



—OUR LADY—
QUEEN OF PEACE

The Peaceful Voice

8th March 2026
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Gospel Reflection

This Sunday's Gospel story is about the moving encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. This encounter is a powerful moment of grace, truth, and transformation.

This meeting happened in a very ordinary place, at a village well. People came there every day for water. Yet it became the place where this woman encountered God.

Sometimes we expect God to appear only in big or dramatic moments. But very often, God meets us in ordinary places—our home, our workplaces, our sports areas, our school, or even in a simple conversation.

Jesus tells the woman, "Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst again."

Jesus is not talking about physical water. He is talking about the Living water. He is speaking about the deep thirst of the human heart—the thirst for love, peace, forgiveness, and meaning.

People try to satisfy this thirst in many ways: money, success, entertainment, popularity. But these things never completely satisfy us.

A little boy once drank salty sea water at the beach because he was thirsty. Instead of helping, it made him even more thirsty! His father said, "That water cannot satisfy your thirst."

In the same way, many things in life promise happiness but cannot truly satisfy the heart. Only God's love can fill that deep thirst within us.

The Samaritan woman had a difficult past. Many people in her village probably judged or avoided her. Yet Jesus did not reject her. He spoke to her with kindness and respect. He acknowledges her broken past without shaming her. He does not excuse her sin, but neither does He condemn her. Instead, He offers her "living water. He gradually, leads her from her need of drinking water to the 'living water.'



Image from: <https://freechristimages.com/>

This shows us something very important: Jesus meets us as we are. He does not wait for us to become perfect before loving us.

Pope Francis said, "The church is not a museum of saints; it is a hospital for sinners." We all come to Jesus with our weaknesses, struggles, and failures. But he gives us living water—his mercy and grace and healing.

After meeting Jesus, the woman is transformed. She leaves her water jar behind and runs to the village saying, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done."

The woman who once avoided people becomes the first missionary to her village. Because of her testimony, many people came to believe in Jesus.

When we truly encounter Christ, we cannot keep it to ourselves. We naturally have to share that Joy with others, bringing them closer to God. And that is our Mission.

Fr Thomas

Extra Reconciliation Times

- Regular parishioners, kindly try to avoid Reconciliation on Good Friday.
- Multiple and varied times are offered.

Every Saturday 4pm to 4.45pm

PLUS

March 18, Wednesday - 5pm to 6pm (with Adoration)

March 21, Saturday - after Vigil Mass to 6.30pm

March 25, Wednesday - 7pm to 8pm (with Adoration)

March 28, Saturday - 11am to 12pm (with Adoration)

March 28, Saturday - early start 3pm to 4.45pm

March 31, Tuesday - 5pm to 6pm (with Adoration)

Good Friday - after Stations of the Cross until 12pm

(parishioners kindly try to avoid this time)

Stations of the Cross Re-enactment - Calling for actors

URGENT Call out for actors to take part in this year's Stations of the Cross re-enactment to take place on **Good Friday, 3rd April at 10am** in the church.

We are in need of two men to play the parts of:

Pontius Pilate: (Mature man) small speaking part,

Chief Priest: (Mature man) small speaking part

A few Women of Jerusalem: Ladies (16+) Non speaking parts

There will be one rehearsal in the church on Sunday 22nd March from 3-4:30pm.

All costumes will be provided.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Office ASAP on 9631 8135 or email parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Faith B4U...

Lenten Reflection Groups

Spend time with others reflecting on scripture this Lent with the theme of 'The Space Between'.

Each week we will reflect on the Gospel for the following Sunday.

Wednesday 10am - 11am, 11, 18 & 25 March in the St George Preca Centre.

Reflection guides available for purchase at the Parish Office - \$5 (*almost sold out*) All Welcome.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent.

6.30pm Rosary

7pm Stations of the Cross, followed by Adoration & Benediction.

Hospitality Volunteers Needed

One of our long time volunteers has decided to step back from the hospitality ministry. We are looking for people who can take on and share this very valuable ministry. It would involve approx 30-40 minutes after the **10.30am Mass on Sundays**. It may be once a week, fortnight or monthly, depending on how many volunteers would like to join.

All volunteers must complete Safeguarding training which can be done online in your own time. For more information please contact the parish office at parishoffice@olqp.org.au

New Choir Members Always Welcome

If you'd like to join the Parish choir for Easter, please contact the Parish Office.

We meet on a Monday night at 7:30pm in the church.

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Monday 9th March @ 10.30am, in the St George Preca Centre.

Author Sean Richardson Talk on **"The Maltese Web"**

All members & friends always welcome.

Contact Marisa Previtera, OAM, JP on 0414 863 123

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Chantel Adrien, Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Bob Nowfel, Benjie Santiago, Michael Scanlon, Connie Shembri, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Muna Zora

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Federika Axiak, Carmen Cefaj, Katarina Percan, Charlie Xerri

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.

Charles Barbara

Altar Server Training

Calling all young people who are interested in serving God and their community!

If you are interested in becoming an Altar Server at OLQP, you are invited to come along to the Church on Sunday **15th March from 9.45am to 10.15am.**

Young People who have made their First Communion are invited to consider being Altar Servers. We will get to know each other and go through procedures for serving at Mass. Please RSVP to the Parish Office on: P: **9631 8135** or email: parishoffice@olqp.org.au and leave parents name, child's name and contact number.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School

We are now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2027. If you have a child of school age or know someone who does, please contact the school on 8842 2600 or download a form from our website.

Enrolments close Friday 27th March

Rite of Election

Men and women of various ages will be welcomed into the Catholic Church. They will be baptised, confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time in our parish, OLQP, this Easter.

This photo was taken after Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. signed their names in the Book of the Elect at St Patricks Cathedral, Parramatta

This weekend we welcome the 2nd group of eight Catechumens as they begin their journey.



Photo by Parramatta Diocese

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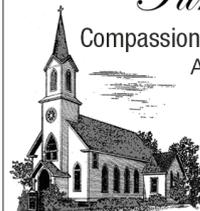
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

In the third week of Lent, our next Project Compassion story features Monoranjon from Bangladesh. 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.

'Getting this training from Caritas, I am very happy. In my personal training and with the help of them I have learned a lot,' Monoranjon said.

Watch Monoranjon's story here: <https://vimeo.com/1128089124>

Support Project Compassion today: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate #projectcompassion or **collect a donation box or envelope located at all doors.**



Photo Caritas Australia

Seniors Rights Information Session

Later Life Planning & Documents for the Future.

Free community information session for seniors and their families 9th and 11th March at Orchard Hills, Springwood and Emerton. For more information, please contact **Catholic Care on 8843 2500.**

Special Screen - "Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity"

Friday 20 March, 7:00pm – Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

Discover the miraculous story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the enduring mystery of the tilma of Juan Diego.

Tickets \$10 (payable on the night). Popcorn and snacks available. Recommended PG 13+.

Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm prior to the screening.

Seat reservations appreciated but not required.

Christ's Catholic Community

Come and join us in understanding the Gospels more deeply. Fridays at 10am in the Youth room.

Contact: Mary Testa 0403 302 283

JRS Food Support During Lent

The JRS Foodbank feeds and provides necessities for families who would otherwise have nowhere else to go.

Each week of Lent, JRS will be collecting a different item. Please place items in the JRS basket found in the front entrance of the church or in the Parish Office.

Week 3 - Canned tuna (unflavored in oil)

Week 4 - Laundry detergent

Week 5 - Dried red lentils (375g or 1kg)

Week 6 - Long life milk (1L, full cream)

JRS Australia is also in URGENT need of Gift Vouchers. Gift vouchers allow the people that JRS Australia serves to make dignified and practical choices about their own needs such as fresh fruit & vegetables, basic necessities, and essential medications.

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Exodus

17:3-7

2nd Reading

Romans

5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel

John

4:5-42

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

1 Samuel

16:1, 6-7, 10-13

2nd Reading

Ephesians

5:8-14

Gospel

John

9:1-41

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at **6:30pm** (*Please note: NEW TIME*)

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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