



# Fifth Sunday of Lent

2 April 2017

Year A



### Next Week's Readings

*Palm Sunday Entrance: Matthew 21:1-11*  
*1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7*  
*2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11*  
*Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27*

### RESPONSE

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

### 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!*

### 'I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE'

Today's readings touch into the most profound of human mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a new born child or to see a sick person restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, the unexpected death of a loved one can bring unimagined grief and pain. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that "death" so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs. It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death: "...from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). It provides the occasion for Jesus to assert "I am the resurrection and the life" and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage in the narrative and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. The women are introduced before Lazarus. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany. Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus, their faith commitment to him, or both? Lazarus is Mary's sick "brother". There is no mention at the outset of his relationship to Martha, though she later claims him as her "brother". Might they all be part of a little faith community in Bethany rather than biological siblings? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: "Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". The details of that story are yet to be narrated. The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is "for the day of [his] burial". As so often in John's gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama and us as actors in the theatre of Christian life to new levels of understanding and faith.

*Written by Sr. Veronica Lawson, rsm, for catholicirelegiosaustralia.org. Image from www.togetherwithgodsword.com*



### CENTENARY OF FIRST MASS AT BAYSWATER & RUBY JUBILEE OF THE OFFICIAL BLESSING AND OPENING OF OUR LADY LOURDES CHURCH

Two of the most significant events that happened to our Parish and to the Catholic community here in Bayswater were remembered and celebrated with Thanksgiving Masses last weekend.



### MASS OF THE CHRISM at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday, 11 April 2017 at 11:00 am

The Mass of the Oils is a celebration of special significance in the Church's calendar. It brings together the bishops and priests, both diocesan religious and laity, in great numbers to a public renewal of their commitment to the priestly life and ministry of service. It is a powerful moving expression of the unity among priests and people and symbolises the faithfulness with which the whole Church awaits the coming of her bridegroom.

It is worth that we participate and experience the communion with the Archdiocese.

*You're invited....*  Is there more to life than this

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Come for a bite to eat, watch a talk and have a chat.

### ALPHA COURSE Launch Party

Wednesday, 19 April, 7:00 PM

The Alpha course runs for 10 weeks every Wednesday until 3rd June.

For more details please ring Roger or Margaret at 97236240 or Andrew 0459 991867.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? BEGIN YOUR ALPHA HERE

### Palm Sunday (9-10 April 2017)

- ◆ Vigil Mass: Saturday, 6:00PM
- ◆ Sunday Masses:
  - ◆ 8:00 AM
  - ◆ 10:00 AM with solemn procession
  - ◆ 5:00 PM



**HOLY WEEK** embraces the last days of Lent (until Thursday) and the Easter Triduum. The Sacrament of Penance is an excellent way to conclude the penitential season of Lent. It is best celebrated before Holy Thursday evening so that, with heart and mind renewed all may focus on the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION**  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH  
WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2017, 7:30 PM  
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH BORONIA  
MONDAY, 10 APRIL, 7:30 PM

*Please avail yourselves of these opportunities.*

### THANKSGIVING

\* CHURCH : \$ 1,665.75 \* PRIEST: \$ 1,132.00  
(RETIRED PRIESTS & ARCHDIOCESE)



### RECENTLY DECEASED:

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES

LOLOL parish family offers its condolences and prayers to Maureen Mardy at the passing away of her cousin **Michael Campion**.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mikos Vertessy, Dawn Newton, Mrs Steanne, Peter Lewis, Georgina Doyle, Maureen Carlson, Dolly King, Aghapi Rezk, Patrick O' Donnell

**SICK:** Mary Edmonds, Brian Taggart, Pauline Muscat, Marta Kristan, Kala Lindsay, Geoff Bell, Stan Piergrosse, Dorothy Reilly, Ted Davies, Peter Lisle, Vince Mariniello, Chris Harford

### TICKETS FOR EASTER HAMPER STILL AVAILABLE

Raffle tickets of 5 for only \$2 or 50 cents each. Please buy your tickets now. The more tickets you buy, the more chances of winning!



### DONATION FOR THE ALTAR

NOW IS THE TIME FOR YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE ALTAR. PLEASE DROP YOUR DONATION IN THE DONATION BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH OR GIVE TO FR. SEBASTIAN OR PARISH OFFICE. THANK YOU SO MUCH.



**OUR SINCERE THANK YOU AND APPRECIATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE TO ALL WHO COME FOR THE WORKING BEE.**

### Messengers of Mercy

Presents an evening of testimonies from

**MR. TOMMY CANNING**  
(FROM SCOTLAND)  
**MR. JOHN CANAVAN**  
& **KELLY BAUER**

at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bayswater  
7:30PM - 9:00 PM,  
12 April 2017

*Come along and hear their inspiring presentations and testimony!*

