

Reflections on Third Sunday of Lent 26A.

Mass: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm: 94; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42.

The Exodus story reappears to put us back on its track while the Gospel story puts Jesus on the journey away from Jerusalem toward home in Nazareth. This is an important moment, Jesus is like the Israelites in the desert, gasping for water. The Israelites challenge God without realising the importance of the journey while Jesus relives that journey to show what is important, the forming of a nation, the People of God. Both need real water but only Jesus knows what the living water is, the community of faith, the Body of Christ. He engages with the outcasts of Samaria while fleeing from the Jerusalem pharisees. A community of rejects is what is formed now, with even the disciples not knowing what is happening.