

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Teen's Bulletin



## I Will Open Your Graves

Sunday the 22nd of March 2026, Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

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

Mary and Martha 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?'

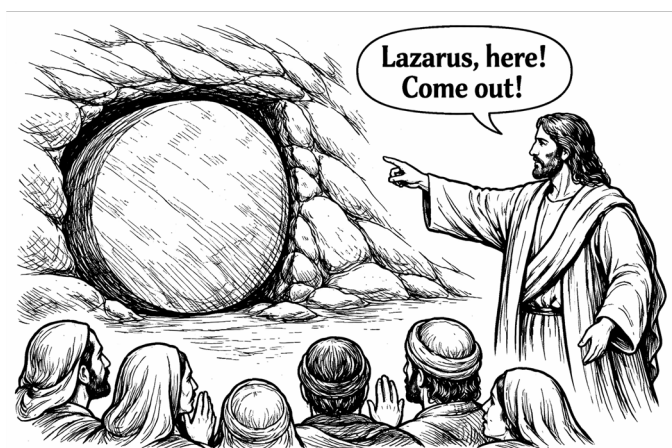
'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Dependent on Our Creator

As we draw closer to the moment of our Lord's Passion and Death, it makes us reflect also on our own mortality. That is what we have presented to us in today's readings. The fundamental truth which we remind ourselves of during Lent is that we cannot sustain ourselves. We are dependent in every way upon our Creator, and our journey of repentance consists in reminding ourselves of this fact and continuing to place ourselves at His feet.

It was a desire to live by their own power that led Adam and Eve to turn away from God. By this action, in separating themselves from God's life-giving love they lost the gift of life itself, and thus death entered the story of mankind.

In the story of Lazarus, we see this reality. Lazarus, though a good man and a friend of Jesus, becomes ill and dies. However, unlike most men, Lazarus becomes the prototype for all Christians. Because of his friendship with Christ, Lazarus was raised from the dead. Lazarus's new life is entirely dependent upon Christ's power.

The raising of Lazarus also points forward to Christ's own Death and Resurrection. Christ, as the only Person Who truly has the power to sustain His own life, lays it down freely for our sake. He then raises Himself from the dead, making His own Person the path by which we can return to life.

### Questions for Reflection:

**Are there ways I can grow in friendship with Christ in these last few weeks of Lent?**

**In what ways can I allow Christ to bring hope into my life?**

## ***A message from Saint Augustine of Hippo: Resurrection in Christ***



For He came down and died, and by that death delivered us from death: being slain by death, He slew death. And you know, brethren, that death entered into the world through the devil's envy. God made not death, says the Scripture, nor delights He in the destruction of the living; but He created all things to be. But by the devil's envy, death entered into the whole world. Had you not consented, the devil had brought in nothing: your own consenting, O man, led you to death.

Of the mortal, mortals are born; from immortals we have become mortals. From Adam all men are mortal; but Jesus the Son of God, the Word of God, by which all things were made, the only Son equal with the Father, was made mortal: for the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. He endured death, then; but death itself He hung on the cross, and mortal men are delivered from death.