



5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
YEAR A

26 March 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN



#### OPENING PRAYER

*Father,  
inspire us by Christ's love,  
guide us by his example who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

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:

**Response: 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:** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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**

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:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

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:

'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 on the Gospel of John 11:1-45 by Dianne Bergant CSA**

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray for all who profit from the international arms trade, that they will invest in projects of peace instead of weapons of death and destruction. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for stewards of creation around the world, that they will save threatened species from extinction and help nature thrive. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who live in the land of Jesus' birth, that the danger of deadly violence there will ease and communal leaders will choose the path of justice and peace. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who have policy-making power for Australia's economy, that they will reverse growing inequality and ensure that economic benefits are shared fairly. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the vulnerable communities of Asia, Africa and the Pacific, and First Nations people of Australia, that this Lent's Project Compassion appeal will enable Caritas Australia to continue assisting them. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for parents of children with a life-threatening illness, that they will receive all the medical, pastoral and personal support they need. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who are suffering ill health, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Eadaoin Corcoran, Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the recently deceased Lisa Drury, Brian Walsh, Albertina van den Broke, Ann Fisher, Phillip Lee and Frank Stuart. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will share in the resurrection and life of Christ for ever. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Almighty Father,  
may we always remain one with your Son Jesus Christ, for he is Lord for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm**

**Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10.00am**

**Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am**

**Social Justice Group: Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery**

**First Rite of Reconciliation: 5-5.15pm Saturdays during Lent.**

**Krawarree Mass: 30 April at 11am.**

**Blessing of the Sick Mass: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.**

**Easter Service times:**

**Palm Sunday: 1 April at 6pm (Vigil)**

**Holy Thursday: 6 April at 7pm (Mass of the Lord's Supper)**

**Good Friday: 7 April Stations of the Cross: 10am; Passion: 3pm.**

**Easter Vigil: 8 April at 6pm**

**Dear Parishioners,**

**NSW State Election Saturday, 25 March 2023 - 8am-6pm**

**Easter Water bottles:** if you have empties, please return. We are very short.

**HOLY TRINITY 'SHOW 'N SHINE':** North Woden Parish and the ACT Street Machine Association invite you to enjoy a display of beautiful cars of bygone years in the parish grounds, 10am – 3pm, Sun, 26 March, 3 Strangways Street, Curtin. Monies raised support Camp Quality. Inq 0418 208 129

**CHRISM MASS:** Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 3 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is this Mass that the Holy Oils used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.

**Tech Help Drop In at Library on Monday 28 March 1-3.30pm**

**Daylight saving ends 3am on Sunday 2 April. Don't forget to put your clocks back.**



**Project Compassion** brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations.***

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Ezek. 37:12-14. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Romans 8:8-11. Gospel: John 11:1-45.

**Readings for next week: Palm Sunday** 1<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 50:4-7.. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Phil. 2:6-11. Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

**Ministry Rosters for our Masses**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Welcomer</b>	<b>Readers</b>
25 Mar	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy

**Easter roster at end of bulletin. Please advise ASAP if you won't be available**

<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b><u>24 March</u></b>	<b><u>8 April (Easter)</u></b>
Altar Decorating:	no flowers during Lent	<b>all arrangers please</b>
Cleaning:		Helen P & Sarah

Counters: 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie.	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sunday: Wendy H
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: volunteer please	4 <sup>th</sup> : Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other,  
Helen Hart

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

**Palm Sunday Vigil****Welcomer:** Helen P**Acolyte:****Readers:** Wendy H/Bobbie**Passion: N:** Wendy M-B**S:** Michael**Holy Thursday****Welcomer:** Helen H**Acolyte:** James**Readers:** Ann T/Tommy**Good Friday Passion****Special Minister:** Wendy H/Helen B**Reader 1:** Germaine**Reader 2:** Michael**Reader 3:** Cathy F**Easter Vigil****Welcomer:** Geraldine**Acolyte:** Felix**OT 1:** Mandy O'B**OT 3:** Michael**OT 5:** Brian**NT:** Tommy