First Reading   Ex 20:1-17
A reading from the book of Exodus
The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no gods except me.

‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father’s fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

‘You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not acquit the one who utters his name in vain.

‘Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

‘Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

‘You shall not kill.
‘You shall not commit adultery.
‘You shall not steal.
‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

‘You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68
(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth all of them just. (R.)

4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. (R.)

Second Reading   1 Cor 1:22-25
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here we are preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews, or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation   Jn 3:16
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel   Jn 2:13-25
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.’ Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, ‘What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?’ Jesus answered, ‘Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary; are you going to raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection
by Greg Gunter

The Temple in Jerusalem was (and still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus’ anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated. The Temple was the holiest site for sacrifice to God. The tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship. The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. Rather than walking a lamb all the way from somewhere like Galilee to Jerusalem, the faithful would purchase their sacrifice animal at the Temple itself – thus the presence of the people selling cattle, sheep and doves. However, to further complicate matters, the Temple traders would not accept Roman coins to purchase the sacrificial animals as they bore the image of the deified emperor. Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable coinage – so the money changers were also playing their part in the prayer life of the Temple.

Jesus’ outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a ‘valid’ way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. The only way to seek God’s forgiveness and mercy was to ‘buy’ it at the Temple. This was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and their God.
St Patrick was born in Britain c.385 and as a young man was captured by Irish pirates and sold into slavery. After six years in Ireland he escaped, returned to his family and trained for the priesthood in Gaul. In c.435 he returned to Ireland as a missionary bishop. Through his work, Christianity flourished and the church became organised. Although not extensively learned, St Patrick was known for his sincerity and pastoral care, and was largely concerned with abolishing paganism and idolatry and encouraged monasticism. There are many legends about Ireland’s most beloved saint, including his use of the shamrock for explaining the trinity, and his banishing of all snakes from Ireland.
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 a good man – though of course for someone died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for 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. 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 do 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, 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.  

Gospel shorter form  
Jn 4:5-15, 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 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. 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 do 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, 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.  

Reflection  
by Greg Sunter  
The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman’s attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to ‘living water’. The reference to the woman’s five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon ‘true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth’. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law. Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.
St Patrick was born in Britain c.385 and as a young man was captured by Irish pirates and sold into slavery. After six years in Ireland he escaped, returned to his family and trained for the priesthood in Gaul. In c.435 he returned to Ireland as a missionary bishop. Through his work, Christianity flourished and the church became organised. Although not extensively learned, St Patrick was known for his sincerity and pastoral care, and was largely concerned with abolishing paganism and idolatry and encouraged monasticism. There are many legends about Ireland’s most beloved saint, including his use of the shamrock for explaining the trinity, and his banishing of all snakes from Ireland.
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
11th March 2012

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Responsorial Psalm Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Second Reading: St Paul to the Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
That all who believe in him might have eternal life.

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>School Lenten Prayer-All welcome</td>
<td>8.30-9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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ST JOSEPH FEAST DAY
Fr Martin will have an extra Mass on Monday 19th March at 9.30am to celebrate the feast of St Joseph.

Baptisms
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

Marriages
(6 months notice)
Arranged by appointment.

(Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office)

Reconciliation
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.

WELCOME
St Ambrose Parish community warmly welcomes visitors and new parishioners. We invite new parishioners to fill in a card found on the table at the church entrance and place it on the collection plate. A member of the Parish will visit you as soon as possible.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND
This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the appropriate arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...
Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, especially Charlie Cefai and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

CHURCH ROSTERS

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<th>Role</th>
<th>March 10th</th>
<th>March 11th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Frank Donavan</td>
<td>Ann-Marie Elliot &amp; Mary Welch</td>
<td>Trish Cairns</td>
<td>Sharon Simpson &amp; Jim Wright</td>
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<td>Special Minister</td>
<td>Denise Radic</td>
<td>Mary Welch &amp; Mary Larnach Jones</td>
<td>Pat McHenry</td>
<td>Vicky Carrick &amp; Bruna Bombig</td>
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<td>Church Cleaning</td>
<td>Bernadette Petruccelli</td>
<td>Marg Flett</td>
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<td>Church Flowers</td>
<td>March 16th</td>
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COLLECTIONS

- Presbytery Collection (1st collection) $465
- Church (envelopes) collection $722

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES

These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world.

“In every difficulty apply to St Joseph with confidence and you will never be disappointed.” 9/3/1900

Mary MacKillop’s Daily Quotes

VOCATION VIEW

Jesus cleaned out the temple of money changers. He was angry; He was zealous; He was authoritative. He was doing what He had to do, even though it involved risk, danger, insult and wonder. Such is a vocation.

MEDITATION

Please remember if you are cleaning or arranging flowers on Saturday morning that the Christian Meditation Group will be in the Church from

MONDAY AT THE MANOR

There will be no Monday lunch this week due to the long weekend.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Ten Commandments are a code of conduct for God’s people. The aim of all the rules was to draw them to God in love. By turning the Temple into a marketplace, the people show their disdain for God and his house. Jesus, in cleansing the temple, is jolting the people from their complacency and urging them, and us, to believe in him as the sanctuary of God.
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**ST WHITBY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH GUILD**

*ST WHITBY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH GUILD will be holding a "Sewing Together the Squares" for the Salvation Army’s Blankets for the Homeless Project on Wednesday 21st March, from 11.30am to 2.30pm.*

To date over the years we have donated 305 blankets.

The venue is at St Andrew’s Uniting Church Forrest Street, Woodend. There will be a light lunch of finger food and fancies at the cost of $6 per person.

If anyone wishes to come along please contact Maria Arnold on 0434436 430 or Norma Richardson on

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**POSITIONS VACANT**

Applications are invited for the following positions:-

- Receptionist/Administration Officer– Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality. Full time position. Full job description available from the Parish Office or contact recruitment consultant Anna Rosemeyer anna@arcrecruitment.com.au or ph 0402039345
- State Youth Assistant, St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria, Box Hill. More information www.vinnies.org.au or contact Patricia McCourt Ph 03 98955882. Applications close 23rd March

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**TOUR OF IRELAND**

Maria Forde invites you to join her on the 2012 Celtic Tour of Ireland (commencing in Dublin 21st September). For 15 days we will discover the beauty of Ireland’s north and south. We begin our adventure in Dublin, heading north to Derry, making our way down the west coast to beautiful Kerry. Travelling through Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork and beyond we will experience the magical scenery of Erin’s Isle while also listening to the beautiful music of Ireland’s musicians including the Benedictine monks of Glenstal Abbey and our host: singer song writer Maria Forde. We will be driven by an Irish driver and enjoy 3 and 4 star accommodation. If this unique tour appeals to you please visit

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**EASTER VIGIL MASS LIVE FROM ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL**

Saturday 7th April, 8pm

If you have a sick or elderly family member unable to get out for Easter Mass they can now watch the Vigil Mass live on the Internet via the Archdiocesan website www.cam.org.au

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**REFLECTION**

‘During Lent may we discover fresh courage to accept situations of difficulty, affliction and suffering with patience and faith, aware that, from the darkness the Lord will cause a new day to shine forth.’

_Pope Benedict XVI, February 22, 2012, Rome_