THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

In those days:

The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?’

So Moses cried to the LORD,

‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’

And the LORD said to Moses,

‘Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.’

And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying,

‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS *O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'*

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'

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 forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'
O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Brothers and Sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;

give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

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A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?'(For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her,

'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

The woman said to him,

'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.'

Jesus said to her,

'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

The woman said to him,

'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her,

'Go, call your husband, and come here.'

The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’

Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.’

The woman said to him,

‘Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.’

Jesus said to her,

‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’

The woman said to him,

‘I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.’

Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am he.’

Just then his disciples came back.

They marvelled that he was talking with a woman,

but no one said, ‘What do you seek?’ or, ‘Why are you talking with her?’

So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,

‘Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?’

They went out of the town and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, ‘Rabbi, eat.’

But he said to them,

‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’

So the disciples said to one another,

‘Has anyone brought him something to eat?’

Jesus said to them,

‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, “There are yet four months, then comes the harvest”? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me all that I ever did.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman,

‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe,for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.’

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

THE REFLECTION

Jesus' always showed care for the outsider rejected buy others: lepers, tax collectors and sinners. She is alone, no friendly chatter with the other women. Her history indicates her life has been hard. As a girl probably married to an older man when she is around the age of 15, and if something happened to him then his brother, then another brother, after all of them she could be rejected from the men's family house, she and her children, relying on another man to provide a home for her.

Jesus gentle affirmation of her as someone kind makes her feel at ease with him despite racial and social differences. He talks about religion because it is a big influence on all his contemporaries' lives. The conversation end with Jesus saying he is the Christ anointed by God, the Messiah foretold by Jews and Samaritans alike. She goes back to the village as his disciples arrive.

Jesus develops the idea of mission that all Christians have, to bring the Good news of God's love and share in his promise. At the last diocesan priests conference; we heard the testimony of some participants at the coming together of those certain to be baptised at Easter. Once or twice, it was a personal revelation of the truth but mostly it was by contact with someone, family, friend or a community. Once a connection and respect was given a drawing together of hearts and minds could lead to a decision to come to an encounter with the love of God. Newman called it heart speaks to heart, Pope Francis outlined it as living out the trust in God, respect and love for others founded on that trust could lead to that encounter.