THE SAVING WORD

FIRST READING

Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

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

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. R.
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. R.
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' R.

SECOND READING

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 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

Jn 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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

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 Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

41B South Avenue, PO Box 55, MERREDIN WA 6415; **Ph**: (08) 9041 1118;
e-mail: merredin@perthcatholic.org.au; Parish Priest: Philip Perreau e-mail: philip.perreau@perthcatholic.org.au
Website: merredincatholicparish.org

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT **A/2** **8 MARCH 2026**

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday:	**No Mass**
Tuesday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Wednesday:	**9:00 am Mass**
Thursday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Friday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Saturday:	**6.30pm**
Sunday:	**10.30am**

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary
6:00 to 6:30 pm

Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday

****Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request****

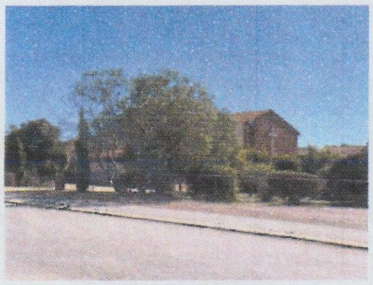
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

CHURCH ROSTER: 7/8 MARCH 2026 **14/15 MARCH 2026**

	Saturday 6.30 pm	Sunday 10.30 am	Saturday 6:30 pm	Sunday 10:30 am
Readers:	J. Patroni	P. Jackson	C. Meagher	T. Glass
Offertory:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Church Cleaners:				
Sacristy	L. Discenza		V. Musca	
Altar Servers:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers

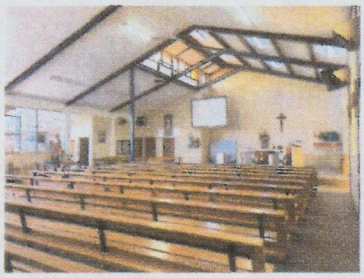
Special Ministers: T. Cutri; T. Glass, Y. Gray; P. Jackson; J. Jefferys; L. D. Pettit; P. Riethmuller.

SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD



St Mary's Catholic Church and
St Mary's School
will be combining to celebrate our
Centenary
Sunday 2 August 2026
10.00 a.m. Mass
12.00 Lunch

More details to come



Photos for the Centenary Celebrations

We are looking for photos reflecting of past life of the parish and school. If you have any, please email them to our email merredin@perthcatholic.org.au Thank you

Parish Notice Board

Mary MacKillop Centre - Breakfast in the Garden Saturday 14th March

When you have thanked the Lord for every blessing sent
Little time will then remain for murmur and lament

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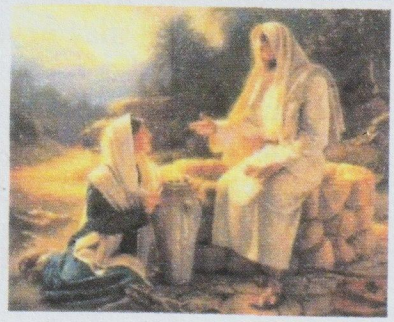
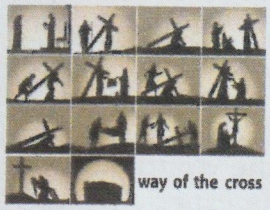
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

Feast days for the week

Mon 9 St Frances of Rome
Tue 10 St John Ogilvie
Wed 11 St Aengus, St Constantine (6th century)





Eucharistic Adoration & Stations of the Cross

Every Friday of Lent:
Eucharistic Adoration 5.30pm
Stations of the Cross 6.30pm

MAJELLANS

Wednesday 11th March 7.00pm At Jane's (7 Caridi Close)

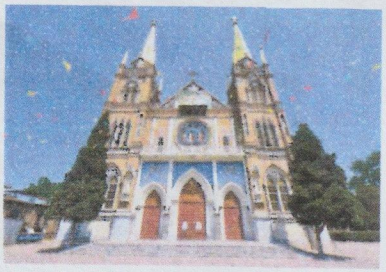
Our Lady of China

Our Lady of China is the name given to an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Donglu, China in 1900.

When the Boxer rebellion broke out, nearly 10,000 hostile soldiers attacked the small impoverished mission village of Dong Lu, home of 700-1,000Christians and founded by the Vicentian fathers. The Virgin Mary appeared as a beautiful lady in white in the sky surrounded by light. The soldiers in senseless rage, started to shoot into the sky. Then suddenly they fled, frightened, and never came back again when a fiery horseman, perhaps St Michael, chased the attackers out of the village.

Following the event, a painting was commissioned, showing the Virgin Mary as an empress in golden robes holding the child Jesus, symbolizing her as Queen of China. A church was built in gratitude, and the site became a major pilgrimage destination. The feast of Our Lady of China is celebrated on the Saturday preceding Mother's Day.

In 1995, another apparition was reported, leading to a large unapproved gathering. The Chinese government later demolished the shrine in 1996. The church was subsequently rebuilt under strict state surveillance. Despite being a major pilgrimage destination in the early 1990s, the government now prohibits large-scale public ceremonies, allowing only quiet, local and government sanctioned worship.



Please Note: Planned Giving Direct Debit - CDF/NAB Parish Account details for anyone wanting to support the parish through Direct Debit are as follows;

1st Collection (Fr Philip) – BSB 086 006 Acc. 73115 8848 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth
2nd Collection Merredin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 84040 9343 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Mary's Parish
2nd Collection Kellerberrin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 75189 3225 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Joseph's Parish

(Please include your name on direct debit deposits—eg 2nd Coll-Smith) Thank you for your generosity and support.

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' said the woman. '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 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.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 4:5-42

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

FOR WHAT DO WE THIRST?

The first two Sundays of Lent are from Matthew's Gospel, the Gospel of this liturgical year. They recall Jesus' temptation (*Mt 4: 1-11*) and his experience of being transfigured (*Mt 17: 1-9*). For the remaining Sundays of Lent, we listen to John's Gospel. These Sundays will explore the central religious and theological questions especially relevant for contemporary disciples in their Lenten journey: For what do we truly thirst (today's Gospel)? How might our eyes be opened to Jesus (next Sunday)? What is the life for which we deeply desire (the final Sunday of Lent)?

In today's Gospel a Samaritan woman comes to a well at noon—the brightest moment of the day—and encounters the source of Light, Jesus. She comes to draw water and only later realises that she has met the one who can quench her deepest spiritual thirst. The whole scene is replete with theological symbolism, a characteristic of John, as Jesus invites the woman to explore the depths of her thirst that only he can address. We learn that she has had several 'husbands'. This is not an admission of the woman's adventurous liaisons, as many commentators have interpreted, but an acknowledgement of her attraction to the 'husbands' (the 'Baals') of religions that are 'not her own'. She is looking for the true one from God, not these other counterfeits.

Jesus reveals himself to her: He is the 'I AM', the Old Testament name for God. Through him the woman comes to encounter the Sacred and sets her on a journey back to her townspeople. Like the woman, we, too, thirst, for God and for a deeper religious life as we journey through Lent.

Fr Michael Trainor