

The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent A, Year A

29 March 2020

First Reading Ez 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.

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

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.

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

Gospel Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 or longer form Jn 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary 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,
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, '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.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

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HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

Holy Trinity Our Lady Star of the Sea Holy Family
34 Stevens St 68 John Dory Drive 101 Hitchcock Ave
Queenscliff Ocean Grove Barwon Heads

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Fr Darien J Sticklen
Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutura
Safeguarding: Mrs Deb Krizmanic

Parish Office & Presbytery
34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225

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Email: queenscliff@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/queenscliff

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 10am to 1pm

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St. Aloysius' Queenscliff
Principal: Ms. Fiona Dawson, Tel: 5258 1736
Star of the Sea Ocean Grove
Principal: Ms. Kerry Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**** ALL PUBLIC MASSES ARE SUSPENDED ****

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

**** ALL PUBLIC MASSES ARE SUSPENDED ****

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please contact Parish office

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Please contact Parish office

Recently Deceased: Pasqualina (Lina) Tacconelli

Anniversaries 29th March to 4th April:

Margaret Nicholson, Jack Kean, Maud Curtis, Eileen Coughlan, Ricky Penning, Val Connor, Betty Deal, David Wood, Sybil Adams, Patrick Ker, Eileen Murphy.

Please pray for those who are Sick:

Arnie Bench, Peg Benham, Ron & Helen Carter, Don Cousin, Jack Davin, Ian Downing, Margaret Dyer, Nell Faigneux, Kay Freyne, Kate Greenwood, Martin & Mary Grundy, Willow Hanan, Tracey Higgins, Jeannette & Laurance Hodgkinson, Kerin Hoyer, Sharon & Gary Kingsbury, Bill Laurie, Jack Loughnan, Belinda Monterosso, Robyn Nagle, Christine Nolty, Helen Pearce, Jayden Pickett, Vera Pollard, Mavourneen Ray, Bill & Betty Rushton, Mac & Mary Sullivan, Hugh Tighe, Alby Trask, Deanne Warren, Peter & Maris Williams.

Special Note from Fr Darien, Daniella and Deb

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In these unprecedented circumstances, we are reaching out to each of you personally to assure you of our fervent desire for your physical and spiritual wellbeing.

We have extended our Parish office hours to offer increased opportunities for you to keep in touch, and we are making every effort to find ways to stay connection as a community.

Please know of our prayers for you and your loved ones. Fr Darien continues to hold your intentions in his heart and mind as we celebrate Mass on a daily basis.

With warm regards and every peace & blessing.

** NEWS & EVENTS **

PLEASE NOTE...

- **Ministry Rosters are not applicable** as all public Masses and gatherings are suspended until further notice.
- **Daylight Savings ends at 3:00am on Sunday 5 April 2020.** Don't forget to set your clocks **BACK** one hour.

Mass online: you are welcome to visit the following sites to celebrate Mass at home:

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
www.youtube.com/archmelb
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

"Mass for You at Home": religious television program on Channel 10 & 10HD on Sundays at 6:00am.

Bulletin distribution: we will be emailing bulletins weekly. If you have an email address and wish to receive the bulletin this way, please email Daniella at queenscliff@cam.org.au to be added to our distribution list. We are aiming to upload the bulletin on the Parish website also. Alternative distributions methods are being considered, including letterbox drop-off & postal mail.

If you require Pastoral care & support, please contact Daniella at the Parish office.

An invitation to say the Our Father together at midday: on the Feast of the Annunciation, Pope Francis announced and has invited Christians all around the world to pray the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) at 12:00pm in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Wherever you are – at your desk, in your home – please join us in prayer. Alternatively, if you'd like to pray at the same time as the Holy Father, you can join in at 10pm.

Project Compassion 2020: please continue to support if you can. To contribute, visit <https://lent.caritas.org.au/donate/> or drop off your envelopes to the Parish office.

Please send in bulletin notices by Thursday

Parish Contributions: please continue to support if you can.

To contribute:

1. Parish bank details:
 - BSB Number: 083-347
 - Account Number: 530 502 075
 - Account Name: Queenscliff Holy Trinity Parish Church Account
 - Reference: Enter your Surname & Thanksgiving envelope number (if applicable)
2. Cheques:
 - Please mail cheques via post or drop the envelope into the Parish letterbox or Parish office.
3. Parish Thanksgiving envelopes:
 - Please bring your Thanksgiving envelopes to the Parish office. We can also arrange to collect them if you wish.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

All public Masses, celebrations and gatherings are suspended indefinitely, as instructed by the Bishops of Victoria.

All Churches and places of worship are closed and locked.

For updated medical advice and news, please visit:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

For Diocese and Parish advice, please visit:

<https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>

A Prayer to St Joseph, The Great Protector

St Joseph, You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this 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 to grow in faith and pray to the Father, Thy will be done. Amen

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LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

**** ALL PUBLIC MASSES & GATHERINGS ARE SUSPENDED ****

Tuesday 31st March – Tuesday of the 5th week of Lent

Wednesday 1st April – Wednesday of the 5th week of Lent

Thursday 2nd April – Thursday of the 5th week of Lent

Friday 3rd April – Friday of the 5th week of Lent

Saturday 4th April – Saturday of the 5th week of Lent

Sunday 5th April – **PALM SUNDAY** of the **PASSION** of the **LORD**
Holy Week

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Thought for the Week:

All human wisdom is summed up in two words;
wait and hope.

- Alexandre Dumas

+ + +

FLETCHERS

LOCAL EXPERTS

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IT'S A FLETCHERS THING



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Email: info@oceaneyes.com.au

Visit: www.oceaneyes.com.au



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good works

Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme ("NILS")

Geelong Vinnies NILS provides people on pensions & low incomes with loans up to \$1500 for essentials such as whitegoods, TVs, computers, medical & dental services, car repairs, etc... with absolutely no interest or fees! For further information, contact Vinnies NILS Tel 5229 8829 or email enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au.

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