

Weekly Parish Newsletter

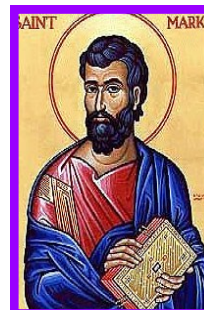
Bollettino Parrocchiale Settimanale

Volume XIV Issue 9th FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT "Year A" 29th March 2020

The Parish Community of St. Brigid and St. Mark

378 Nicholson Street — North Fitzroy 3068 VIC Phone No: 03 9489 6777

stbrigidstz@yahoo.com.au - website: <http://pol.org.au/fitzroynorth/>



ALL MASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. If you wish to participate in a Mass online
(<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT. "If Christ is in you then your Spirit is life itself" The anxiety of the Coronavirus pandemic is gripping the heart of everyone: tomorrow will it be me? The word of God in this fifth Sunday of Lent brings us a reassuring message: if we live in the spirit of Christ, united with him in faith and prayer, then in our mind we will experience peace and serenity because we see our life from a more spiritual perspective rather than a physical existence only. Our life is the concerned of two: God and myself. In faith we know that God has given us the gift of life and he will preserve it at all cost (the cost of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross). He will do this in his own loving and powerful way just as he raised Jesus from death. My concern is to let God free to operate in me through my daily living in faith and responsibility. St. Paul in the 2nd reading of today exhorts the believers in Rome: "If Christ is in you then your Spirit is life itself because you have been saved". This means that we should fully entrust ourselves to the love of God who loves life, not as we see it with its daily human components, but in a more lasting and enduring way. The present situation helps us, then, to say with St. Augustine: "My life is not at peace until it rests in you, o Lord".

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength. (Ps 42:1-2)

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel (37:12-14) Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, says the Lord." ***This is the Word of the Lord.***

Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R./**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness; for this we revere you. **R./**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than a watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **R./**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R./**

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans (8:8-11) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me shall never die. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John (11:1-7,17,20-27,33-45) Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again." Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odour, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him. ***The Gospel of the Lord.***

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord. (Jn 11:26)