

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 all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MARCH

7 Helen Keefe, Bernard Baldwin **8** Thomas Joseph Dewhurst, Edna Melling **9** Joseph Woodcock **10** Joseph Burrow, Marilyn Wilson, Canon James M^cGann (pp), Mary Wilson **11** Patricia McAvoy, William Birkett **12** Chris Graham, **14** Eileen Cliffe, Richard Miller

Gift Aid This makes such a difference to our Parishes' income at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer we can claim 25p for every £1 you give. Please consider taking out a Standing Order, or if at St Andrew's you can register a payment card to use on the card reader, either online or the reader itself.

WEBSITE: www.standrewscottam.org.uk

**Parishes of
St Andrew & Blessed George Haydock, Cottam,
and St Mary, Lea Town
Third Sunday in Lent
8th March 2026**

Parish Priest: Canon Adrian J Towers VF

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Deacon: Rev. John W Cliffe

Tel: 01257 264445 Email: john.cliffe@lrcd.org.uk

Parish Secretary Email: standrew.cottam@lrcd.org.uk

Baptisms and Marriages by Arrangement.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday (4.30pm to 4.55pm) or on request. Please call in to the Presbytery or speak to Canon Adrian before or after Mass.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Christine Murphy 07928 532310 (St Andrew's)

Mike Fitzpatrick 07739 880965 (St Mary's)

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

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234331



**Whoever drinks the
water I shall give
will never thirst.**

John 4:14

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art by Julie Lonneman

SATURDAY 7th March

5.30pm Vigil Mass Michael Benton (8622)

This Mass will be live streamed from the Parish Website

SUNDAY 8th March

Third Sunday in Lent

(New Missals page 131)

9.00 am (Lea Town) Members & Benefactors Living & Dead
Lancashire Infirm Secular Clergy Fund (8615)

10.30am Cottam People of the Parish

Stations of the Cross and Benediction today at 3pm at St Andrew's

6.00pm Cottam Rosemary & James Walmsley (8679)

MONDAY 9th March

St. Frances of Rome – Opt. Memorial

9.15 am Cottam In Thanksgiving – St Martin de Porres (8681)

TUESDAY 10th March

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY 11th March

9.15am Cottam Brenda Gildert (8678)

THURSDAY 12th March

8.15am Lea Town Benefactors of St Mary's Parish (Annual Mass)

FRIDAY 13th March

9.15am Cottam Len Fender (8684)

SATURDAY 14th March

9.15am Cottam Holy Souls

5.30pm Cottam Vigil Mass Karen Mould – Lately (8671)

Confessions next Saturday 14th March 4.30pm-4.55pm at St Andrew's.

Mass Intentions

Canon Adrian has just a very few Mass intentions left, required for specific dates. All Mass offerings and intentions are most welcome. If you require a Mass on a particular day, please let Canon Adrian know or place the intention, offering and details in an envelope on the collection plate at the back of church.



Welcome

Elsie Elizabeth Mercer who will be baptised today at St Andrew's.

RCIA Course This **Wednesday 11th March** 7.00pm - 8.00pm at St Andrew's.

Sacramental Preparation Classes

Next Sacramental Preparation Class **Tuesday 10th March** at 3.20pm after school in St Mary's Church Annexe, children collected after class at 4.20pm.

An Online Week of Retreat and a School of Prayer

March 9th- 13th each evening 7pm – 8.30pm plus day retreat Saturday 14th March 10am – 3pm.

If you feel you need help with prayer, you are in good company; so did the first disciples. During this week in mid-Lent we will introduce a variety of ways of praying each evening, and do the same again on Saturday. Come to any or all of the online evening meetings or the Saturday. If you want a double dose come to both!

The week is being led by Members of the Jesuit Institute for anyone in Lancaster Diocese, with Bishop Paul's blessing. **(And it's free).**

The Diocese is covering the entire cost.

All the sessions are online.

No need to register. To receive the zoom link, and a reminder that it's happening nearer the time, email Ursula, our Diocesan Spirituality Rep. uwalker@uwclub.net

Afternoon Club

The club meets each **Tuesday** at 1.15pm, in the Haydock Room, Cottam. Prize bingo and refreshments. There will be a charge of 50p per book with no charge for refreshments.