

CANBERRA CENTRAL PARISH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

29 March 2020

Year A

PRESBYTERY & OFFICE:

2 Bancroft Street, Dickson

Mail: PO Box 127 Dickson ACT 2602

Ph. 6248 5472 Fax 6248 7468

Email: canberracentral@cg.org.au

Website:

<http://cg.org.au/canberracentral/Home.aspx>

Priests

Fr Emil Milat

Fr Joshua Scott

Parish Secretary:

Miss Belle Joseph

Parish Office Hours:

Mon 9:30am-12:30pm, Wed 9:30am-1:30pm,

Thurs 9:30am-1:30pm

MASS TIMES

All Masses have been suspended until further notice due to coronavirus restrictions.

... And sadly, the church buildings have been directed to be locked.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available on request at Dickson presbytery
62485472- arrangements will be made that observe "social distancing".

Daily Mass is available online on the Catholic Voice website:

<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>.



Today's Gospel **The Raising of Lazarus**



A Prayer in a Time of Coronavirus from Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Heavenly Father,

We praise and thank you for your loving presence, especially in the Lent/Easter season. We offer heartfelt thanks, dear Lord, particularly for our recent rains.

Once again, we come to you in our need. As your children we are in need of your healing and protection. Just as we have been recovering from our dangerous bushfire summer, we have now been thrown into a fearful coronavirus (COVID 19) autumn.

We are tired and frightened. We feel a sense of panic and future uncertainty on a global scale. Be with us now, Loving Master. Without you all is nothing – only empty hearts and a total reliance on our own feeble resources. But with you “there is mercy and fullness of Redemption” (Psalm 130:7). With you there is “the loving mercy of the heart of our God (who) will give light to those who sit in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:79).

It seems that so many public gatherings are now postponed or cancelled. There is virus death, the sick, and the anxious. We are spending more time on our own, or with family or friends.

We pray for the sick and those looking after them. Help us to offer practical help to those who struggle. Let us use these times, O Lord, for your greater glory, especially during Lent and Easter. Let us pray more, and truly listen to you more in loving silence, stillness and simplicity.

Almighty Father, you always journey with us in life's challenges. Help us to meet you often in the scriptures and our sacraments. Increase in us faith, hope and trust. Protect us from this coronavirus. Remove it from our common home. Heal those who are sick and dying.

Mary, Help of Christians, as always we fly to you in our need. Be close to us and point out your Son, Jesus, to us in this pandemic. St Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin, pray for us.

We make this and all our prayers through Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, **AMEN**

Entrance Antiphon

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.

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Meetings Online

Parish meetings will now be conducted online.
To access the below events contact the parish
office or Fr Emil (emil.milat@cg.org.au) for the
details on how to link in via internet.

**Community of the Risen Lord
Charismatic Prayer Group**
Friday 7:00 – 9:30pm.

MenAlive – Fortnightly
Saturday mornings 9am. A way
for men to keep in touch and
reflect on scripture.

Divine Will Prayer Group
On Third Sunday of the Month 2-3pm. Looking
at the *New & Divine Holiness*. Also on the 1st
Monday of the month 3-4pm joining the
Brisbane group.

Parish Social & Visitation Group:
For those that would like to support those
feeling isolated and alone. We will have a
Zoom meeting Tuesdays 5pm.

Planned Giving & Church finances

Parishioners have already very kindly thought
about the Parish Finances. Like many others
around the diocese and beyond, the parish too
has lost its main income sources - the Mass
collections. The Finance Committee will seek to
cut costs as much as possible to try and reduce
drawing on savings.

Some parishioners have contacted the parish
office to now give via direct debit (credit card is
also an option) - if you can do this please contact
the parish office for the practical information.
The other option is to place your weekly envelopes
(say monthly will do) in the locked letter box either
next to the parish office by the presbytery door or
in the one on 2 Bancroft St. Both are covered by
the security cameras.

Litany of the Precious Blood of Jesus

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven,

have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the
world,

have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son
of the Eternal Father, *save us.* (after each line)

Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God,

Blood of Christ, of the New and Eternal Testament,

Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in the Agony,

Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the Scourging,

Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with
Thorns,

Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross,

Blood of Christ, price of our salvation,

Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness,

Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of
souls,

Blood of Christ, stream of mercy,

Blood of Christ, victor over demons,

Blood of Christ, courage of martyrs,

Blood of Christ, strength of confessors,

Blood of Christ, bringing forth virgins,

Blood of Christ, help of those in peril,

Blood of Christ, relief of the burdened,

Blood of Christ, solace in sorrow,

Blood of Christ, hope of the penitent,

Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying,

Blood of Christ, peace and tenderness of hearts,

Blood of Christ, pledge of Eternal Life,

Blood of Christ, freeing souls from purgatory, Blood

of Christ, most worthy of all glory and honor,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the
world, *Spare us, O Lord.*

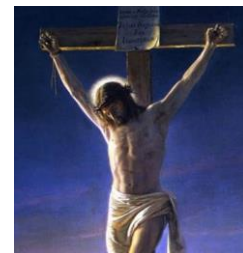
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the
world, *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord, in Thy Blood.

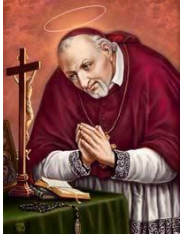
R. And made us, for our God, a kingdom.

**Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, Thou hast
appointed Thine only-begotten Son the Redeemer
of the world and willed to be appeased by his
blood. Grant, we beg of Thee, that we may
worthily adore this price of our salvation and
through its power be safeguarded from the evils
of the present life so that we may rejoice in its
fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ
our Lord. Amen.**



Prayer for Spiritual Communion by St Alphonsus Ligouri

My Jesus, I believe you are really here in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you more than anything in the world and I hunger to receive you. But since I cannot receive Communion at this moment, feed my soul at least spiritually. I unite myself to you now as I do when I actually receive you.



SHEPHERD'S CORNER

So much has changed in the last week. We had Masses last Sunday but the Government precautions entailed the cessation of liturgies and then eventually mandated Church buildings to be closed. People are also trying to adjust to impacts on their personal lives, especially those who have lost work.

While unprecedented in our lives, the Church has had to pray & live through such events. In fact the Church has grown through this purification as it had to rely more than ever on grace. It's prophetic this year's Lenten Program is called **Grace**.

Over the next few weeks I will be seeking if parishioners would like to establish a phone contact system for those feeling isolated. Some groups have been able to move online- see the second page of the bulletin for details.

We will trial a live Saturday Vigil Mass this Saturday at 6:30pm via Zoom, we hope to be able to do this for the Easter ceremonies. Most importantly we need the email contact for all those who would like to be in contact, so please spread the word where you can. And we need volunteers to drop off the bulletin in letter boxes for those who have no online means- please contact the parish office if you can help.

God's Blessings, Fr Em

Some of you will remember Joy Devine, a former parishioner. Her daughter contacted the Parish Office this week to let us know that her mother, now 96, has been ill but is making a good recovery. She is going to move in with her daughter in the Hunter Valley. Joy had hoped to return to St Brigid's to say goodbye but that is no longer possible. Please keep Joy in your prayers as she begins this new stage in her life.

Spiritual Communion

article from *The Catholic Weekly*, 22 March 2020
Cindy Wooden

Public Masses are banned throughout Italy, but literally thousands of Masses are celebrated each day and, in addition to watching them on television or computer screens, the faithful can receive 'spiritual Communion.'

Pope Francis, after reciting a livestreamed Angelus prayer on 15 March, told people, "United to Christ we are never alone, but instead form one body, of which he is the head. It is a union that is nourished with prayer and also with spiritual communion in the Eucharist, a practice that is recommended when it isn't possible to receive the sacrament. Obviously, receiving Communion is the way to participate most fully in the Mass, but it is not always possible for everyone to receive at every Mass, nor do many Catholics in the world have regular access to Mass.

The idea of "spiritual Communion" – inviting Jesus into one's heart and soul when receiving the actual sacrament isn't possible – is part of Catholic tradition.

In the 1700s, St Alphonsus Ligouri wrote a special prayer for spiritual communion [see opposite]. Auxiliary Bishop Paolo Ricciardi of Rome prayed that acts of only spiritual Communion would help people "joyfully rediscover all of the good that the Eucharist has given us from the day of our first Communion."

In countries where Catholics can and do receive the sacrament frequently, they do not hear the term "spiritual Communion" very often, but it has been mentioned even in recent church documents. In *Sacramentum Caritatis*, the document Pope Benedict XVI issued in 2007, he cautioned people against thinking they had "a right or even an obligation" to receive the Eucharist every time they went to Mass.

"Even in cases where it is not possible to receive sacramental Communion, participation at Mass remains necessary, important, meaningful and fruitful. In such circumstances, it is beneficial to cultivate a desire for full union with Christ through the practice of spiritual Communion," Pope Benedict wrote.

Please Pray for:



The Sick

Joe Abad, Leone Carse,
Ron Christopher, Brenda Curren, Nadine Hartley,
Gabriel Hengkiarto Indra,
Frank Mines, Elicia Moszezynski,
Maria Moszezynski, Tony Patterson,
Maria Pizzano, Petria Rofe, David Rumble, Pat
Sforcina, Dodong Tuso, Jeff Culnane.

1st Reading Ezekiel 37: 12-14

A reading from the Book of 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.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 129

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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.)**

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

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.)**

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

2nd Reading Romans 8:8-11

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.

The word of the Lord.

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 John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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,

'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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture readings: LabOra Worship and Liturgy © liturgy Brisbane. Jerusalem Bible © 1966, published by Dalton, Longman and Todd Ltd & Doubleday & Co Inc