

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel**  
37:12-14

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

**R/: With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the 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 READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 11:3-7,17,20-27,33-45

Mary and Martha 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. 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.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?'  
(...continued overleaf)



**Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham**

**Parish House/Office: 9583 6161**

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**Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au**

**Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox**

**Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne**

**Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A**

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



## ***Focus on the Gospel...***

*The pure human emotion of Jesus in this text attests to the love he had for Lazarus, but this human affection is nothing compared with the future promise to which the actions of Jesus towards Lazarus will lead. For those without faith, the tomb is simply a place of human corruption and decay. Death has ultimate power over people. But for people of faith, the tomb holds no fear. It is ironic that in raising Lazarus to life, Jesus is ensuring his own death at the hands of 'the Jews' (see verses 49–53). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the power of sin and death is broken, and instead, resurrection and life are offered to all who would attest with Martha that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. It is Jesus who is the resurrection and the life! There is a fundamental difference between the death and resurrection of Lazarus and that of Jesus. Lazarus will return to death, symbolised by the fact that he still wears the clothes of death when he comes forth from the tomb. Jesus' death, however, will lead to a glory that lasts forever, symbolised by the fact that his death clothes are neatly folded and placed to one side when he emerges from the tomb (see John 20:6–7). The resurrection of Jesus brings eternal life.*

**Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A**  
**28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

**PARISH PRIEST:**  
Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161  
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Frances North 9583 6161  
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**PSYCHOLOGIST:**  
AnneMaree Eddy 9583 6161  
**PARISH OFFICE:** 9583 6161  
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm  
Secretary: Lisa Harris  
Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald  
Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

**PARISH SCHOOL:**  
**Our Lady of the Assumption** 9584 9488  
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques

**SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**MASS TIMES:**  
Saturday 6:30 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am  
Tuesday 6:00 pm  
Wednesday 9.15am  
Thursday, Friday 9.15 am  
Saturday 9.00 am

**COMMUNION SERVICE:**  
Monday 9.15 am

**SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**RECONCILIATION:**  
Saturdays: 9.30am & 6pm

**BAPTISMS:**  
Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism and Application Form available on our parish website.

**WEDDINGS:**  
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: 9583 6161

**PRAYING FOR:**  
*...all those who have died recently.*

**We also remember:**  
Michael Campion,  
*and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.*



**KNITTING STALL:** Due to the health emergency (COVID-19), the knitting group has decided to postpone their stall. Look out for a bumper stall in a few months' time, jam packed with creative items like clothing, toys, scarves hats and loads more. Thank you again for your continued support of the group.

**OLA SCHOOL REUNION 1956 -1963:** Due to the current situation with COVID-19 we have decided to cancel the reunion. We will notify you all when a new date has been set. Thank you all. Sr Margaret Pelly.

**COUNSELLING:** All counselling will now be over the phone or video consultations due to COVID 19. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact AnneMaree directly on 0403 284 536, and leave a message indicating you are a parishioner. AnneMaree will return your call, and is happy to have a chat about anything that is worrying you. Thank you.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) head to: <http://www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass.htm> Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column.

**The Paschal Mystery:** Faith in the resurrection of the body is one of the articles of faith in the Creed, and yet it is a belief that is difficult to understand. From earliest times in the Church, this belief raised questions among those coming to faith. In the face of the mystery of death, all explanations are ultimately inadequate. Our best response is to put our faith in the words of Jesus: 'You who believe in me, even if you die, you will live forever.'

**Prayer for the World**  
**Facing the Challenge of COVID-19:**

Dear God,  
who hears the cries of all in our world.  
You invite us to trust in your gift of unconditional love.  
Stay with us in this time.  
Give strength to those who are ill and work through the hands and hearts of those who serve.  
Be with us as we pray at home, unable to access the communities that have carried us for so long.  
In every heart you have given the capacity to love as Jesus loved.  
Let us share this love today. Amen.

**THANK YOU FROM CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTRE:** Following your generous support of the Social Justice Group's 'International Women's Day' effort, Sr Pat Fox has forwarded the following letter from the Children's Rehabilitation Centre in The Philippines.  
*"We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish for the continuous support for children victims of state violence. With your solidarity in our advocacy, together we can pursue a just and lasting peace for the Filipino children."*

**A FEW WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS:**



Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street. When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party. Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other. We think about when it will be all a memory but normality will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift. We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious. Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter. We will go back to laughing together. Strength and courage. Pope Francis

*Gospel Reading continued from overleaf...*

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.

