



Saint Joseph's, Saint Anne's & Holy Family And Saint Patrick's
8th March 2026, Third Sunday of Lent, Year A
 Served By The Discalced Carmelites
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Mass Readings for The 8th Of March 2026, Third Sunday of Lent, Year A	
1st Reading	Exodus 17:3-7
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
2nd Reading	Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Verse Before the Gospel	John 4:42, 15
Gospel	John 4:5-42 or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

1st Reading – Exodus 17:3-7

3 In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?"
 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!"

5 The LORD answered Moses, "Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river.
 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.
 7 The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1 Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

6 Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
 7 For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert,
 9 Where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

2nd Reading – Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

1 Brothers and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 2 through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God.
 5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

6 For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
7 Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.
8 But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Verse Before The Gospel - John 4:42, 15

42 Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
15 give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Gospel - John 4:5-42

5 Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
6 Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.
7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."
8 His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.
9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.)
10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."
11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water?
12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?"
13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;
14 but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."
16 Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband."
17 Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.'
18 For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true."

19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.
20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."
21 Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
22 You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews.
23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.
24 God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."
25 The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything."
26 Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you."
27 At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?"
28 The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people,
29 "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?"
30 They went out of the town and came to him.
31 Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat."
32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."
33 So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?"
34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.
35 Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest.
36 The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together.
37 For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.'
38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work."
39 Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done."

40 When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.

41 Many more began to believe in him because of his word,

42 and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

Or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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42 and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

Saint(s) Of The Day

St John of God, also known as João Duarte Cidade, was born on March 8 1495 in Montemor-o-Novo, which is now in the District of Évora in the Kingdom of Portugal. He died on March 8 1550 at the age of 55 in Granada, Spain.

We celebrate his feast day on the 8th Of March every year in the Catholic Church.

St John of God is the Patron Saint of Booksellers, printers, Firefighters, heart patients, hospitals, nurses, the sick, the mentally ill, and the dying.



Date of Birth	March 8, 1495
Place of Birth	Portugal in Europe
Profession	Portuguese-born soldier turned healthcare worker
Place of Work	Granada, Spain
Date of Death	8th Of March 1550
Place of Death	Granada, Spain
Feast Day	8th March
Beatification	By Pope Urban VIII on September 21 1630 in Rome, Papal States
Canonization	By Pope Alexander VIII on October 16 1690 in Rome, Papal States
Patron Saint of	Booksellers Printers Firefighters Heart patients Hospitals Nurses The sick The mentally ill The dying

St John of God Life History

St John of God was born on The 8th Of March 1495 in Portugal. His father was André Cidade and his mother was Teresa Duarte. Although his family was once prominent, they had fallen into poverty, but they remained devoutly religious. When John was eight years old, he listened to a visiting priest who spoke about the exciting opportunities and new worlds that were being discovered at that time. He ran away from home and he never saw his parents again. After leaving home, St John of God travelled from village to village, relying on begging to sustain himself until he fell ill. Fortunately, he was taken in by a man who managed a large estate and nursed back to health. John spent the next few years working as a shepherd in the mountains until he reached the age of 27. At this point, he began to feel pressure to marry the manager's

daughter, who he loved as a sister. To avoid this situation, John decided to join the Spanish army in their war against France. During his time as a soldier, St John of God did not exhibit particularly pious behaviour, and instead participated in the vices of his comrades, including gambling, drinking, and pillaging. However, one day he was thrown from a stolen horse near French lines, and fearing for his life, he reflected on his past actions and made a spontaneous vow to change his ways. Upon returning from the war, John followed through with his vow, confessing his sins and committing to a new way of life. However, his comrades were not pleased with his newfound piety and resented his attempts to persuade them to abandon their vices. Using his impulsive nature against him, they convinced him to leave his post to assist someone in need, which resulted in his expulsion from the army after being beaten, stripped, and nearly hanged. St John of God then returned to his foster home, where he worked as a shepherd until he learned of a new war in which Moslems were invading Europe. He joined the war but afterwards decided to search for his biological parents. Unfortunately, he discovered that both of them had passed away during his absence, causing him great sorrow. During his time as a shepherd, St John of God had ample opportunity to reflect on his calling in life. At the age of 38, he decided to travel to Africa to ransom Christian captives from the Muslims.

However, before he could embark on this mission, he encountered a noble family who were being exiled to Africa due to political machinations. Moved by their plight, John abandoned his original plan and offered to serve them as a servant. When the family became ill during their exile, John not only nursed them back to health but also worked tirelessly to earn money to feed them. His work building fortifications was brutal and inhumane, and the workers were subjected to mistreatment and beatings from fellow Catholics. Witnessing Christians behave in such a manner shook John's faith deeply. However, a priest advised him not to blame the Church for the actions of a few individuals and urged him to return to Spain. St John of God ultimately decided to leave Africa only after learning that the family he had adopted had been granted pardons. After leaving Africa, John became a book peddler in Spain, journeying from one town to another and selling religious books and holy cards.

At the age of 41, he had a vision that led him to settle in Granada, where he opened a small shop and continued to sell books. It is because of his work as a bookseller that he is now regarded as the patron saint of booksellers and printers. Following a sermon by the renowned preacher St John of Avila on the topic of repentance, St John of God was deeply moved by the thought of his sins. So overwhelmed was he by this realization that the entire town began to view the previously unassuming bookseller as being

insane. In the aftermath of the sermon, John hurried back to his shop, destroyed all of his secular books, and gave away both his religious books and all of his money. He was consumed by grief and openly weeping, which led to him becoming the target of ridicule and even physical abuse, including being pelted with stones and mud by both his neighbours and their children. John's friends eventually took him to the Royal Hospital, where he was placed in a nuthouse. He was subjected to the usual treatments of the time, which included being bound and whipped daily.

However, after forty days of this punishment - which was meant to symbolize the same duration as the Lord's suffering in the desert - John of Avila visited him at the hospital and advised him that he had already endured enough penance. As a result, John was moved to a better part of the hospital. St John of God was always compelled to alleviate the suffering of others whenever he encountered it. So, when he was released from his restraints and moved to a better part of the hospital, he immediately started to assist the other patients around him, despite still being a patient himself. The hospital staff was initially hesitant to release John when he declared that he was going to establish his own hospital. Eventually, they did.

To fund his hospital, John resorted to selling wood in the square, and at night he used his meagre earnings to help the destitute who lived in abandoned buildings and under bridges. Hence, the streets of Granada became his first hospital.

St John of God later leased a vacant house so he could provide nursing care to his patients indoors. He attended to their needs such as cleaning them, dressing their wounds, and mending their clothes at night while he prayed.

He would ask for donations to purchase beds, furniture, and medicine before going back out into the streets to transport his sick patients back to the house. St John of God was known for his impulsive desire to assist people in need. There was a time when the Royal Hospital caught fire, and he immediately abandoned everything to rush to the scene. Upon arriving, he discovered that the crowd was just watching the hospital burn without taking any action. Without hesitation, he entered the burning building and rescued the patients while salvaging blankets, sheets, and mattresses from the flames. Although he fell through the burning roof during the process, he miraculously emerged from the smoke unharmed. Due to his bravery and heroic actions, St John of God is now revered as the patron saint of firefighters.

On another occasion, despite his illness, John was informed of precious driftwood being brought near the town by a flood. Without hesitation, he went to gather the wood from the raging river. Unfortunately, one of his companions fell into the river, and John immediately jumped in after him, disregarding his own well-being. Sadly, he

was unable to save the boy, and as a result, he caught pneumonia. On March 8 1550, on his birthday, at the age of fifty-five, he died of Pneumonia. After his death, St John of God's body was laid to rest in the Church of Our Lady of Victories, which belonged to the Minim friars. His remains remained there until November 28 1664, when the Hospitaller Brothers decided to transfer his relics to the church of their hospital in the city. Over time, John was able to attract a loyal group of disciples who felt compelled to join him in his selfless service. He established the Order of Hospitallers, and under his guidance, they became known as the Brothers Hospitallers of St John of God. In 1572, the Holy See approved the order, which has since expanded to provide medical care to the sick in countries worldwide. A testament to St John of God's dedication is that the order has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing medical care to the pope. After John's passing, Pedro Soriano succeeded him as the leader of the order.

Veneration

St John of God is venerated in the Catholic Church and the Byzantine Rite of Lutheranism. He was beatified on the 21st Of September 1630, in Rome, Papal States, by Pope Urban VIII and was canonized on 15th Of October, 1690, in Rome, Papal States, by Pope Alexander VIII. His major shrine is located at the Basilica of St. John of God in Granada, Spain. In the Roman Catholic Church, his feast day is celebrated on The 8th Of March, while Eastern Lutheranism observes it on The 26th Of November. St John of God is often depicted with attributes such as alms, a cord, a crown of thorns, and a heart.

Other Saints Days

- Saint Senan of Scattery
- Blessed Vincent Kadlubek
- Saint Felix of Burgundy
- Saint Stephen of Obazine
- Saint Theophylact of Nicomedia
- Saint Duthus of Ross
- Blessed Arnulf of Saint-Père-en-Vallée
- Saint Provinus of Como
- Saint Veremundus of Irache
- Blessed Carlo Catalano
- Saint Jón Helgi Ögmundarson

- [Saint Derwe of Camborne](#)
- [Saint Philemon of Antinoë](#)
- [Saint Apollonius of Antinoë](#)

Saint Arianus of Alexandria

St Arianus of Alexandria was also known as Ariannus, or Arrianus. He was a third-century governor of Thebes, Egypt. After he witnessed the courage of Christian martyrs, he converted to Christianity. He was drowned at the sea and died as a martyr. Legend says that dolphins brought his body back to land so it might be given proper burial.

Saint Humphrey of Prüm

St Humphrey of Prüm was also known as Humphrey of Pruem, Humphrey of Therouanne, Hunfrid, or Unfrido.

He was born on the banks of the Meuse River. He became a Benedictine monk at Prüm, Germany and later became the Bishop of Thérouanne, France. He was the Abbot of St Bertin Abbey and cared for and supported his flock during the Norman invasion. He had a special devotion to the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. He died in 871 AD.

Saint Liberius of Achad-Bo

Saint Liberius, also called Liberius of Aghaboe, had a tumultuous and immoral youth before transforming.

He subsequently lived as a Christian monk and later became the abbot of Achad-Bo monastery in Aghaboe, Ireland during the early 7th century. He died in 618 AD.

Blessed Bernardo Montagudo

Blessed Bernardo Montagudo was a friar belonging to the Mercedarian order, having been accepted into it by Saint Peter Nolasco.

He eventually rose to become the bishop of Zaragoza, Spain. In the year 1239, he died of natural causes and was interred in the cathedral of Zaragoza.

Saint Theotychus of Alexandria

Saint Theotychus of Alexandria was a layman. Having witnessed the courage of Christian martyrs, he became interested in the faith and became a convert.

He died a martyr after being drowned at sea. A legend says that dolphins brought his body back to land so it might be given a proper burial.

Saint Litifredus of Pavia

Saint Litifredus of Pavia also known as Litefredus or Liutfredus was the bishop of Pavia, Italy from 864 AD until his death.

He died in 874 AD of natural causes and his relics are in the Capella del Sacro Cuore of the cathedral in Pavia, Italy.

Saint Beoadh of Ardcarne

Saint Beoadh of Ardcarne also known as Beoadh of Roscommon, Aodh, Aidus or Beatus born Irish was the sixth-century bishop of Ardcarne, Roscommon, Ireland. He died in 518 AD of natural causes.

Saint Pontius of Carthage

Saint Pontius of Carthage was a deacon in Carthage, North Africa. He was the companion in exile, biographer of, and witness at the trial and execution of Saint Cyprian of Carthage. He died in 262 AD of natural causes.

Saint Dion of Greece

Saint Dion of Greece also known as Dionysius died as a martyr after being stabbed with a sword in Greece at an unknown date and location. No other information has survived.

Saint Botmaele of Brittany

Saint Botmaele of Brittany was a sixth-century monk in Brittany, France, and a spiritual student of Saint Mawes.

Saint Rhian

Saint Rhian also known as Ranus, Rheanus, or Rian born Welsh was a monk and became an abbot. Llanrhian, Wales is named for him.

Saint Quintilis of Nicomedia

Saint Quintilis of Nicomedia was martyred at Nicomedia at an unknown date.

Martyrs of North Africa

The Martyrs of North Africa are a bishop and some of his flock who were martyred together in North Africa.

The only details that have survived are nine of the names which are Beata, Cyril, Felicitas, Felix, Herenia, Mamillus, Rogatus, Silvanus, and Urban.

Other Saints of the Day for The 6th Of March 2026

- Faustino Miguez

Catholic Sunday Mass Readings Homily - 8th March 2026 - Third Sunday of Lent, Year A
March 8th 2026 Catholic Sunday Readings Homily Theme: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well - John 4:5-42

Sick Of the Parish:



Please pray for all the Sick in our three Parishes "My Payers and Good Wishes to All."

Mass Times For the weekend:

Saturday Night Mass Times	
Saint Josephs	5:30pm

Sunday Mass Times	
Saint Joseph's	9:30am
Saint Anne's & Holy Family	11:00 am
Saint Patrick's Ryhope	9:30 am

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