Dear Friends in Jesus 28th March 2020

We are in the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The Gospel this weekend is on Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-45). The First Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14 speaks about God putting his Spirit in us and we will live. Ezekiel was prophesying when the Jews were in exile in Babylon and the sacrifice in the Temple was no longer being offered.  They looked forward with hope to being led back to Jerusalem and rebuilding the Temple hence the prophet Ezekiel gives this message of hope of the spirit of God giving us life. St Paul writing to the Romans says this to us in the second reading: ‘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.’ (Romans 8:11)

We have received the Spirit of God through our Baptism which is strengthened through the sacrament of Confirmation and to the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation that we frequently receive. Our hope is in  that life giving Spirit of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) that lives in us. To us who share in the Eucharist Jesus has promised that, “he who eats ***my flesh*** and drinks ***my blood*** abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so ***he who eats me will live because of me***.” John 6: 56-57

The Father lives in us” “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” John 14:23

Jesus also speaks about the Holy Spirit living or abiding in us “If you love me …. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever…You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.” John 14:15-17

Just as Lazarus experienced the power of being raised by Jesus we too  experience that same power in our daily lives. To wake up every morning to another beautiful day, the experience of good health after some sickness, consolation we may receive after some type of grief etc are those time we experience the power of the resurrection of Christ. May we look forward with hope during the coming week for we are the people of the resurrection.

**The weekend Masses will be live on the Mansfield Catholic Parish page on Facebook - 28th Saturday 6.00 pm and 29th Sunday 9.00 am.**

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my heart.
Since I cannot  receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace You as though  You were already there and unite myself entirely to You.**

**Never permit me to be separated from You.**

**Parish Prayer**

**Heavenly Father,   we the people of Mansfield Parish entrust you with our prayers, our needs and our hopes.**

**We thank you for giving us your Son as our Saviour, our life and our inspiration. Help us to work as one in the Spirit building up the Body of Christ and bringing peace through forgiveness to the world.**

**May our patrons: St Francis Xavier, St John the Apostle, St Patrick, St Joseph, St John and Mary Help of Christians, pray for us and guide us in the ways of Jesus. AMEN.**



**Congratulations !!!**

Joan Carey our parishioner is a professed religious. Joan celebrated forty years of her religious profession on 25th March 2020. We wish her every blessing and thank her for the service she renders in the parish.

**Death**

Timothy Coker son of Jessi Koker died last week. Kindly pray for the bereaved family. May Timothy rest in the Peace of Christ and rise in Glory.

God bless

George

George Feliciouz

Parish Adminitrator

Mansfield Catholic Parish

Ph: 5775 2005



**The Catholic Parish of Mansfield, Archdiocese of Melbourne is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.**