



## *Sunday of the Samaritan Woman*

*John 4:5-42*

*“At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar ... Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

*"I have food to eat of which you do not know."*

Jesus went hungry in the wilderness just to be fed by the well in Sychar.

The one who did not want to change the stones into bread receives his reward today.

Because He was hungry, today He receives his food, because He was thirsty, today He becomes the living water desired by the one He loves.

He who was thirsty on the cross, is today refreshed by the longing desire of the human heart.

The word of God who dies by the road, eaten by the birds and choked by the weeds, is today received by the thirsty Samaritan woman,

Who does not want to wait, who cannot lie in the presence of the Master.

She speaks truly to the Truth who warms her heart and heals her wound.

She speaks truly so we can never lie, she encounters the Truth so we can be reinvigorated with the honesty of our life.

Life is not wasted today but it transforms the water that sanctifies and quenches the emptiness of our soul.

We are no longer a desert, we are no longer dry land, we are no longer empty. The Word is received today and the water is drunk. We blossom when sprinkled with the living water.

We drink without condemnation, we drink without a waste.

We have no fear left to bestow on others and no sin to be ashamed of.

We are healed because the Master is not hungry anymore, we have the joy because the sorrow was taken away from Him.

It is not us who are singing for joy but He who does not cry anymore.

Because He does not desire sacrifice we, today, become together mercy.

*"I go away, and you will seek me" (Friday gospel)*

P.S. The water from the well is still and quiet. The living spring water is always making a joyful noise, singing for joy. It is the song of the river that knows its course, it knows where it's coming from and where it is going.

*The Gift does not leave you empty*

On Friday, the courage and boldness of Eliana in reflecting on the gospel made everybody attentive. Everybody gathered to listen, and this was a surprise because we had new people and new volunteers in the room. They gathered for espresso first but they chose not to go outside and drink it but to stay and listen to what was being read from the gospel.

We did not have much time at the end of the day, but the little we said was compensated by how much we heard in today's gospel. As somebody said, there are so many things to reflect on. It touches so many realities of the human soul.

One thing, at the end, was almost a public confession of a young man, a new volunteer. We did talk during the reflection about the emptiness of our heart, that cannot be fulfilled by regular water. We could all relate with that. Whether having success in life or not, there will always be something left unsatisfied. Something troubling for us that cannot let us settle down on the casualness of life. At the very end, our volunteer started to speak about this emptiness that troubled him for many years. He tried to fill it with many things, including drugs, he said. As he was getting lower and lower in his life the emptiness was becoming bigger. The dissatisfaction was overwhelming. He said this with tears in his eyes.

He reached a point when he decided to try something else. To do small things for people in his life. To pay attention more to them than to himself. This started something new. He did not say it, but I think this is what really brought him that day at the mission to volunteer. He said he will be back next Friday.

***"He said to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he." (Friday gospel)***

All week we heard in the gospels about the bread of life. About the life that is given and not received. How we are resistant to the mercy we do not deserve. One thing that made us attentive this year was the aggressiveness and verbal violence that the chief priests and the pharisees used in speaking to Jesus in the temple. It was hard to listen to. You could foresee in their words the violent death that was going to happen on the cross. "You have a demon"...(Midpentecost, John 7:14-30) "He wants to kill himself"...(John 8:21-30). This visceral violent reaction and hate against Jesus is profoundly human. It happens and takes place within the hearts of those who live in the proximity of the temple, but cannot receive the gift. This rejection does not leave the soul indifferent. We should not dissect and psychoanalyse the heart, however it does look like this violence is growing in time. A frustration from not being able to receive but rather reject the gift of life. The closest you are to the temple the more this pressure is put on you daily, and if it does not break your heart, frustration changes into violence. Jesus touched the nerve in the heart of those who had the power, remembering to the religious authorities at the time about what they refused for them and for others: the Word of God. They could not face their betrayal, they could not ask and pray for mercy.

This is for us also today, what we see around, when we hear and listen to religious figures, in authority over other souls, you wonder how much they received the gift of life within their own soul. When they find justification for the death of others and for war you wonder if they ever loved another human being, because if you did, you could not condemn the brother of whom you loved.

However, the gospel today does not speak about this rejection. We heard about it during the week. Today we witness the receiving of the gift, the reconciliation of man with God. It happens again at the margins with a stranger. But what happens at the margins changes the heart of the city. By listening to the gospel today we can say that what we hear is true and honest. As there is the rejection of the gift of life that brings about violence and death, there is also a partaking of the gift without condemnation. We see this so often at the mission, the partaking of the living water by those who are thirsty and the breaking of the bread which is not wasted because the poor eat it with gratitude and thanksgiving. The real bread of life.

We know it, because we have seen this. Blessed are those who know without seeing it. We have seen that the harvest is plenty. We pray that God will teach our hands how to reap because we never sowed anything. To teach our fingers for battle and our hands for war (Ps 144). Not a war that brings destruction to our brothers and sisters, but an internal war from which we came out victorious because we have received the gift and so we can embrace with honesty and kindness each other. Even though we are unskilled workers we cannot hide the truth that the harvest is plenty. We do not hide within the light of the day but ask for help and support because this is what brings about good food to the Master. He has been hungry and thirsty for too long, it is the time for us to bring about the fruits that He enjoys.

### **Community life**

This week we sing memory eternal to Fred.  
We sing Christ is risen.



### **MEMORY ETERNAL !**

Fred came a few months ago at the mission. He returned after the pandemic. He spent time in the reserves taking care of his children. When he came he wanted to meet and see everybody he knew. He came to visit us. He used to work at the breakfast program many years ago with Joanna. Eventually, we had to let him go because he was not coming every morning. Joanna remembered the story well. "When he came, he was always good, just he would not come all the time. He had a very good heart, you know", Joanna said. She found out first that he died of an overdose in Toronto. "That makes me very sad", Joanna said, "very, very sad".

Fred had a good heart indeed. Everytime I met him at the mission, and I met him in

different stages and different moods, he was always respectful and thankful. He always asked about fr. Roberto, about how he was doing. He really cared for the community whereas the community cared for him in this broken, disintegrated world. He would come and leave every now and then and also bring other people here.

Like his uncle, who spent a few days with us last week. "He told me about St John's, that I should come here because it is a good place". His uncle, an old native man, was deeply hurt by the news even though he had to go through many things and he had seen a lot. He had to recognize his son at the morgue in the past. He shared this with us during our lunch questions about things that we were able to overcome in our lives. I asked him if he had seen similar things in his life, like this epidemic of death through drugs that we see now. "No", he replied. "You know, I thought about this myself too. What could be done? In the reserves where I stayed , not long ago, a few young people died and nobody does anything even though everybody knows who sells the drugs".

As I was talking to Fred's uncle I realised how evil at times we people can become. There are people who mix those substances together on purpose, in order, to make more money. They see what happens and how they kill people. There are actually human hands and a human will who does that voluntarily and intentionally. There is also a lack of interest in stopping them.

We cannot do much or maybe we should. However, we cannot stop praying that life would become the most valuable thing on earth for all. That cannot be justified but only redeemed in Christ. We pray that we see that ourselves, we pray that it will not be hidden from anybody, including those who make money out of small or big wars. We pray that they will see that Christ is risen! The most powerful one.



### **Prayer list for the sick and those who have recovered:**

*Br. Luke, Sister Penka, Fr Roberto, Mihaela, Chris, Melanie, Arsenio, Ruth, Jonathan, Daniel, Murray, Kristian and Frank; Maria ; Binja ; Mike; Luke; Anusia ; Lavalin's son; Sana ; Father George Patrick, and Father Michael Miklos/Pani Karen Miklos; Dominique and her daughter; Mike; Luke; Arjuna; Joy; Susie; Alex; Lynn; Molly; Varghese; Delia; Leela; Mary; Tanya; Basma; Fatima; Debbie; Thomas; Alex; Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim; Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark; Sana, and her family in Egypt. Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip Hadler and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia, Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain; Seena and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike.Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana, Cornelia; Leon to Jerry; Ocean;Gloria, Anne, Marina, Marie, Edemene; Joanna and family; Rejoice;Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly;Tom; Marina;Kumari;Susan;child James; Aaron; Sylvia;Fr Jonathan;Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia;Amy; Swetha and children; Charitha; Jitesh's parents; Demene; Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Fr. John and Pani Marie; Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel(Mani); Stefanie; Geoff;Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie; Césare;Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral; Brenda; Vol; Gomaz; ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa.*

**Please pray for the deceased: Fred, Shrin, Andre; Andree; Akhir; Arjuna; Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother; Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; Fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debbie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin`s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene, Joice, BettyAnn, James, Pauanasuy Kamthasang, Maria, Andrei, Agostina, Carminda, Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother, Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew , Demene`s mother, Dalalzaki.**

**May 23-29**

<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Psalms Study – via Zoom	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Paschal Hours Paschal Hours Vespers/Dinner Bridges/Compline 8pm
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Paschal Hours Paschal Hours Paschal Hours	<b>Friday</b>	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Divine Liturgy Paschal Hours Paschal Hours
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 am Noon	Paschal Hours Paschal Hours	<b>Sunday</b>	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:30 am	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy

	<p><b>St Silouan Chapel at St John`s Mission</b>                  155 Broadview Ave. Toronto, ON M4M 2E9                  T: 416-466-1357 E: info@stjohnsmission.org W: stjohnsmission.org</p> <p><b>St Zoticos Orthodox Church at Good Neighbours Mission</b>                  193 Markham Rd Scarborough, ON M1J 3C3                  T: 647-358-4105</p> <p>We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ`s poor"                  under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa</p>	
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St. Silouan Chapel, May 22, 2022

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