



DARE TO DREAM

Lent Week 3 – Embracing our Deepest Longing
Week Beginning 7th March

Week Three: Quenching our Thirst – Embracing our deepest longing

A woman is going about her own business, getting on with her daily life, when Jesus interrupts her. Jesus probes her desires – he engages with the woman against all protocols. He acknowledges her thirst, even before she can see it for herself. She is focused on the practicalities of her life. Jesus offers her something greater.

In our reflections so far, have I/we been focused on the practicalities? Have we allowed Jesus to offer us something greater? *'If you but know the gift of God.'* During these times of reflection and of discernment, what gift is God offering us? Do we have a thirst for what God is offering us now or are we like the dry weary land without water as expressed in Psalm 62? This week we are offered the opportunity to reflect on the living water being offered to us and to discern what this might look like as we strive to become a Church of disciples rooted in mission.

Video: The Call to Discipleship

Watch and listen to Deacon Steve Boughton

Prayerfully read this passage from the Gospel of John 4: 7-30

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common 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 no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me

this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." 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 have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, 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 is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these 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" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

- Take some to ponder on the words you have just read.
- Notice if there is anything, a word or phrase that stands out for you.
- Read the passage again and then reflect upon all or some of these questions: if you are doing this as a family or a group, make sure everyone is given the opportunity to speak.

Personal Reflection

- How do I deal with interruptions?
- Is there something that I thirst for and where is the well that I go to for this thirst to be quenched?

Now thinking about your parish or deanery

- At the end of this encounter with Jesus the woman returns to her village and relates the events which she has just experienced. She tells her story, and many believed. How often do we share the story of our faith? Do we find this easy or a challenge?
- How, as parish communities, do we share our story? How do we appear to the people in our communities who do not come to our church?
- What is the story of our deanery? If we are called to be a missionary people, what is missing? How can our thirst be quenched?

Action

- Make a list of all the different activities in your parish.
- Highlight those which are focused on sharing our story with the wider community.
- Take the opportunity to share your faith with one other person this week.

Finish with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the grace and courage to be able to share your faith when opportunities present themselves.

