



ST. JOSEPH'S & ST. MARY'S



PARISH GAZETTE

The Archdiocese of Cardiff, Registered Charity no. 242380

The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

March 29th 2020

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Only the Lord can raise the dead to life.

Ps 129. Rv. 7

*With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.*

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

The Spirit of God – the Spirit of Life – has made a home in us.

Acclamation: Jn 11:25. 6.

*Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!*

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Jesus tells us that whoever believes in him will never die.

You can view the full readings online at http://www.stjosephsandstmarys.com/mass_readings.html

A LENTEN REFLECTION BY MGR. BOARDMAN.

The weeks of Lent are slipping by. Here we are at Sunday Week 5 already, with Holy Week around the corner. With so many restrictions imposed on us by the Coronavirus Crisis – not least that our two churches have had to be closed down – we are unable to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord together this Easter, which is unprecedented..

As the COVID-19 pandemic gathers pace around the world, bringing with it waves of sickness and death, people are being confronted with the reality of our own mortality, which under normal circumstances, is something we prefer not to think about. So today's Gospel reading has something very important and timely to say to us about the crisis situation we find ourselves in at this moment in time.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD is about Jesus coming into a tragic situation and transforming that situation. "If you had been there (Martha said to Jesus) this would not have happened". How often that statement of Martha's has been echoed down through time – whether it was someone struggling to come to terms with the death of a loved one, or in the case of a particularly tragic death, someone agonising over the needlessness and absurdity of it all.

Even though we know that death is part of the very mystery of life, nevertheless, the human spirit recoils from the idea that life should be "snuffed out" like a candle. It regards death as an intruder; an unwelcome visitor which makes a mockery of our lives, our hopes, and our plans for the future. And so, faced with Lazarus' death, Jesus came face to face with his own impending death. And he was prepared to confront it because he believed intensely that through his own death, God the Father was going to make a definitive statement to the world and to mankind, ONCE AND FOR ALL, about suffering and death.

The form that statement was to take, would change the world forever..... RESURRECTION and life after death. The raising of Lazarus from the dead was just the prelude to the PASCHAL MYSTERY which we celebrate, in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead on Easter Sunday. Belief in Jesus and belief in his resurrection will not take away our tears. Human tragedies will continue to happen – personal tragedies will still punctuate our own lived from time to time. But if we can bring the presence of Jesus into these situations, as Martha and Mary did that day, then he can transform them so that they become for us – not so much a crisis of ffaith, but rather an opportunity for faith.

PARISH WEBSITE – NEW WEBPAGE

A new 'Coronavirus' page has been added to our parish website which includes information and resources to help us through a period of no public worship. We also have a special page where **Sunday Masses** can be viewed live from **St. Mary of the Angels, Canton**. Just visit: <http://www.stjosephsandstmarys.com/coronavirus.html>

MASS INTENTIONS

Mgr. Joe will continue to say Mass in private and his Masses will be said for the intentions set out here in this E-Gazette.

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 3RD APRIL. FOR THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE.

Following the directive from the Holy Father, Pope Francis, that the worldwide Church should join together in a day of prayer for the survivors of sexual abuse, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales has designated the fifth Friday of Lent – Friday 3rd April – to mark this day. Parishioners are asked to pray for this intention privately.

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TIMES OF MASSES AND RECONCILIATION

WEEK COMMENCING SATURDAY MARCH 28TH / SUNDAY MARCH 29TH 2020

Saturday		March 28th	Weekday 4th Week of Lent
MASS IN PRIVATE			Terry Lavin (family) 680
Sunday		March 29th	5th Sunday of Lent (A)
MASS IN PRIVATE			Terry Jones (Kathy) 655
Fifth Week of Lent			
Monday		March 30th	Weekday, 5th Week of Lent
MASS IN PRIVATE			Greg Garson [wellbeing] (Trow) 677
Tuesday		March 31st	Weekday, 5th Week of Lent
MASS IN PRIVATE			Priest's Intention
Wednesday		April 1st	Weekday, 5th Week of Lent
MASS IN PRIVATE			Karen Lyons (family) 640
Thursday		April 2nd	Weekday, 5th Week of Lent
MASS IN PRIVATE			Archbishop Peter Smith (Callaghan) 667
Friday		April 3rd	Weekday, 5th Week of Lent
MASS IN PRIVATE			Special Intention (Trow) 678
Saturday		April 4th	Weekday, 5th Week of Lent
MASS IN PRIVATE			Priest's Intention
Sunday		April 5th	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
MASS IN PRIVATE			Chris and Tony Clifton (50 th wedding anniversary) 616



THE YEAR OF GOD WHO SPEAKS

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.

Ezekiel 37:14

