



'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 Fr Michael Tate

This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.

But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God.

You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death.

We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be *the Resurrection and the Life*.

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### 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:

27 March 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In this troubling time we are pleased to provide parishioners with new faith resources on our website and Facebook Page. All Masses, Confessions, and Parish activities which involve personal contact have been cancelled. This is a sad loss for every one of us as we know that the sacraments and in particular the Eucharist, is "the source and summit of our Christian life".

Thanks to modern technology, you can view daily Mass services on line. The links are below. In addition, I will be recording the Sunday Mass every week and it will be available on our website. I thank our good Parishioners like Quang, Antony, Joseph and Bob, who took time and put in many efforts to make updating our Website and the Facebook. I appreciate the importance for all of you to attend Mass, and in view of this, I would like to advise you of a few options that are available.

1. I will be pre-recording a normal weekend mass, and the link will be made available on our parish website :- <http://pol.org.au/keiloreast/Home.aspx>
2. Mass with his Holiness Pope Francis is being live streamed from his private Chapel of "Casa Santa Marta" every day at 5pm on :- <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santamarta/2020-03/pope-naaman-nazareth-indignation-homily-lukekings.html>
3. Mass is streamed live daily from St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne at 1.00pm daily. Please go to:- [Melbournecatholic.org.au/mass](http://Melbournecatholic.org.au/mass)
4. Channel 10 has Mass every Sunday at 6am.
5. Light FM on 89.9 has Mass on Sundays at 7.00am.

At this time, we ask you to be mindful of those around you. The sick, frail and elderly, disabled, and those who are on their own are especially vulnerable during times like these, and if you are able to, please check on them and offer any assistance you can. Please keep in your prayers our community, our Church and those who work on the frontline of this virus, especially our health care workers and paramedics.

During this stressful global health crisis, please know that I have you all constantly in my thoughts and prayers and be assured of my continued pastoral care. Should you have the need for a visit, Anointing of the Sick, Communion to the Sick or Reconciliation, please do not hesitate to contact me via the parish office on 9337 4141 or by email to [sebastian.manoharan@cam.org.au](mailto:sebastian.manoharan@cam.org.au).

Thank you for your understanding and for putting the interests of the larger community before our own. Let us support each other in our faith and continue to pray for the elimination of this virus from the world. Please take care and remember that you are in my prayers, as I believe I am in yours.

"Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ".

**Yours in Christ,**

**Fr Atrockia Manoharan Sebastian msfs**  
**Parish Administrator**

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*East or West  
Home is Best.  
Take some Rest,  
Don't call any Guest.  
Enjoy your Home Fest,  
Don't have an outgoing Zest.  
This is our life saving Test.  
So, be in your Nest;  
This is the world's Request.*

#### **IN YOUR PRAYERS**

##### **SICK**

Magdalene Anasarias

##### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

Jeff Zammit

##### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Clare Meneze, Rocco Cesile,  
Mieczyslaw Deren, Chahady & Samia  
Yacoub, Pierre Soussa

#### **CARITAS AUSTRALIA: PROJECT COMPASSION 2020 "Go Further Together"**

Message from Deacon Jim Curtain, Diocesan Director of Caritas Australia, about the Project Compassion 2020 Appeal.

"We here at Caritas understand that many in our community will have financial concerns, worries about health, and worries about their future due to the COVID19 crisis. We do appreciate that many generous people who would normally give may no longer be in a position to do so. However through Project Compassion we support people and communities in countries that have nothing like the resources of Australia, where governments do not have the ability to provide social welfare payments or subsidise employers to keep people in work. Bearing in mind the uncertainty that we are all experiencing, we would still ask that, if you are able, you consider continuing to support Project Compassion as best you can. Thank you for your generosity in the past, and for whatever you feel able to give now."

**ST PETER'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Date for commencement of Term 2 will be advised when information is received.

#### **A Prayer to St Joseph**

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.