

5th Sunday of Lent - Year A, 28th - 29th March 2020

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 129. R. v. 7

R/ With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies. People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your Spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die forever **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-35 (Short form)

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’ Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: ‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

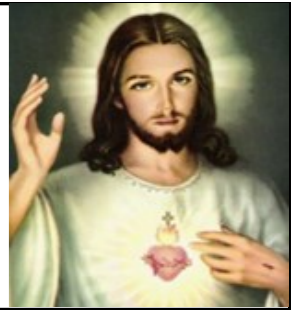
If you have no computer or prefer to have a hard copy of the Parish Newsletter, please let us know by calling 9480 3398



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5th SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A 28th - 29th March 2020

“No single person is more valuable than another, especially when it comes to those with disabilities.”

Pope Francis

The scriptures today are about life and about death. In the midst of a world with so much death, we believe in a God of life. Jesus says to Martha: ‘I am the resurrection and the life.’ We are invited to implement God’s vision of life. Jesus says: ‘Lazarus, come out.’ Jesus says to those around him: ‘Untie him and let him go.’ Our contemporary world needs us, the people of God, to respond to Jesus who invites us out of our tombs and into freedom; freedom to respond to the needs of others, freedom to let go of everything that keeps us from being fully alive. Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus.

We too have so much to weep over: In a world of plenty, 6 million of Malawi’s 19 million people require food aid. 23% of all child death cases in Malawi are related to under-nutrition.* 663 million of our sisters and brothers around the world do not have easy access to clean, safe drinking water.

The Project Compassion story this week features Tawonga from Malawi. In her eleven short years Tawonga, like millions in our global family, has faced the challenges of food deprivation. She is living with a disability and walks with the aid of crutches. Her siblings used to push her three kilometres to school in a donated wheelchair. She was often sick and missed school due to hunger. 90% of youth living with a disability live in rural areas of Malawi, leading to fewer education opportunities. During the East Africa Food Crisis Tawonga’s family participated in a Caritas Australia supported A+ program in Malawi three years ago. They now have enough food to eat and access to safer water closer to their home. Her family is benefitting from their ability to earn a reliable income from the sale of their crops. This has enabled Tawonga to continue her education and attend boarding school. The hunger that their family and community once experienced has given way to new life. Hearing Tawonga’s story can also bring about a change in us. In what ways can we go further together to ensure the inherent dignity of all?

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl living with a disability, and struggling with food insecurity and discrimination in Malawi. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga’s life has transformed.



Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Priest in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli

shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,

Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,

Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solo-

mon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O’Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

Online Masses

St. Patrick’s Cathedral

Live Streaming at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday-Friday: 1pm

Saturday: 8am

Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Masses

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday mornings at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday mornings at 8:30am

YouTube:

[The Divine Mercy Chaplet](#)

GENERAL GUIDELINES COVID-19

Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Wednesday 25 March 2020, 12.00 pm

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Masses and church buildings: Except for the exemptions noted below, all public Masses, Liturgies and communal devotions (whether indoors or outdoors) are temporarily suspended until further notice.

- Also affected by this closure are church buildings, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services.
- Priests may celebrate Mass privately in a closed church for the purposes of live streaming. In doing so all precautions such as physical distancing and hygiene measures must be modelled and met.
- This is not an opportunity to bring select groupings of people together, and numbers can only be extended to a Server and a Reader with the possible inclusion of a camera/iPad operator and a musician.
- Prison Masses are currently suspended – although Chaplaincy continues until further notice.

Priests Daily Mass: Daily Mass should be offered for all God's people, the faithful in Melbourne, and the wider community.

- The Bishops Conference is hoping to have a specific "Mass in Time of Pandemic" approved for use soon. (Awaiting approval of the Holy See.)

Home Masses: Masses in family homes or other such private or domestic locations are not permitted until further notice.

Private Prayer: Except for exemptions noted below, churches are to be closed under all circumstances until further notice. This includes for private prayer.

- This directive includes people being able to visit and access churches and chapels.

Baptisms: Baptisms are to be postponed, unless there is an urgent and grave pastoral need. (Can. 857; 860)

- All guidelines must be followed regarding:
 - limited numbers (no more than 5 persons, including celebrant);
 - physical distancing measures;
 - hygiene precautions (with particular attention to the use of water and cotton buds or swabs for anointing as per previous correspondence);
 - doors must remain closed to prevent public access.
- Baptism by immersion or baptisms using already blessed water is to be avoided. Fresh water is to be used in every individual instance of baptism, and immediately drained afterwards.
- In emergency situations priests and deacons should make themselves available for Baptism. In extreme circumstances any lay person can validly baptise using water and the Trinitarian formula. (Can 861 §2)

Weddings: Weddings are to be postponed, where possible.

- If urgent, all guidelines must be followed regarding:
 - limited to no more than 5 persons, including celebrant;
 - physical distancing measures;
 - hygiene precautions;
 - doors must remain closed to prevent public access.
 - no lingering outside the church following the wedding.

Funerals:

If urgent all guidelines must be followed regarding:

- limited no more than 10 persons, including celebrant);
- physical distancing;
- hygiene precautions;
- doors must remain closed to prevent public access.
- It will not be possible to organise any refreshments in the Parish hall or centre after the funeral is concluded.
- Permission is granted to hold the funeral Liturgy in a funeral parlour, if the family so wish.
- Families may wish to arrange a Memorial Mass at a later date, and after the public emergency and relevant social restrictions have passed.

Penance: Only the First Rite of Penance (individual confession and absolution) can be celebrated, because of the restrictions on numbers.

- Priests will do their best to respond to individual requests for the Sacrament, but it is not possible to establish and publicise particular times when the sacrament will be available.
- The location for the individual celebration of the Sacrament can be adapted to ensure the required health needs.
- People who identify within themselves the need for Confession should contact their Parish clergy directly.
- If there arises an urgent need to impart sacramental absolution to several people together out of grave necessity (eg. to a group of persons in a hospital setting who are dying from Coronavirus), then permission is to be sought from the Regional Vicar. The provisions of Can.961 and 962 are to be met and applied for validity.

Confirmations: All Confirmations are hereby suspended, unless a grave and urgent pastoral need arises.

- Individual application must be sought and directed through the Parish Priest to the Regional Vicar.

Communion to, and Anointing of, the Sick:

It is important that the Sacrament of Anointing be available to those seriously ill and in danger of death.

- Holy Communion is not to be given to anyone, including the sick and Homebound, except as *Viaticum* for the dying.
- Only Priests are to offer *Viaticum* and Anointing to the sick and dying, complying with the protocols of the relevant hospitals or aged-care facilities (washing hands, etc.)
- If more Oil of the Sick is required, please make contact with the Cathedral office.
- In general circumstances, if a Priest is requested to visit the home of a sick and dying person, he must take every precaution in relation to those who may be contagious.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



What should I do if I can't go to Mass?

If you are unable to be present at a celebration of the Eucharist, we encourage you to participate in other ways such as spending time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on and praying with the Scriptures (particularly the Mass readings), praying a Liturgy of the Word with the Sunday readings, making a Stations of the Cross, praying the Rosary, making an Act of Spiritual Communion (see below) and participating in Mass online (see more below).

What is an Act of Spiritual Communion and how do I make one?

Catholics have long been encouraged to partake in the practice of "spiritual communion" if they are unable to receive the Eucharist for a particular reason (for instance – being homebound). Simply put, it is coming before the Lord in prayer – expressing our deep desire to be united to Him despite the fact that we are unable to be united to Him in receiving the Eucharist. In making an Act of Spiritual Communion we ask the Lord to give us the graces that would come to us if we were able to receive Him sacramentally (Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity). Reciting the prayer written by St. Alphonsus Liguori below is simple and common way of making an Act of Spiritual Communion.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

For difficult times in our lives: Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

Supporting your Parish

For many of you it may be a time of financial restraint. But if anyone wishes to continue to financially support our Sacred Heart Parish you can continue your contribution by direct deposit as follows:

Bank: NAB

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Preston

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 658787823

(For those who contribute through Thanksgiving envelopes please use your envelope number or name as the description). Thank you

Pray the Novena

There is an open invitation from Ophelia Swai to join her on Facebook in praying a novena in this time of COVID-19 pandemic. You may contact her on 0431311976

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
*Lopisoni Amato, Alan Castles &
Jozef Hatlas*



A Note of thanks to Parishioners

Alan Castles is deeply grateful for all your prayers. He is relatively well and sends greetings to all parishioners.

A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at the time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:

May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us grow in faith and pray to the Father, *thy will be done.*

Amen



Please click below for

[A Coronavirus Prayer...by Karen Weber](#)

Stations of the Cross

can be viewed online by searching

['Stations of the Cross YouTube'](#)

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.