

INTRODUCTION:

(Please begin by welcoming everyone to our Mass and introducing the Ministers of the Word, Ministers of Holy Communion, etc.)

Although our liturgy brings us nearer this week to the climax of Passiontide, our readings are full of hope and life.

In our **First Reading**, the people of Israel are exiled in Babylon. The prophet tells them that God will put a new spirit in them and raise them from their graves.

The **Psalms** is a prayer of trust in God, who is full of mercy and compassion. He will redeem Israel.

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul tells us that because we have received the Spirit of Christ, then 'he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies.'

The **Gospel** unites all these themes of mercy and trust, of death and life, of redemption and resurrection, in the miracle of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This great sign of Jesus being 'the resurrection and the life' leads us into the coming weeks.

As we contemplate these readings this week, may we draw closer to our Lord and accompany him as he sets his face towards Jerusalem.

As a Faith Community, let us take a moment to reflect in silence before we begin our Mass.

(1 minute silence)

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Let us pray together our Parish Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Holy Trinity Parish is your family committed to praying and growing together as we build on the gifts of our past, the living of our present and our hopes for the future.

Lord Jesus, we are nourished by prayer, the word and sacraments especially the Eucharist. We recognize and trust in each other's spiritual gifts. We will strive to be a visible sign of God's love for the world.

Holy Spirit, baptized in your name, we accept the challenge to live as Jesus did. We will celebrate our lives and gifts in service to others, welcoming all people and sharing our talents and resources.

As a parish we will endeavour to make present the Kingdom of God, here and now.

AMEN.

Please stand now together for our entrance hymn ...

Universal Prayer of the Church

Priest: Dear friends, with Martha we hail Jesus as the Christ, Son of God and giver of life. In His name, let us pray for all our needs.

Reader: For civic leaders and health authorities around the world; may they guide their people through this global health crisis with wisdom and courage. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those suffering directly from the spread of COVID-19: all who have lost loved ones, those who are fighting for their lives, and for the frail aged; may they draw strength from the support of the whole community. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those facing financial ruin or extreme hardship as a result of the health crisis; may government measures and the work of welfare agencies bring them relief. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For health workers of every kind in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes; may they remain safe and well in the face of the extraordinary demands being made on them. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For a spirit of neighbourly love; may we not yield to fear and self-interest but choose to put ourselves at the service of others. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the people of Malawi struggling with food insecurity and poverty; may our support for Project Compassion enable them to become more self-sufficient. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For our Parish community; may these last weeks of Lent draw us close together and ready to follow Jesus on the way of cross. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the recently deceased, including Lina (Pasqualina) Tacconelli, and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time: Margaret Nicholson, Jack Kean, Maud Curtis, Eileen Coughlan, Ricky Penning, Val Connor, Betty Deal, David Wood, Sybil Adams, Patrick Ker, Eileen Murphy; may they be called forth from the darkness of death into the light of life. *(Pause for silent prayer)* Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God of life and love, you sent your Son to free us from the bonds of sin and death. Help us to claim the freedom He won for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.