdiocesan clergy, employees or volunteers.

PHONE: 1300 304 550 EMAIL: aob@stopline.com.au

ONLINE: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)

Kerri Kleidon

Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.



RECENTLY DECEASED

ZOE PEREIRA ROSLYN FEAR



By request, the names of our sick and deceased family and friends will be recorded in these books in each church

Please pray for all whose names are recorded in the Books of Remembrance

2023 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program

The registration for the Sacramental Program for
First Holy Communion
is **now open**.

First Holy Communion is the second step in your child's sacramental journey.

The registration is open from 8th March to 17th April.

It is available to all children who have completed their Confirmation and are in Year 4 and above (9 years and older). The program runs throughout Term 2 of this school year.

This year the program of First Holy Communion is linked to the Sacramental Program of Reconciliation which will take place later this year.

Registering for First Holy Communion will automatically mean your child is enrolled into the First Reconciliation program as well. The cost of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation will be combined as a single payment.

The link for the online registration form is:

<https://scp.org.au/first-eucharist/2023-sacrament-of-first-holy-communion/>

or you can visit our webpage to access the form.

If you have any queries please contact
Lisa Perkins on 5510 2222 ext 3 or
Email: sacramental@scp.org.au



World Day of Prayer 2023



Many thanks for all the parishioners who attended and helped make the 2023 World Day of Prayer such a success. We had over 52 people from five local Christian Churches come together to pray for the women of Taiwan. A nice morning tea

followed with some delicious Taiwanese delicacies. Liz Stanton will be taking over as the new coordinator for the Southport Parish.

Carmel Donaghy

Vietnamese Mass

Father John will be celebrating a Vietnamese Mass on the 1st Sunday of **each** month
2.00pm at Mary Immaculate Church

Baptisms

During February we welcomed the following children into God's family

Tommy O'Loughlin, Hugo O'Loughlin, Shanaia Kadir, Kaylee Cristobal, Dottie Hunter, Sabina Swanepoel, Leo James Douglas, Reya Savva, Eloise De Guzman



Paul Porter, a member of our Parish for many years, would like to start a Charismatic Prayer group within our parish.

If you are interested and would like more details, please contact Paul on 0451 131 989



St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Mass

8.00am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday 7.00am

1st Wednesday 7.00pm

1st Saturday 9.00am

Rosary

Monday & Wednesday 6.00am

1st Wednesday 6.00pm

1st Saturday 8.30am

Novena

Wednesday 6.00pm

Guardian Angels Church

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation Saturday 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm

Sunday 7.00am & 9.00am

Korean Mass

Sunday 3.30pm

한인미사 일요일 오후 3시 30분

Filipino Mass

1st Sunday 12.00pm

Prayer & Adoration

Wednesday 12.00pm

Rosary & Mass

Friday 12.00pm



Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am

Adoration & Rosary

Tuesday & Thursday 7.45am

Gold Coast University Hospital

Rosary & Mass

Friday 10.00am

PARISH CONTACTS

Ph 07 5510 2222

<https://scp.org.au>

Parish office Ashmore

Tuesday -Thursday 9.00am-3.00pm

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

Parish office Southport & Gift Shop

Monday - Friday 9.00am-4.30pm

115 Scarborough Street, Southport, 4215

Office Support

Catherine Francis E: parish@scp.org.au

Finance Officer

Therese Rogers E: accounts@scp.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Lisa Perkins E: sacramental@scp.org.au

Associate Pastor

Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

Associate Pastor

Fr Marce Singson

Parish Priest

Fr Gerard McMorrow PP

P O Box 216, Ashmore City, 4214