

**Introduction:** Today's readings focus on living water as a symbol of God's healing love and desire to save. They also remind us of the deep thirst within every human soul that can lead to deep relationship with God or to desert dryness and emptiness. The choice is ours.

**First Reading** Exodus 17:3-7

The book of Exodus tells the story of God's unfailing desire to be in relationship with us. However unfaithful we may be, however many false idols we may turn to in our search for security, God will never fail us and always holds to the covenant promises.

**Second Reading** Romans 5:1-2. 5-8 - Paul writes to the Romans, reminding them that through God's grace they have a reliable hope that cannot be disappointed. This is not cheap and easy grace, but the power, through Christ, to live differently and to trust in his promises.

**Gospel** John 4:5-42

The story of the woman of Samaria is rich with resonance. Jesus comes to meet this woman where she is. He listens to her questions and her struggles with faith, trust and hope. He invites her to change her perception of God and by doing so changes her experience of herself.

Please pray for Rosemary Walmsley, lately dead and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time:

### **MARCH**

- 14** Eileen Cliffe, Richard Miller **15** Joan Farrelly, Eithne Wright  
**16** Patrick McGahran, Winifred Hartley, Lucy Turner  
**17** Cicely Greaves, Josie Begley, Teresa Nicholson  
**18** Josephine Capas

**Round Stained Glass Windows Appeal** Raised to date **£4659.50**

**WEBSITE: [www.standrewscottam.org.uk](http://www.standrewscottam.org.uk)**

**Unusual Times** *As part of preparing the weekly newsletter I look back at the previous 'Year A' newsletters, the date of the Third Sunday of Lent was 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This was the week that we suspended the use of the parish Mass books, we were unsure if public services were to be suspended, and parishioners were informed that they could 'take-part' in Mass at home. The next newsletter I produced was for Saturday/Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020, when we cautiously reopened with a booking system for your place at Mass. Thank God that we have come safely through those unusual times. Samantha, Parish Secretary*

## **Parishes of St Andrew & Blessed George Haydock, Cottam, and St Mary, Lea Town**

### **Third Sunday in Lent 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Parish Priest: Canon Adrian J. Towers VF**

114 Hoyles Lane, Cottam, PR4 0NB

Tel: (01772) 726166 E-mail: [parishpriest@standrewscottam.org.uk](mailto:parishpriest@standrewscottam.org.uk)

**Deacon: Rev. John W Cliffe**

Tel: 01257 264445 [johncliffe@standrewscottam.org.uk](mailto:johncliffe@standrewscottam.org.uk)

Baptisms and Marriages by Arrangement.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday (4.30pm to 5pm) or on request. Please call in to the Presbytery or speak to Canon Adrian before or after Mass.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator

Tel: 01772 728433. Website: [www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)

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Whoever drinks the  
water I shall give  
will never thirst.

**John 4:14**

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art by Julie Lonneman

**SATURDAY 11 March**

5.30pm (Vigil Mass) Monica Mould – Lately Dead (7771)

**This Mass will be live streamed from Parish website**

**SUNDAY 12 March - Mass Books – p158**

9.00am (Lea Town) People of the Parish

10.30am Chris Graham – First Anniversary (7750)

**3.00pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction  
will be live streamed from Parish website**

6.00pm Members & Benefactors Living & Dead  
Lancashire Infirm Secular Clergy Fund (7726)

**MONDAY 13 March**

9.15am Eithne Wright (7765)

**TUESDAY 14 March - NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY 15 March**

9.15am

**THURSDAY 16 March**

8.15am (Lea Town) Deceased members of SABS and Benefactors  
(7769)

**FRIDAY 17 March – St. Patrick (Feast)**

9.15am Lucy Watson (7774)

**SATURDAY 18 March – St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Opt. Memorial)**

9.15am Christians of the Holy Land

5.30pm (Vigil Mass) Kathleen Sheldon (7760)

**Confessions** Each Saturday from 4.30pm to 5.00pm.

**Children's Liturgy at St Andrew's** at the 10.30 am Mass. At

present we have three volunteers who are able to cover monthly and every Sunday during Lent up to and including Easter Sunday, and then monthly again until July. **We are appealing for more volunteers** so that the children could benefit from this important ministry each Sunday. Training would be given. Please let Canon Adrian know if you are willing to help.

**Special Collection CAFOD** St Andrews: £396.09. St Mary's: £60.00

**Snowdrop and bulb planting St Mary's TODAY Sunday 12th March.**

Please bring clumps of snowdrops from your garden, or any spare bulbs, to plant in our church grounds after Mass. It would be helpful if you could bring a trowel. Happy planting everyone.

**Lenten Wednesday Evenings at St Andrew's Cottam** Continuing **Wednesday 15 March, 7pm to 8pm.** Bishop Robert Barron's DVD series 'Catholicism'. Journey around the world and deep into the Catholic Faith in all its richness, history, beauty, goodness, and truth.

**Easter Decoration Making at St Mary's** on Sunday **2 April** in the Annex after Mass and Coffee. If you would like to make an Easter table centre please sign the list at the back of church. Details later.

**Aid to the Church in Need (Emergency aid for Ukraine)** Provides food, clothing & shelter for those caught up in the war in Ukraine. Fr Philip Newbold, to support this cause, he will walk 10,000 paces per day for the 40 days in Lent. You can sponsor him online at

[www.justgiving.com/page/fr-philip-newbold-167](http://www.justgiving.com/page/fr-philip-newbold-167) OR Sign the sponsor form at the back of church, money will be collected after Easter.



Welcome to Theo William Green Cadman  
who will be baptised today.

**Tea/Coffee & Light refreshments** in the Haydock Room after 10.30am Mass. All welcome.

**Sacramental Preparation 2023** 3.20pm in St Mary's annex..

**First Holy Communion classes:** 21 March, 4 April and 18 April  
**Congratulations** to all those who made their First Reconciliation this week. We are all very proud of you! Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mrs Pye

**Rwanda Group Trust Lenten Appeal**, A Preston based registered Catholic Charity. (We have no overheads and every penny raised goes directly to those in real need). We thank you for the way you continue to take care of the poor in Rwanda. If you would like further info, or could make a donation to help a Rwandan family visit:

[www.rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com](http://www.rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com) or  
email [rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com](mailto:rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com) or Michael 07864 990941

**Metanoia Extreme Stations of the Cross** Join the 'Men of Faith' group in praying the Stations of the Cross. They will be carrying a seven foot cross around Rivington Pike, stopping at various points to pray each Station. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March starting at 10am. Transport available. For more info or to book your place please contact Joe 07481 188102 or [joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk](mailto:joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk)