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**FIRST READING** Exodus 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**SALMO RESPONSORIALE**

Fa' che ascoltiamo, Signore, la tua voce.

**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 us.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**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!**

**CANTO AL VANGELO**

Lode a te, o Cristo, re di eterna gloria!

Signore, tu sei veramente il salvatore del mondo: dammi dell'acqua viva, perche' non abbia piu' sete. Lode a te, o Cristo, re di eterna gloria!

**GOSPEL** John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15. 19-26.39-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

**THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE LAST WEEK**

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	- Thanksgiving Offering.....	\$852.00
	- Loose Money.....	\$182.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	- Presbytery/Priests.....	\$291.00

**LECTORS - THIS WEEK 24/02/08**

6.00pm (SAT) – L & M Dal Santo  
9.00am (SUN) – C Brunetti & G Barbaro  
10.30am (SUN) – G Silvio & J Broadbent

**SPECIAL MINISTERS**

E Saliba  
P Sparano, R Pino & S LoBartolo  
R Sinapi, J Vincitorio & A Mancuso

**LECTORS - NEXT WEEK 02/03/08**

6.00pm (SAT) – MALTESE MASS (Selected)  
9.00am (SUN) – L Calafiore & R Terzino  
10.30am (SUN) - J & J Kearney

**SPECIAL MINISTERS**

MALTESE MASS (Selected)  
D Biasibetti, R DeZan & G Barbaro  
M Mizzi, Sr Doreen & G Silvio

**CHURCH CLEANERS**

01/03/08 L Catena, A Sirianni & F Agugiars

**MONEY COUNTERS**

25/02/08 E Claridge, F Carabott, M Turnbull & G Canavan  
03/03/08 R & E Cornelious & R & G Silvio

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING**

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Fr John (Jack) CARROLL, Giuseppe SCARMOZZINO

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Paola PRECOMA, Mario GIRAMONDO, Gina DI DONATO, Mariangela PAOLA, Giuseppe FERRARO, Giuseppa FAMIGLIA, Pasquale VILLELLA, Antonio PISTONE, Maria DEMARTE, Maria & Fortunata CONDELLO, Giuseppe AMATO

# ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

NORTH RESERVOIR

79 Wilson Boulevard, North Reservoir 3073

Parish House/Office Tel: 9460 3013 Fax: 9460 8832 Mb: 0431 643 674

E-mail: stjtw@westnet.com.au

[www.stjosephtheworker.org.au](http://www.stjosephtheworker.org.au)

School Tel: 9460 7506 Fax: 9462 2949

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES:**

Sat 6.00pm - English  
Sun. 9.00am - Italian  
Sun. 10.30am - English

Fr Emmanuel Bonello—Parish Priest

Sr Doreen Bentley-Pastoral Associate  
Mr Peter Chowne -School Principal  
Mrs Liz Pistoni – Parish Secretary

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Mon. Communion Service  
Tue. 10.00am Italian  
Wed. 9.10am - English  
Thur. 9.10am - English  
Fri. 9.10am - English

**Maltese Mass**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month

**Baptisms – Sunday 12.00pm**

Marriages - By Appointment



Reconciliation: Sat. 10.30am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year A

February 24, 2008

## If only.....

Where I grew up in the country we had a reliable rainfall and lots of underground water. Unfortunately, this underground water was very hard. If you sprinkled the plants with it, unless they were very tough, they would die. One year we planted an “English” lawn in the back yard. We were delighted to see it grow quickly, thanks to unusual gentle summer rain. When the rains had gone, though, the lawn started to dry out and we decided to turn on the sprinkler that sprayed underground water. To our great disappointment, the “English” grass died under the bore water sprinkler. After that, we switched to buffalo grass, which survives even with the hardest water. If only we’d done that from the start! We could probably all tell a story starting with the words “If only”. If only we had known. If only we had listened. If only we had done this or that, we would not be in this difficulty now. The Israelites in today’s first reading put their “if only” to Moses. “If only we had stayed in Egypt, we wouldn’t be dying of thirst out here in this desert!”

The woman who came to draw water at the well in today’s gospel would have had some “if only” stories as she looked back on her life. After all, the few lines we read about her suggest that she had suffered her share of troubles. “If only” stories have some common elements. There is often some kind of challenging situation. In response to the challenge, a person might make a hasty decision-one that they regret afterwards. Or, they might feel uncertain and not make a decision at all and then later regret their indecision. We can all feel a sense of regret when we realise we have made a wrong choice or we have missed an opportunity. “If only...” The woman at the well faced a challenge from Jesus. He invited her to put her faith in him. She might have rejected the invitation or she might have been non-committal, but in fact she accepted the invitation in a most decisive way. She accepted Jesus’ assurance that he could give her “living water”, a different kind of water that would refresh her spirit. Isn’t it interesting that towards the end of the story, the woman leaves her water jar at the well. She had come originally to draw water from the well. But now she finds she has something more important to do than drawing ordinary water. She hurries back to town to tell others about this extraordinary man she has met. Many years before, the Israelites had found life-giving water in their desert wandering. Now, in Jesus, this troubled woman has found life-giving water to refresh her on her journey. We are moving along through Lent. It is a quiet time when we are invited to the well. We can come, like the Israelites, with our grumbling; we can come, like the woman, with our questions; but, however we come, it would be good if we could listen to the challenge we receive from Jesus. He invites us to put our faith in him. He offers us the life-giving water of the Spirit. If we accept his invitation, we too might be able to leave our personal “water jar” behind and enjoy life a whole lot more. We might even say: If only I’d done this years ago!

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### **MAINTENANCE MEETING**

There will be a Maintenance Committee Meeting on Tuesday 26 February at 8.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

### **FUNERAL NOTICE**

The Rosary for Mr Giuseppe Scarmozzino will be recited on Monday 25 February at 7.00pm. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 26 February at 1.00pm.

### **MEMORIAL MASS**

Thursday 28 February at 6.30pm – Domenico Corso (d. Italy)

### **BAPTISMS**

Congratulations to **Sienna Aparo** child of Salvatore and Yvonne, **Lenna Maccarone** child of Claudio and Aneta, and **Andre Virgona** child of Mark and Teresa who will be baptised today. We welcome them into our parish community and assure the families of our prayerful best wishes on this happy occasion.

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

The Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 3 MARCH** at 7.30pm in the church.

### **MALTESE MASS**

A reminder that the Maltese Mass will be celebrated next Saturday 1 March at 6.00pm.

### **LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAM**

All parishioners are invited to a Lenten reflection Program held every Wednesday morning during Lent starting at 10.00am in the Parish Meeting Room led by Sr Doreen. For those who are unable to attend during the day there is an evening session at 7.00pm in the Parish House with Fr Manny. This is a great opportunity for parishioners to reflect on the Sunday readings during Lent and seek to come to a deeper understanding of how the Word of God can touch our lives. This is done in a friendly and informal way which promotes common faith sharing.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent at 7.00pm in the Church. Conducted in English and Italian. All parishioners are warmly invited to come together for this important time of prayer.

### **VIA CRUCIS**

Via Crucis in Italiano e Inglese tutti i Venerdì' della Quaresima, alle ore 7.00pm, in chiesa.

### **ITALIAN LADIES**

Riflessioni del' Martedì continua alle ore 9.00am in Capella, seguita Santa Messa alle 10.00am.

Martedì 18 Marzo dopo della Santa Messa delle 10.00am, avremo "Cena con i simboli della Pasqua". Sono in vendita i biglietti donazione \$7.00, posti limitati, prenotatevi subito. Per informazioni rivolgersi a Lucia Caten 9460 4597 or Rosa Pino 9442 9033.

### **PIETY STALL**

Volunteers are needed to help out at the Piety Stall on Sundays after the 10.30am Mass. If you are interested please let Liz in the Parish Office know.

### **ST MONICA'S COLLEGE, EPPING**

(Years 7-12 Catholic Co-educational College)

Enrolments are currently being accepted for Year 7, 2009 and will close on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.

HORIZONS Accelerated Learning Program is offered at Year 7 Level.

Application forms and further information are available by calling into the College Office at 16 Davison Street,

Epping, or by telephoning the College Registrar on 9401 2444.



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## 142 DAYS TO GO .....



### **BOOK YOUR TRANSPORT TO SYDNEY TODAY!**

Registration package pricing starts from \$175 - \$395.

Coach fare return starts from \$220

Bookings: [www.havestonline.net.au](http://www.havestonline.net.au) Bus [Transport@did08.com](mailto:Transport@did08.com)

### **VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

If you can volunteer your time from 5 – 14 July 2008 we want you to be a part of TEAM DID08

Register online at [www.did08.com](http://www.did08.com) or call 9412 8484

### **MELBOURNE STAY**

Welcome international pilgrims into your home and make a friend forever!

We are inviting all Melbourne homeowners to host at least 2 pilgrims in their homes during July 2008.

Log on to our website [WWW.DID08.COM](http://WWW.DID08.COM) and register as a Melbourne Stay host today! or pick up a Melbourne Stay Host Application Form from the Parish Office.

For further information please ring any three of our great parishioners who are volunteers for Days in the Dioceses Melbourne.

Pictured in the photo, second row from the front - right to left – Ray & Glenyce Silvio : 9460 6607, Diane Chybowski : 9471 1060



### **Third Sunday of Lent, February 24**

Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, works with communities in ways that respect, enhance and build their dignity. This week's story takes us to rural West Java, Indonesia and gives us an insight into the struggles, hardships and commitment of Masna and her family. With the support of Caritas they now have clean water and basic toilet facilities, enabling them to look forward to the future with improved health.

Masna is from a remote village in West Java, Indonesia. She is participating in a water and sanitation project run by Hope for the Poor and supported by Caritas Australia.

Only two years ago her village lacked clean water and basic toilet facilities resulting in poor health and high rates of water-borne and gastro-intestinal diseases.

The program provides health education, technical advice and basic materials to pipe water and build toilets. Most families now enjoy clean drinking water and the incidence of disease, especially diarrhea has decreased. Your donation to Project Compassion will allow communities like Masna's to gain clean water and sanitation, enabling them to look forward to the future with improved health.

### **ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES SATURDAYS 1.30 – 4.00PM**

St Matthew's Primary School 97 William St, N.Fawkner Details please phone: 9898 4707.