

**“He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)**

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus's raising of Lazarus, Martha says 'Lord if you had been here my brother would not have died.' If you go deeper there something powerful resonates in this reading namely the absence of God in people's lives. People struggled in the absence of God, but once they realized that God is absent in their life they became aware of the reason why life doesn't get any better. They realise the need for God's presence in their life – the presence of divine power in the ordinary human life. In raising of Lazarus, Jesus *shows his divine power entering into human life*. At times our lives is like graves where there is no sign of life, utterly rejected and broken, betrayed, disappointed, hopeless. In the first reading God says to the people of Israel, and he says to us today "I'm now going to open your graves, I mean to raise you from your graves."

The God of life is in the world of death, especially in this most difficult time of Covid-19. Let us invite the Lord to our lives; whatever it is, would be dead by sin, would be stinking by our bad habits, would be bound by our wrong choices. He is here in our midst to give us life, to set us free and call back to his friendship, peace and joy again.

**My dear parishioners,**

Be assured of my daily prayers for your intentions and for your family. "In these days of trial, as humanity trembles at the threat of the coronavirus pandemic, I would propose that all Christians join their voices together to heaven," says Pope Francis. Let these Mass readings, Stations of the Cross and other prayer resources help us to pray for the grace to put our trust in God who never abandons us even in the darkest hour. I keep everyone of you close to my heart and place you before the Lord in my daily private Mass. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

**Father Joshy**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The waves of death rose about me; the pains of the netherworld surrounded me. In my anguish I called to the Lord, and from his holy temple he heard my voice.

**Communion Antiphon:** By the precious Blood of Christ, the Blood of a spotless and unblemished Lamb, we have been redeemed.

#### **Prayer of the Faithful**

God our Father help us to be like Christ your Son, who loved the world and died for our Salvation. To you we bring our prayers with trust and hope.

Lord, Grant us the gift of your mercy, pardon our sins and fill us with your gift of peace.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayers.

Jesus, teach us to be united with your passion in times of trouble and distress, especially this time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Let the power of your salvation shine forth in their lives.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayers.

Lord inspire scientists working on a treatment and a vaccine for coronavirus.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayers.

That those ill with COVID-19 may be healed, and all who are lonely in isolation, because of this pandemic, may gain endurance.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayers.

Loving Jesus, through the mystery of your Body and Blood, deepen our courage and faith. Strengthen the weak, comfort the sorrowful and fill the dying with new hope.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayers.

We pause for a moment to present our private intentions before God our Father.

Let us ask our Blessed Mother Mary to intercede for us as we pray:

*Hail holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

Heavenly Father, receive our prayers, and fill our hearts with your mercy, so that always devoting ourselves to works of charity, we may worship you in Spirit and in Truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Act of Oblation to Merciful Love - St Therese of Lisieux:** That my life may be one act of perfect love, I offer myself as a victim of holocaust to your merciful love, imploring you to consume me unceasingly, and to allow the floods of infinite tenderness pent up in you to overflow into my soul, that I may become a very martyr of your love, O my God! May this martyrdom, after having prepared me to appear in your presence, free me from this life at last, and may my soul take its flight, without delay, into the embrace of your merciful love. O my beloved, I desire at every beat of my heart to renew this offering an infinite number of times, until the shadows flee away and everlastingly I can tell you my love face to face.

**Amen.**

**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:

'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.

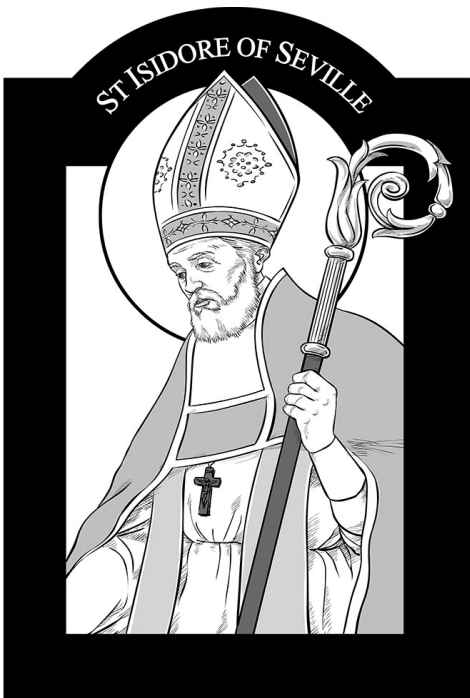
But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective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

Try to find these words:

Bethany	face	Mary	sister
cloth	Lazarus	out	stone
cry	Martha	sick	tomb

P H M A R Y J R S E L Y G Y F T F  
 Z T C W S B B D D P R V T J P L G  
 T M C U Z O W M A R T H A M Y C H  
 D C M H J M H R T G C R B G R Q A  
 R E T S I S T R G S D M F H C O V  
 D L D F A C J U H S M B O Q U A Q  
 G C I A D D W V O T Y L D J Q N G  
 A Z U L K K I X B H O O V J B J K  
 G I N S E Q E C Y P N L M A N W F  
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**S**t Isidore of Seville was born in Spain in C. 560 AD to parents of high social rank. His elder brother, St Leander, served as Archbishop and was one of a body of learned men who taught Isidore at the Cathedral school of Seville. Following his brother's death in C. 600 AD, Isidore succeeded as Archbishop of Seville. During his 32 years of service, he worked to assimilate the remaining Roman culture with the ruling barbarian culture of the Visigoths through education – introducing his countrymen to the Greek philosopher Aristotle. Regarded as one of the most learned men of his age, Isidore was the first Christian writer to attempt to compile an encyclopedia of universal knowledge. In 1997, he was nominated to be the patron saint of the internet by Pope John Paul II.

Fill in the missing word on each strip of cloth to find out what the letters in each box spell.

Jesus' good

r\_\_n\_ Lazarus was very sick.

Martha and M

\_\_ were sad when their brother died.

"Lazarus will \_\_ v\_ again", said Jesus.

Jesus went to the opened

\_\_b and prayed.

Lazarus walked out of

\_s tomb alive.