



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

The Journey Home

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A - 22nd March 2026



Ezekiel 37:12-14, Psalm 129(130), Romans 8:8-11
GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-45

Meditation: If a true "friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17), why did Jesus delay in coming to Lazarus' home when he knew that his friend was gravely ill? Jesus certainly loved Lazarus and his two sisters and he often stayed in their home at Bethany. But to the surprise of his friends and disciples, Jesus did not go right away to Bethany when he was called. Jesus explained that Lazarus' sickness would bring glory to God. The glory which Jesus had in mind, however, was connected with suffering and the cross. He saw the cross as his supreme glory and the way to glory in the kingdom of God. For Jesus there was no other way to glory except through the cross. Jesus also knew that it was dangerous for him to travel anywhere near Jerusalem at this time, since the religious authorities in Jerusalem were plotting his destruction. Jesus, however, was willing to pay the price to help his friend. For Jesus to come to Jerusalem at Passover time was an act of courage. The explanation which Jesus gave to his disciples was simple and challenging at the same time. "Are there not twelve hours in the day?" In so many words he said: "There are enough hours in the day to do what one must do." A day can neither be rushed nor extended. Its period is fixed.



Courage to act in the light of God's truth In God's economy: we each have our "day" whether it be short or long. While time is limited, there is enough for us to accomplish what God intends. God gives each of us our allotted portion in life. We can either waste it or use it to the utmost for God's glory. Jesus did not let circumstances or pressure dictate what he would do. Nor did he permit others to dictate his actions or timetable. He took action of his own initiative and in his good time. Don't we often try to get God to do things in our way and on our timetable? Both the Romans and the Jews divided the day into twelve equal hours from sunrise to sunset. The day's work and travel, however, ceased when the daylight was gone. If someone wanted to get their day's work done, he had to do it before it got dark. Jesus made a spiritual analogy with our relationship with God. While the light of Christ is with us, we must live and walk in the truth and grace of his light. There's a right time to make peace with God, and that time is now. When darkness comes, then judgment follows for those who refuse God and spurn his love. When Jesus announced that Lazarus was dead and that he was going to Jerusalem, Thomas showed both his courage and pessimism. "Let us go, that we may die with him." This courage, however, was not tempered with faith and hope in God's promise to bring victory out of defeat. Even though Thomas was a witness to Lazarus' resurrection, he betrayed his master when arrest and death stared him in the face. He doubted his master's resurrection until Jesus showed him the wounds of his passion. God gives us faith, courage, and the strength we need to persevere through any trial and suffering we must face in this life. If we embrace our cross with faith and trust in God, then we, too, will see victory and glory in the end.

The hope of our resurrection: What is the significance of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead? It is more than a miraculous event. It is a "sign" of God's promise to raise up all who have died in Christ to everlasting life. That is why Jesus asked Martha if she believed in the resurrection from the dead. The Christian creed, which is the profession of our faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and in the saving power of God, culminates in the proclamation of the resurrection of the dead on the last day and in life everlasting. This is our faith and our hope. "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you" (Romans 8:11). God gives us the power of his Holy Spirit that we may be made alive in Christ. Even now we can experience the power of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus in our personal lives. The Holy Spirit is ever ready to change and transform us into men and women of faith, hope, and love. Do you believe that the power of Jesus' resurrection is at work in your life today? Let the Holy Spirit strengthen within you the life and joy of God and the hope of heaven.

God is my help: The name Lazarus means "God is my help". Jesus' parable about the poor man Lazarus, who died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:19-31), ends with a warning: "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead." Through Lazarus' sickness and subsequent death, God brought glory through his Son the Lord Jesus, who raised his friend from the dead in anticipation of his own death and resurrection. Our participation in the Lord's Supper in the Eucharist already gives us a foretaste of Jesus' transfiguration of our bodies. Do you find joy and hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

*The Resurrection of Lazarus, by Giovanni di Paolo (1426), Tempera and gold leaf on panel © The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore
Text © 2025 Servants of the Word, Don Schwager.*

Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

=====

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm (SL)

Wed. 9.15am (ST)

1st Wed Mass of Anointing @10am

Thurs. 9.15am (ST)

Fri. 9.15am(SL*),

6.30pm (ST)

Sat. 9.15am (SL*)

*Rosary after Mass

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

Second weekend of each month - bring a plate to share (optional)

YOUNG ADULT GROUP -

Saturday 21st March @11am, Lenten pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Victories Basilica in Camberwell



30 APRIL 2026

Thinking about life, purpose, and what really matters. If you're asking big questions about faith or simply curious — you are very welcome.

ALPHA Australian Edition, ALPHA Chinese Mandarin (adults) and **ALPHA Youth** (ages 13–17) offer a relaxed, no-pressure space to connect with others, enjoy a free dinner, watch engaging short videos, and have honest conversations about life and faith. Come as you are, bring your questions, and see where the conversation leads. No pressure, no strings attached.

Email us at Alphastlukesbbs@gmail.com or register your interest via the QR code
We'd love to see you at Alpha!

Next Week's Daily Readings 23 - 29 Mar

MONDAY Mar 23 Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 22 Jn 8:1-11

TUESDAY Mar 24 Num 21:4-9 Ps 101:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

WEDNESDAY Mar 25 Is 7:10-14, 8:10: Ps 39:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38
The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD

THURSDAY Mar 26 Gen 17:3-9 Ps 104:4-9 Jn 8:51-59

FRIDAY Mar 27 Jer 20:10-13 Ps 17:2-7: Jn 10:31-42

SATURDAY Mar 28 Ezek 37:21-28 Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

SUNDAY Mar 29 Entrance: Mt 21:1-11 Is 50:4-7 Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14 - 27:66

PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the Lord

ALTAR SERVING MINISTRY

Are you interested in assisting as an altar server? If so, or if you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Chris Lim on 0419 470 267

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

21 and 22 MAR

Marg Yore
Lucas Thong
Sarah Ahmed

28 and 29 MAR

Olive Hammill & Godfrey Thong
Steve Kilroe-Smith & Beryl Chelliah
Trevis Yee & Sarah Ahmed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

Lucy Ferris
Melina Barcellona
Anico Yee

Val Gardiner
Lynda Kilroe-Smith
Pat Kawalevski

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

Choir
David Prabha
Lee Min Yee

Choir
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez

SL WELCOMERS 21 - 22 Mar

5pm Volunteer
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

4th April - Megan's team
Megan McLean, Janette Clark,
Maureen Davis & Quyen Nguyen

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers for Lent

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers for Lent

SL WELCOMERS 28 - 29 Mar

5:00pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

27th March
Susan Chen & Joelle Roussety

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 7:
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay
Next week Team 8:
Sarah Ahmed & Ann Abrero

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Frances O'Donoghue Brian Koh, Brian McHugh, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Bruna Bramardi, Gertrude Chan, Brother Lee (John the Baptist) and Hugo Leong who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Marie Irene Foster, Annie Reynolds, Margaret Greenway, Leonard Patton, Bill McKenzie, Neven Brysha, Br. Pat Bicknell, Kevin Bradley, Miria Cardenti, Vincent Anderson, Vincenzo Gigliotti, Barbara Marcus, Fr. Walter Silvester SAC & Veronica Buick. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH:

For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT:

St Luke's, Blackburn South: Tuesdays @ 5.30pm including confession & adoration, followed by 6.30pm Mass and Fridays at 3pm (followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

St Timothy's, Forest Hill: Fridays @ 5.30pm including confession & adoration, followed by 6.30pm Mass.

YMT SOCIAL EVENT: DINNER, GAMES & PRAYER: Join the Youth Mission Team at St Timothy's for a social night; the night will start with dinner, followed by games, and will conclude in the church with night prayer.

When: Saturday 28th March, 5.30pm-9.30pm

Where: St Timothy's Parish (Boys in the Parish Hall, Girls in the church foyer)

Bring: \$5 to cover dinner

Please RSVP using the QR code!



PARISH & SCHOOL FETE: Our second fete meeting was held last Thursday and the fete plans are well underway. Date for the next meeting is Thurs. 23rd April at 7pm in St Luke's parish hall kitchen. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING: All church volunteers must complete this training which can be done online via this link: [Safeguarding Essentials training module | Melbourne Catholic](#) Please email your certificate to the parish office when you receive it.

[Resources](#)

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Archbishop launches Light into the City](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Pray for Hope](#)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses.

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters:

Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),

Margaret Gearon (SL)

Baptism Preparation: *Fr Alex*

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Parish Safeguarding Committee

Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,

Darren McLean & Janette Clark

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL & ST: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Roster of Parishioners

SL: Greg Grant

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

ST: Susan Chen

Church Linen: *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Miguel Ilagan

SL: Fr Alex

Bible Timeline: *Chris Lim*

ALPHA: *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

Young Adult Ministry:

Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto

RCIA: *David West*

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

ST: John McCoy

SL: Margaret Gearon &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Response to the Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

ST TIMOTHY'S: Sunday 22nd March at the 10.30am Mass. This will run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.



ST LUKE'S: Saturday 11th April at the 5pm Mass. This will run on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2026

First Reconciliation - May 26th & 27th from 3.30 to 5.30pm

Confirmation - June 25th @ 6pm

First Eucharist - August 1st @ 5pm

Parents of children who do not attend Catholic schools are asked to contact the parish office asap to enrol in preparation sessions for any of the above sacraments.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY:

05:00pm Vigil Mass at St Luke's (28/3)

08.30am Mass at St Luke's (29/3)

10.30am Mass at St Timothy's (29/3)

HOLY THURSDAY: 7.30pm at St Timothy's (2/4) followed by Adoration and Night Prayer to 9:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY:

10.30am Stations of the Cross at St Timothy's (3/4)

03:00pm Passion of our Lord at St Luke's (3/4)

followed by Confession (until 5:30pm)

EASTER VIGIL: 7.30pm at St Luke's (4/4)

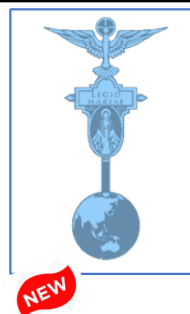
EASTER SUNDAY:

08.30am* Mass at St Luke's (5/4)

10.30am* Mass at St Timothy's (5/4)

*Hot cross buns, tea & coffee after mass

LEGION OF MARY



The first Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting will be on Friday 27th March 2026 @10:30am.

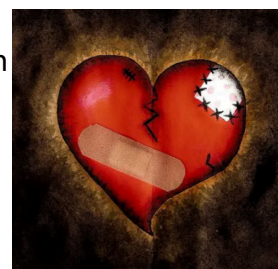
Please join us for 9:15am Mass at St Luke the Evangelist church.

To find out more, please contact Lucy Ferris at lucyfe1112@gmail.com or 0419 591 423.

MERCY NIGHT

St Luke the Evangelist Church
Tues. 24 March 2026

6:30pm Mass
7pm to Adoration &
8:30pm Reconciliation



Come, reflect and experience an evening of God's merciful and forgiving love in the God's presence and Sacrament of Reconciliation.

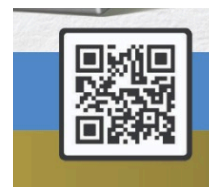
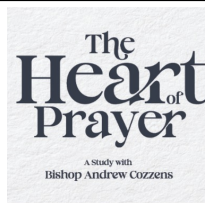
(Note: **NO 5:30pm Holy Hour on this date**)



"SYNOD CORNER"

2. Where does the word "Synod" come from?

The word Synod comes from the Greek syn-hodos, meaning "walking together on the road." This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.



This Lenten online 8 session retreat 'The Heart of Prayer' with Bishop Andrew Cozzens, offers contemplative, practical guidance from Scripture and the saints to deepen prayer, quiet the heart and help you to hear God's voice clearly. Scan QR code or login to Formed.org to watch this series that reveal the beauty and power of prayer, while offering guidance that is practical and down-to-earth. Experience this Lent with hearts transformed the joy of Easter.

<https://app.formed.org/app/collections/1473553>



Jesus brings Lazarus back to life



5th Sunday of Lent, Year A

Fill in the missing word on each strip of cloth to find out what the letters in each box spell.

Jesus' good



r__n_ Lazarus was very sick.

Martha and M



__ were sad when their brother died.

"Lazarus will ___v_ again", said Jesus.

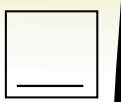


Jesus went to the opened



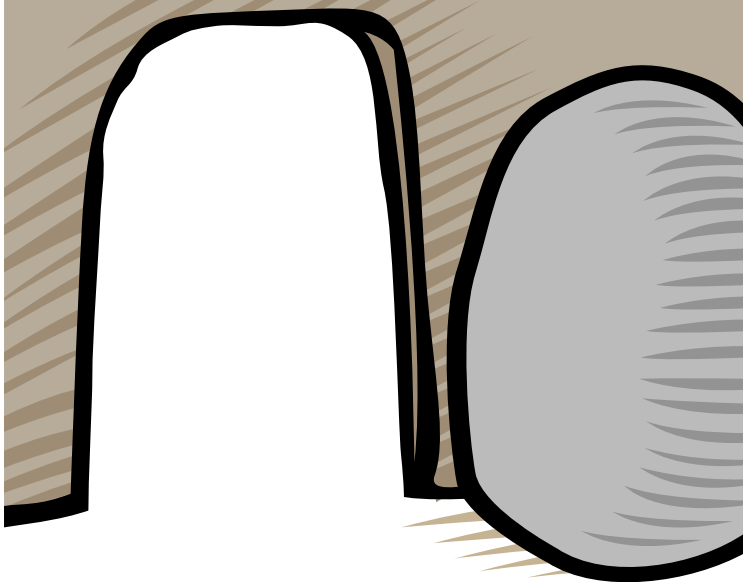
__b and prayed.

Lazarus walked out of



__s tomb alive.

Draw Lazarus leaving the tomb wrapped in strips of cloth.



Martha and Mary were sad when Lazarus died. They missed their brother, but still they showed faith in Jesus. What do you think Martha and Mary said to Lazarus when he came out of the tomb?



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 22 MARCH 2026



COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Jesus' friend Lazarus has been dead for four days and is brought back to life. Jesus' resurrection is much more than resuscitation; it is a reality of different order. Yet the story of Lazarus opens us up to receive the Paschal Mystery.

A reading from the prophet 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 Ps 129

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

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ear be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **R.**

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.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **R.**

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.

First Reading

This is the end of Ezekiel's famous vision of a valley of dry bones that grow with sinew, flesh and skin and come to life by the breath of God. It is a powerful oracle that promises new life and hope for a people in exile.

As preparation for your reading, it would be well worthwhile to see the whole of this story (you will find it in this book as the third reading given for the Vigil of Pentecost).

Truncated it may be, but this short reading gives us strong words for introducing the story of Lazarus. Make these words the climax: *I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live!* Read the text in a clear prophetic voice.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 129/130 is a moving and well-known penitential psalm (music lovers might recognise the first words in Latin: *De profundis*). Although it does not have a strong link to the other scriptural texts today, it is completely appropriate for the Lenten themes of God's mercy and our conversion of heart.

In the antiphon, we sing of God's mercy. In this context then, we plead for God to hear our confession of guilt and to forgive us. We express our longing for the redemption God offers and express our trust in God's promise.

The cantor/reader should proclaim this text with warmth and passion. Take care to cue the assembly clearly with the two-part antiphon and the longer third verse.

Second Reading

This is not an easy reading. It must be studied and analysed to grasp its logic before it can be satisfactorily proclaimed to the people. They have only one chance to hear it!

The first half seems to start in an abstract way with talk of 'unspiritual' and 'spiritual'. But Paul intends this in quite a specific way – he means recognising that the Holy Spirit lives in us.

The second half is one long, dense sentence. We are saved from our sinful mortal bodies by the Spirit living in us. This is none other than the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. It is the Holy Spirit who is the source of our life in Christ.

The message is positive. It celebrates the gift of the Spirit and the life the Spirit brings. It should be read with an optimistic and up-beat tone.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

Gospel

At the heart of this narrative lies the close friendship Jesus had with the siblings Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany. Jesus got a message that the man he loved was ill. By the time he arrived, Lazarus had been dead four days. Each sister in turn lamented, if only you had been here... Jesus was greatly distressed at the sight of their tears and he too wept for his friend. People remarked on how much Jesus loved them.

But John is not really concerned to tell this as a human-interest story. He frames his narrative with a much bigger purpose. This is the last of the great 'signs' Jesus gives. It occurs as he moves towards his death and prepares to enter Jerusalem. It leads to knowing Christ and believing in him.

Right from the beginning, as Jesus delays his visit to Judea, John has Jesus remark: *This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory!* John sets up the misunderstanding between rest/sleep and death so that Jesus can remark, *now you will believe*. Then as he approaches Bethany, the conversation with Martha opens up the question of the resurrection on the last day. This gives Jesus the opportunity to say, *I am the resurrection and the life!* and to evoke from Martha a statement of belief in Jesus as the Christ. John makes it clear that Lazarus was not just in a coma but was indeed dead (*he will smell – it is the fourth day*) and has Jesus say again: *Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?* Then after the dramatic and vivid image of Lazarus coming forth still bound in the burial cloths, John remarks that many came to believe in Jesus.

This means that the passage should be read with tenderness but also with a sense of grandeur. The first climax comes with Jesus' statement, *I am the resurrection and the life* and his promise of life in him. Then the story takes another run up, through the meeting with Mary, leading to the second climax: *Lazarus, here! Come out! ...Let him go free.* Each climax is followed by a profession of faith.

In John's gospel, this story sets up an enthusiastic welcome from the people as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, but also provokes the jealous religious leaders to begin to plot his death

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.

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Prayer over the People (5 LENT)

Bless, O Lord, your people,
who long for the gift of your mercy,
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire
they may receive by your generous gift.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us and remain with us for ever.
Amen.

(Adapted from the Prayer over the People for 5 Lent, Roman Missal p. 283)



ST. LUKES SCHOOL
BLACKBURN SOUTH



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO
BOOK A
TOUR



St Luke the Evangelist Primary School Blackburn South
9877 4023 | www.slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au

We are Companions on The Journey

2026

