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**Readings**

**First Reading:**

Ezekiel 37:12-14

**Responsorial Psalm:**

SPOKEN

With the Lord there is  
mercy and fullness of  
redemption.

**Second Reading:**

Romans 8:8-11

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you, O Christ  
our Saviour,  
Word of the Father  
calling us to life;  
Son of God who leads  
us to freedom;  
Glory 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:**

John 11:1-45

**Eucharistic  
Acclamation**

When we eat this Bread  
and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your  
Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45**

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill."  
When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, +Let us go back to Judea."  
When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise." Martha said, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"  
She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."  
He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"  
So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."  
And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

**Gospel Reflection**

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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## **EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION/ PUBLIC MASSES SUSPENDED**

“The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection and have determined the following actions:

- **Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.**
- **All other gatherings are suspended.**

In light of this all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248).”

**18 March 2020**

All but priests are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass: the faithful are encouraged to continue active participation in the life of the Church through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online.

In line with this, Fr. Novie will celebrate daily Mass privately and offer it on behalf of those who cannot attend and for the whole nation. The prayers of intercession for an end to the pandemic and for the safety of all will also be included in Masses, in the Divine Office, and in private prayers.

## **Mass for you at Home**

TV Mass is Broadcast for at 6:00am every Sunday CHANNEL 10



## **ONLINE MASSES – LIVE STREAMING**



There are many options for Mass online, including:

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>  
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>  
[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)

Sunday Mass will be celebrated privately in Bendigo and be live streamed via the diocesan website:

[www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

## **Guidelines on Sacraments and Liturgies other than the Eucharist**

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation should be celebrated only using the first rite (individual confession), with observance of required physical distance.
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals may be celebrated with a carefully limited congregation, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants). Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families.
  - If baptisms are celebrated, only one child should be baptised in each ceremony, and care should be taken to use fresh water for each baptism.
- Preparation for and celebration of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation for children should be postponed until the pandemic is over
- When Anointing the Sick, priests are given permission to lay on hands by holding them above rather than upon the head and to anoint using a cotton wool ball or bud or a protective glove which can be disposed of appropriately after a single use; anointing the head would be sufficient
- Closer to Holy Week, advice will be provided about celebrations for Easter, including those who are preparing in the RCIA for baptism or reception into the Catholic Church.

**If you have any intentions that you would like prayed for please give Fr Novie a ring as he is saying Mass every day.**

## **Planned Giving**

**If you wish for your Planned Giving to continue during this difficult time you could Direct Credit into the Bank.**

### **Bank details**

**KERANG:** BSB: 083543 Account No: 45742 3724 or drop in the letter box at the Kerang Presbytery  
**COHUNA:** BSB: 083543 Account No: 45740 7185 or drop in the letter box at St. Mary's Church  
**PYRAMID HILL:** BSB: 633106 Account No: 169340536 or drop in Town's Post Office for Rachel Cain

**If you wish a visit, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacrament of Anointing and Communion at home, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Novie on his mobile 0450185021 or email him [novelitolim@yahoo.com](mailto:novelitolim@yahoo.com).**