



# Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



## Parish Priest

Fr Joson Antony MCBS

## Office Staff

Adrian Prendergast

Dot Lomax

## Pastoral Coordinators

Rachel Marchesini

Nick Kelly

Yolanda Apelt

## Churches

St Joachim's Church

41 Yuletide Street

Holland Park

St Agnes' Church

1227 Logan Road

Mt Gravatt

## Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 4:00pm

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[catholicparish.com.au](http://www.hollandparkmtgravatt.catholicparish.com.au)

## Parish Schools and College

St Agnes' School

07 3349 5130

St Joachim's School

07 3397 9087

Seton College

07 3291-5333

## St Vincent de Paul Welfare

1800 846 643

## Safeguarding Officer

Dot Lomax 0428 172 224

(Safeguarding purposes only)

5th Sunday of Lent

Year A

28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

### Be Opened ... to Believe

Written by Dr Michele Connolly rsj

Today, as we draw closer to the three-day Paschal event, we hear a long, complex gospel story from which the Church selects for this Sunday only one thread. This story is unique to the Gospel of John; John places it close to the end of Jesus' public ministry, preparing us to hear of Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection.

The story begins apparently simply. The narrator tells us twice that a man called Lazarus was ill; he lets us know that Lazarus' sisters are Martha and Mary and that they all live in Bethany. Later in the story we are told explicitly that Bethany is only two miles away from Jerusalem; this is important for the Gospel of John for explaining how Jesus' arrest and execution came about.

Before that however, we are confronted with the puzzle that although he has been told that his friend Lazarus is ill, Jesus delays for two days before going to him. Jesus comments that Lazarus' illness leads not to death but to God's glory and the glorification of the Son of God.

As they travel to Bethany, Jesus explains to his disciples that he knows already that Lazarus has died but that what they will experience there will lead the disciples truly to believe. Jesus seems to contradict himself, saying first that Lazarus' illness will not lead to death yet then declaring bluntly that Lazarus has died. This paradox hints to us that while Jesus seems to be speaking in a matter-of-fact way he is really expressing a deeply theological meaning.

When Jesus arrives at Bethany, we are told that Lazarus has already been buried for four days. While Jewish people are going out to Bethany to console Martha and Mary, the story focuses on a conversation between Jesus and Martha, during which Martha will be called to faith in Jesus.

Martha's first comments look back to what might have been had Jesus come earlier and then they look forward to what God might do, if Jesus only asks. This is very realistic for a person grieving a sudden death of someone close to them. However, as in the other conversations Jesus had with people in previous stories, Jesus responds to Martha at another level, seeking to lead her to full faith.

First, Jesus reminds Martha of her Jewish faith, that her brother would rise again, with which Martha agrees. Then, Jesus makes an extraordinary revelation to Martha, saying 'I am the resurrection and the life'. Jesus has never said this before in this gospel: it is a brand-new statement that takes Martha's hope in the resurrection beyond anything that she had envisaged.

When Jesus says he 'is' the resurrection and the life he means that he is the one through whom these gifts beyond price are made available to us. Jesus is the personal presence of God among us, guaranteeing it, making it possible. Martha agrees, but confirms it by saying that she believes that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. This is true but she does not affirm the new revelation of Jesus' theological identity that he has just made to her. It is as though she hasn't heard it. Martha is still on the journey to full faith.

The next scene is one of the most dramatic in the New Testament Gospels. Against a background of people murmuring about why Jesus did not prevent Lazarus' death, Jesus, weeping and emotionally very disturbed, goes to the tomb. Despite Martha's protest that the tomb will smell badly, Jesus commands that the stone closing off the tomb be removed.

We hear Jesus pray to his Father with thanks and confidence, saying that he speaks aloud so that those witnessing the event may believe that it is God who sent Jesus among us.

Jesus then commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb. The storyteller depicts for our imagination, Lazarus coming out of the tomb as a resuscitated corpse still wrapped in the grave clothes, including the cloth that wrapped his face. Jesus instructs that they unbind him and let him go. Cont Page 3

Readings: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

## READINGS FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

### First Reading *Ezekiel 37:12-14*

The Lord says this: I am 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

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

### Second Reading *Romans 8:8-11*

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 *Matthew 11:1-45*

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters 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.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. 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.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, 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.

From Page 1

The story today concludes with the statement that many of the Jews who had witnessed what Jesus did, believed in him. These people come to full faith in Jesus. But in the very next section of the Gospel we hear that the Jewish leaders, only a short distance away in Jerusalem, see this rapid movement to faith in Jesus as a threat to the political and religious stability of their nation. Therefore, they decide that Jesus must die (John 11:46-53). This is likely to have contributed to Jesus' distress at the tomb: to raise Lazarus from the dead was to sign his own death warrant. To restore Lazarus to his sisters and to show the power of God to his disciples and others, Jesus had to pay with his own life.

The final deep meaning of this story is not revealed until the Resurrection of Jesus. When Jesus' empty tomb is discovered, the linen cloths that wrapped Jesus' body are lying in the tomb and the face cloth is folded up separately in a place by itself. Seeing this, so different from the return to mortal life of Lazarus, the disciple whom Jesus loved believed that Jesus was risen from the tomb. In this way, Lazarus' illness did in fact lead beyond death to God's glory and the glorification of the Son of God.

*Taken from Be Opened: A journey to new life ©Evangelisation Brisbane 2020. Used with permission*

## Continuing on our faith journey during this time of isolation Our faith will sustain us through challenging times

### PARISH OFFICE SUPPORT

The Parish Office will be remaining open until we are told otherwise by the Archdiocese in line with Federal and State Government guidelines. We are here to support you, you will not be alone. If you are in need of assistance with transport, shopping or are feeling lost, lonely and/or anxious and need someone to talk to please reach out. We have had people offering to assist in any way they can. Please call the Parish Office, if no-one answers be sure to leave a message. In the case of emergencies ring the Pager.

### SUPPORT OF OUR PLANNED GIVING

Please keep helping your parish community by continuing your weekly offering. A number of parishioners have contacted the Parish Office asking how they can continue with their Planned Giving commitments during this time. This can be done through Direct Debit via the ADF (Archdiocesan Development Fund) or by Credit Card. The necessary form to implement either of these methods is available through the Parish Office, please give us a call or send an email. If you wish, you may also drop your envelopes in the office.



**ABUNDANCE**  
Moorooka • Salisbury • Holland Park • Mt Gravatt

OUR PARISH  
YOUTH MINISTRY

I hope all are keeping well and in good spirits! As you may have heard, I was appointed as the Youth Coordinator at both the Moorooka Salisbury Parish and the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish. In hoping to build up the youth in our Parish, I am launching a new youth initiative called Abundance Youth, a community of young people as a collaboration between the Moorooka Salisbury and Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parishes. The name comes from John 10:10 (NRSVCE) "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." At a tumultuous time in the world, it is my hope that this youth initiative will provide connection and community for Catholic young people, and offer unique experiences for online engagement.

Our first online meeting will be next Friday night as an initial feel for what this group will look like during self-isolation, with activities such as games, faith studies and prayer experience. Please head check the Facebook page here for updates and more information: [www.facebook.com/Abundance-Youth-114497676854096](https://www.facebook.com/Abundance-Youth-114497676854096) or alternatively shoot me a text at 0400 898 381.

Nick Kelly

### HOLY WEEK AND TRIDUUM

We are preparing for a Holy Week like no other. The days of Holy Week and the Triduum are central to the liturgical life of the Church and are to be celebrated this year under the present restrictions. Next week's newsletter will include suggestions of how parishioners can join online or in spirit with Archdiocesan or Parish celebrations, along with a timetable. There will also be resources from Liturgy Brisbane provided.

### LIVESTREAMING OF MASSES FROM ST STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL

Watch Mass online at 8:00am Monday to Friday and 8:00am and 10:00am Sunday at [www.archbne.org/bzw](http://www.archbne.org/bzw)

### MASS ON TV – CHANNEL 10

Mass for You at Home is broadcast each Sunday at 6:00am.

### CATHOLIC FAMILY - CATH KIDS SIGN UP FOR FREE NOW

CathKids is weekly interactive experience with a short video on the Sunday reading, questions to start discussion, a simple activity and prayer, perfect for use at home. Can be used in self-directed exploration by children aged 7- 12. To help families during this time of isolation and closure of churches Catholica Family is giving FREE access to CathKids until June 30, 2020. Please click on the link below to access.

[https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=cf-200322-covid-special-week1](https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cf-200322-covid-special-week1)

### CATHOLIC LEADER

This digital newspaper will be free for readers to access until parishes reopen across the Brisbane archdiocese. It is our commitment to ensure that everybody has access to stories of connection, inspiration, and faith. Click on the link above or go to: [www.catholicleader.com.au](http://www.catholicleader.com.au)

### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Council of Churches has invited all of us to pray this prayer at 7pm each day, but especially on Sunday 29 March which we will mark as a National Day of Prayer in this time of crisis.

Gracious God,

We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.

We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.

We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### TWO MINUTE HOMILY

Each week there is a 2 Minute Homily, reflecting on the current Sunday's readings, downloaded on the Archdiocese of Brisbane website. These homilies are presented by our archdiocesan priests and can be viewed at: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/>

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**FLY WORLD**

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- Fly World Travels: 041107043/0413914089
- Fly World Holidays: 0478911089
- Fly World Money: 0449891010
- Fly World Home Loans: 0413138969
- Fly World Migration: 0400581451

Thomas Antony : 0478911089

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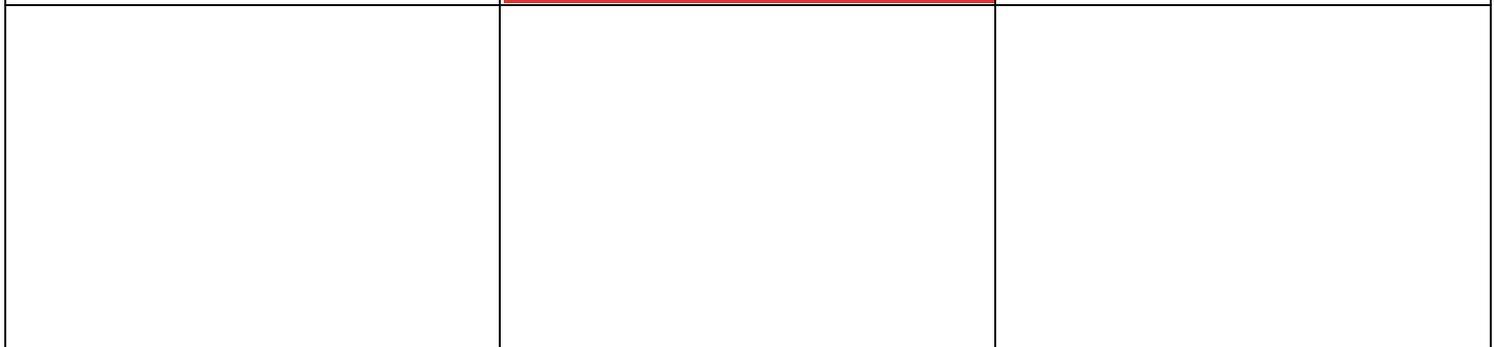
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