



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, 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.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

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The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

26 March 2023

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

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

1. 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.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. 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.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

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 See Jn 11:25. 26

*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.*

Gospel Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 or shorter form Jn 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

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*



Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

Administrator: Rev. Peter Krigovsky
Secretary: Mrs. Veronica Dening (Wednesday 9.30am—4pm)

Address: 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall; **Telephone:** 9727 3759
Website: <http://www.smgh.org.au> **Email:** parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Facebook: fb.me/smgh2 **Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall

God and us Together

Principal: Mrs Monica Palmer **Website:** www.stmgeorgheshall.syd.catholic.edu.au
School Tel: 9727 0000 **School email:** info@stmgeorgheshall.catholic.edu.au

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TIMETABLE

Palm Sunday - April 2

Sat 5.00pm—English Vigil Mass

Sat 6.30pm—Vietnamese Vigil Mass

Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am —English Mass

Sunday 5.30pm—Vietnamese Mass

Monday - April 3

9.00am English Mass (Sacrament of Rec. available after Mass)

Tuesday - April 4

6.00pm—English Mass

6.30pm-8.00pm—Reconciliation

Wednesday - April 5

9.00am—English Mass (Sacrament of Rec. available after Mass)

Holy Thursday - April 6

Special collection for Caritas Project Compassion

10.30am—Mass of the Oils at St. Mary's Cathedral

5.00pm—Vietnamese Mass of the Last Supper

7.30pm—English Mass of the Last Supper

9.00pm - 10.00 pm Holy Hour lead by Vietnamese

Good Friday - April 7

Special collection for the Holy Land

10.00am—English Stations of the Cross

3.00pm—English Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

5.00-6.30pm—Vietnamese Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

8.00-9.30pm—Vietnamese Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - April 8

9.30am—Set up and clean the church

7.30pm—English Easter Vigil

7.30pm—Vietnamese Easter Vigil at Paul Keating Park

Easter Sunday - April 9

8.00am—10.00am English Mass

5.30pm—Vietnamese Mass

COVID-19 is still around, Please use sanitiser when you enter the church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS each Friday during Lent at 7pm

MASS TIMES (English):

Vigil Mass 5 pm (Saturday)

Sunday 8.00 am & 10.00 am

Weekdays: Tuesday 6pm

Mon. Wed. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9.00 am

VIETNAMESE MASS

Vigil Mass 6.30 pm (Saturday)

Sunday 5.30PM

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4.30pm-4.55pm

or anytime on request

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday after Mass 9am-10.30am

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Offered to those in need on 1st Wednesday at 9.00am Mass

Baptisms: Sat. 11.30am,

Bookings are necessary.

Children first Sacraments:

Please contact Elaine Nehme

Email:

nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

Parish site maintenance:

John Impala Phone TBA

Ivan Leskur Phone TBA

Parish Pastoral Council:

Bernie Freeburn, Veronica Dening, Elaine Nehme, Zena Azar, Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz, Monica Palmer, Linh Bui, Jannette Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

Finance Committee:

Bernie Freeburn, Michael Anderson, Ted Goetz, Veronica Dening, Eileen Stevenson

Golden oldies: Lorraine Impala

St Vincent de Paul: Mary Scott

Music ministry: TBA

Youth Ministry: TBA

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM -The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday 20 May 2023 at 11.30am. by Bishop Terry Brady. Parents/guardians who missed Wednesday's information night and want to enroll their child in the sacrament please contact Elaine by email: nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au or the parish office: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

COMMITMENT MASS We welcome our 2023 Confirmation Candidates to 10am Mass this Sunday — hospitality will be served after 10am Mass.

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED - At the Solemn Feast of Easter, It would be great to have as many enthusiastic voices as possible singing at the Easter Vigil. This is an invitation to all parishioners to join the choir for this celebration. We will be rehearsing **on Thursday, 30 March at 7:00 pm**. No experience required, enthusiasm is appreciated. Please call Pat Falvy on [0425219660](tel:0425219660) if you have any questions.

EASTER ROSTERS - Anyone interested in serving at any of the Palm Sunday and Holy Week Liturgies, (*who has completed and provided their Working with Children Check details to the parish*) please write your contact details on the sheets at the back of the church or email parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com.

PALMS AND OLIVE BRANCHES - palms and olive branches will be needed for Passion Sunday. Are you able to donate some? Please bring them to the church on Friday 31 March/Saturday 1 April and place in the chapel. Setting up the church from 9.30am on Saturday - if you help, thank you.

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER SUNDAY - Saturday 8 April 9.30am - if you can come along to help set up church for Easter, all volunteers welcome and greatly appreciated.

PARISH WEBSITE - is updated on a weekly basis, if you have any feedback on content please email: grac-emokdassi@gmail.com

DAILY MASS BOOK 2023 Additional copies were purchased and are available at the back of the church for those attending the weekday Mass. Feel free to collect a copy to assist you at Mass. Please return after the Mass. Thank you.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2023 books with all the

liturgical readings to help our lectors to prepare for the Mass. All lectors in our parish are welcome to collect their personal copy from the sacristy.

LODGING ACCOMODATION wanted by an elderly gentleman, independent, non-smoking, practicing Catholic. Any offers please see Fr. Peter

DAYLIGHT SAVING ends in NSW on Sunday 2nd April 2023, at 3.00 am when clocks will be put back one hour. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep.

ACOLYTE MINISTRY Our parish is blessed with the Acolyte Ministry which we would like to enrich with new members. If you are a practicing member of our community and are interested in this ministry, please see Fr. Peter. All selected candidates will undergo a training in an archdiocesan course and installed by a bishop.

ALTAR SERVING MINISTRY any children who received their 1st Holy Communion are invited to apply. No prior experience needed. All training will be provided.

BLESSINGS DURING THE MASS are reserved to the priest. Acolytes or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion are not to give blessing during the Holy Communion. Any parents bringing their child for a blessing or anyone wishing to receive a blessing during the Holy Communion, please approach the priest. Acolytes or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, if anyone approaches you for a blessing, simply say God loves you or Jesus loves you, without any sign of blessing. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH - Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 93905810 or Email: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Our parish has a folder (with Safeguarding information including quarterly newsletters) in the church – parishioners are welcome to view. A link to the Archdiocese's Child Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries: Veronica via parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com.

Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick (please advise delisting)



Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Kerry Gibbons, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Roger Luck, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, David Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio

Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died



Jenny Tankard, Warren Ashley, Marian Pientka, Josephine & Thomas Pientka, Ross Graham, Bertha Smith, Les Bayley, Sandor Toth, Margaret McHugh, Eleanor Vereesen, James Mancini, Margaret Ward, Cardinal George Pell, Pope Benedict 16th, Jennie Falvy, Vic Ryan, Eileen Pullicino, Iris Caruana, Josef Pietras, Bert Tankard, Paul Nohra, Mary Gillard, Eddie Gillard

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.*