

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.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

29 MARCH 2020

ETERNAL LIFE

In today's Gospel, Jesus leaves what is for him safe country across the Jordan to go to Judea. He puts his own life at mortal risk in order to give life to his mortally ill friend.

Strangely, of course, Jesus, on hearing the news of Lazarus' grave illness, delays a few days before acting on the sisters' message. In effect, he allows Lazarus to die. This means that he can enter into and address the grief of Martha and Mary, and of all those who subsequently mourn the death of loved ones.

Martha takes comfort in her conventional belief in the resurrection of the dead on the last day. But Jesus majestically proclaims, 'I am the resurrection and the life'. For those who believe, 'eternal life' begins now; it transcends the barrier of death.

Jesus in the end restores Lazarus to this present life. But, beyond a kindness to Lazarus and his sisters, this miracle is more importantly a sign and symbol that, in the sense mentioned above, Jesus is 'the resurrection and the life' for all believe.

What Jesus does for Lazarus in fact plays out in miniature the whole pattern of his life and mission. As incarnate Son of God, he leaves the 'safe country' of his eternal dwelling with the Father (Jn 1:1-2) to enter our world and, at the cost of his own life, give eternal life to us all. Each one of us, confronted with the prospect of death, is Lazarus, the friend for whom Jesus will give his own life. We should hear the Passion with this in mind.



Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

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.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, / Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be attentive / to the voice of my pleading. **R.**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord, who would survive? / But with you is found forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord / more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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

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 for ever. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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 and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,

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Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Weekend Masses: Vigil Sat 5:30pm,

Sun 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12noon (Chinese) & 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thurs 7:00pm

(Holy Family Chapel)

Fifth Sunday of Lent – 29th March, 2020



Our Deceased: Mrs Giuseppina Rulli, Geoff Clarke, Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Soo Woog Jin, Maria Hur, Felix Beins, Cecile Beins, Jan Brayan, Mary Duck, Ces Regan, Roy & Bessie Landon and deceased members of Landon, Pigott, Stewart families, John & Bonnie Bowdern, Leslie & Isobel Johnson, and deceased members of Bowdern, Johnson, Ellsmore & Tolley families, Mehseu Moujalli, Tony & Rose Isaac.

Our Sick: Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan and Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy & Nur Gouw and Henry Rheinberger

Upcoming Feast Day: St John Climacus 30th of March

Parish News:

- **Next week is Palm Sunday.** It marks the beginning of Holy Week.
- **Please visit the parish website for updates regarding Masses and other resources. If you wish to continue supporting our parish, you can donate by credit card through the parish website, just click on the 'Support Us' button. Thank you.**
- **For those who wish to donate to Project Compassion visit: www.lent.caritas.org.au.**
- **St Kevin's Free Exercise Class Cancelled until further notice.** Info © Michael: 8819 2280.

A CATHOLIC IDENTITY today!

Recently I read what I thought was a good reflection on what a *Catholic Identity* was today; It was written by a South Australian Mercy nun, *Sister Frances Baker*; "It is where a person or persons have an encounter with the teachings and the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ and his Church. It is also where this encounter can shape their work and life."

Any Christian identity not just a Catholic identity can only be effectively shaped where there is an obvious sense of respect for others, an integrity of one's words and actions where there is a sense of compassion revealed. In our world corporate sector the reality is that it is virtually impossible to have a criteria to objectively assess the above qualities. Traditionally it is by way of the Gospel stories where values are readily revealed that when embraced can then shape someone's Christian identity. For example, it is within the parable of the *Good Samaritan* that the virtue of being open to assist *ANYONE* in need is readily revealed. Then within the parable of the *Prodigal Son* is where unconditional forgiveness and mercy is revealed that goes beyond justice is strongly revealed.

A Catholic identity is where Christian virtues are readily seen is integral to the makeup of any Catholic organization. Ideally these virtues need to begin in one's personal family life and extended to their communal and corporate professional. Fr Martin R Maunsell

The Raising of Lazarus – Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

Fifth Sunday of Lent

This Sunday - the 5th in the season of Lent, is the last in the season of Lent before we begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday. Each Sunday presents a different Gospel scene occurring at different times in the three year public ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.



Today's Gospel recalls the *resuscitation* of Lazarus from the dead – it's not a resurrection as he will die again at a time and a place we don't know.

There are two points that might be worth considering from this now famous Gospel event. The 1st point mentions 'that Jesus openly wept' - this emphasizes his humanity upon hearing the death of his friend. The 2nd point is that he commanded 'that he be unbound,' these words are deep and meaningful referring to God's capacity to unbound people also from their sinful restrictive actions and attitudes towards others. Remember when we listen to God's word it is ever alive and active to strengthen, inform and guide us on our own life journey.

The 1st reading today comes from the book of Ezekiel where the author says of God, 'I am the Lord who has opened your graves and I will put my spirit in you so you can live.' This reminds us of life beyond this world.

All of today's readings remind us 'that God's grace builds on nature,' meaning that when we align our lives to co-operate with God's word and spirit, new life also happens within us! Fr Martin R Maunsell



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

For the Archbishop's updated Pastoral letter, Directions for Celebration of Sacraments, prayers & other resources visit: www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/