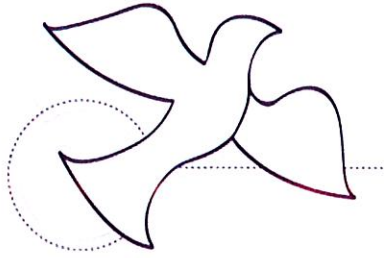


Guided by the Spirit
to be the heart of God



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the partnered parishes of

Sacred Heart Newport &

St Margaret Mary's Spotswood

28/29th of March, 2020

Year A

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Please pray for:

Our sick:

Brian Twomey, Tim Byrne, Fr. Andrew, Sr. Mary Joseph, Maria Watt, Michelle Jenkins, Lina & Joseph Bartnik, Netty Fabretto, Mary O'Connor, Paul and Anne Pace and Tony and Maria Raunik

Anniversaries:

Tomasso Giarrusso



5th Sunday of Lent, A

Scriptures Reflection

The three readings on the 5th Sunday of Lent focus on the question: 'How do we obtain life?' In the first reading, Ezekiel says that those committed to God will find life after they die. Paul, in the letter to the Romans, says that through the Spirit, we can find life. The Gospel describes the raising of Lazarus and shows that all God's power is found in Jesus who brings believers the fullness of life.

In his *Spiritual Exercises*, Ignatius of Loyola suggests that for each Gospel story we should try to put ourselves in the place of each character and imagine how we would feel in those circumstances. This can be a challenging exercise. Can I try to put myself in the place of Lazarus? Lying cold in the tomb, I am dead to everything and then I hear a voice: 'Come out, Lazarus.' There I am, wrapped in bandages, surrounded by darkness. What is our equivalent to his tomb, here and now?

Putting ourselves in Lazarus's place can show us imperfections in our lifestyle and make us long for a new spiritual freedom. Just less than two weeks before the commencing of the celebration of Easter Triduum, the story of raising of Lazarus challenges us live life to the full. A close encounter with death can shock us into appreciating life. A loss or bereavement shows again what makes life worth living. Perhaps the current overbearing of COVID-19 has made us re-assess our priorities and renew our trust in the divine providence. Like Martha, we are invited to run to the Lord and poured out our sorrow, anxiety and fear to him. We are invited to abandon ourselves to God's care. In the midst of our fear and distress, it seems as though God is absent. But when we pray we come to realise that God is not absent, but is present in our fear and suffering. God is with us as our hope in adversity, and our strength in weakness.

In this coming week, let us pray for ourselves and for one another.

Fr Binh

Protect others and stop the spread

We can all help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Australia.

To protect others you must:

- practice good hygiene
- practice physical distancing
- follow the limits for public gatherings
- understand how to self-isolate if you need to

I still haven't decided where to go for Easter



debating between the bedroom or the living room

Day 4 of social distancing: Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

At the Partnered Parishes of Sacred Heart Newport and St Margaret Mary's Spotswood, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our partnership.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 129)

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

RESPONSE: **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

LECTOR: 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.**

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

LECTOR: 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.**

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 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!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

NEXT WEEK (Passion Sunday, Yr A) Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21; Philipians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

*Want
to learn
more?*

Daybreaks Daily Reflections for Easter and Lent takes the reader into the depths of God's mystery. For many who must juggle life's daily demands, Lent often seems to pass by with little opportunity for spiritual growth. But in this booklet, Father Ron Rolheiser provides reflections for each day of Lent and Easter that are short and clear enough for the busy person, yet provocative, and challenging to the spirit. The booklet is available from Majellan Media for \$7.50. For more information contact us at **03 9592 2777** or **office@majellan.org.au**

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*Opening our
hearts and
minds*

29 March 2020 5th Sunday Lent Year A

It's a wonderful feeling to walk outside, to see the trees and the flowers, to feel the warmth of the sun on our body and to breathe in the fresh air. It's undeniable that spending time in the great outdoors is good for us physically, emotionally and spiritually.

However, in today's fast paced modern world, all too easily we can be caught up with things that need to be done around the house or at the office. It is so easy to be glued for hours on end to the computer screen, our smart phones and other gadgets.

Perhaps the modern world and modern technology have helped us to create our own 'tombs'. We have unwittingly set up comfort zones in our homes, in front of the television, or at our workplace computer. As the saying goes, we have become 'too clever by half'.

In the gospel this week, Jesus calls his friend Lazarus from his final resting place, his tomb. He calls Lazarus out from the darkness into the light. He unbinds him and sets him free. Lazarus can once more experience the fullness of life found in the world around him, as well as the fullness of life in the people that love and care for him. He's been given a second chance in life.

In our sometimes chaotic lives, we can inadvertently alienate people who love and care for us. It is all too easy to lock ourselves into our schedules and responsibilities

and not spend quality time with others. Even family members who may live in the same house as us. It is important to allow them to unbind our eyes and our bodies and to see that there is something even more essential than work. After all, we are part of a community, part of a family, and we are not alone.

In Jesus' life and ministry, he always surrounded himself with people and encouraged them to see the bigger picture. He wanted people to open their eyes to others around them and to the wider world. Jesus set them free from the tomb of their lives, brought them out from darkness into light, unbound them and set them free. Today, Jesus wishes the same for us.

Let us during this period of Lent, open our eyes, hearts and minds to the world around us, to nature and to people everywhere. For a time, let us put aside our responsibilities and our work and allow the life that is all around us to wash over us and enter into us; to experience and feel that we are part of something larger and wonderful. To be unbounded, to be set free.

Mark Chia CSSR
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