5th SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A – 26th OF MARCH 2023

FIRST READING: 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: Psalm 129(130);



X. With the Lord there is mer-cy and full-ness of re-demp-tion.

SECOND READING: 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: 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 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.



https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/

"God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them."

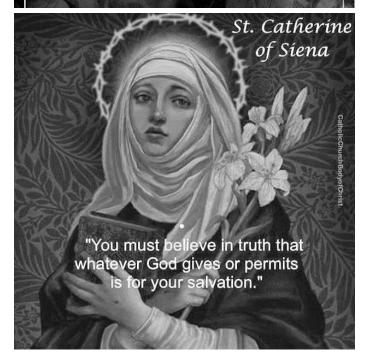
"If you do not worship God, you worship something, and nine times out of ten it will be yourself.

You have a duty to worship God, not because He will be imperfect and unhappy if you do not, but because you will be imperfect and unhappy."

- ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN -

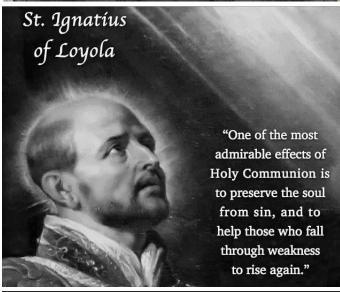
"MEN DO NOT FEAR A POWERFUL HOSTILE ARMY
AS THE POWERS OF HELL FEAR
THE NAME AND PROTECTION OF MARY."

— St. Bonaventure –

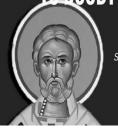


"GOD CREATED US
WITHOUT US: BUT HE
DID NOT WILL TO SAVE
US WITHOUT US."

-St. Augustine



SINCE CHRIST HIMSELF HAS SAID, "THIS IS MY BODY" WHO SHALL DARE TO DOUBT THAT IT IS HIS BODY?



Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Passiontide

(Fifth Sunday of Lent)

The final two weeks of Lent in the Roman Rite used as an immediate preparation for the sorrowful events of the Easter drama is traditionally called 'Passiontide'

Passiontide is a season within a season (i.e., the Season of Lent).

Passiontide is meant to be a special penitential period where we focus on Jesus' bitter passion and foster within ourselves sorrow for our sins.

During this time the Church's liturgy became more somber and a sorrowful mood was reflected in the various practices that occurred in the liturgy.

The most obvious example of a more somber mood was the veiling of statues and images.

In the papal chapel at the gospel reading from St John Chapter 8: 46-59 and upon speaking the last verse:

"And they took up stones to throw at him but Jesus hid himself and went out of the Temple" (Latin "Jesus autem abscondebat se")

the deacon then...

...covered the processional cross with a linen cloth...

... followed by all the statues and crosses in the chapel.

It is a preview of what is to come on Good Friday.

It is a period of time to focus more and more on the Passion and Death of Jesus and so to accompany Him on His way to Calvary.

Passiontide as a special time in Lent had emerged by the time of the early Roman Pontifical in general use in the 9th century.

For several centuries the Fifth Sunday of Lent was known as "Passion Sunday" and marked the beginning of the special sub-season called Passiontide, which extended up until Holy Saturday.

Palm Sunday was seen as the "Second Sunday in Passiontide," and is currently listed in the liturgical calendar as "Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion."

It is on this day that the Passion narrative is read, the longest Sunday Gospel reading of the entire year.

After Palm Sunday, Passion Week gives way to Holy Week and the Church follows Jesus during his final days in Jerusalem.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

When I survey the wondrous Cross On which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the cross of Christ, my God: All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an off'ring far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

OFFERTORY HYMN:

I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and observe your word; revive me according to your word, O Lord.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord!
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!
With all their hearts they seek him.

They never do anything evil, But walk in his ways. You have laid down your precepts To be carefully kept.

May my ways be firm In keeping your statutes. Then I shall not be put to shame As I observe all your commands.

I will thank you with an upright heart, As I learn your just judgments. I will keep your statutes; Do not ever forsake me.

COMMUNION HYMN:

My loving saviour how have you offended, that such a hate from us on You descended? Both mocked and scorned, You suffered our rejection, in deep affliction.

It was my guilt brought all these things upon You, Through all my sins was this injustice done You.

Lord Jesus, it was I that did deny You, and crucify You.

So now the Shepherd for the sheep is offered, Mankind is guilty, but the Son has suffered, for our atonement which we never heeded, God interceded.

For us dear Jesus was Your incarnation, Your bitter death and shameful crucifixion, Your burial and Your glorious resurrection, for our salvation.

Although good Jesus, we cannot repay You, We shall adore You and forever praise You,

For all Your kindness and Your love unswerving, not our deserving.

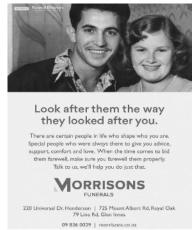
RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing:
Praise him, praise him, praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in the distress; praise him still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless: Praise him, praise him, Praise him, praise him! Glorious in his faithfulness.

Fatherlike, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him, Praise him, Praise him, praise, Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him, praise him,
Praise him, praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.



<u>Pledge Envelopes 2023</u> – the new envelopes are available to collect from this Sunday. Don't forget the annual receipts will be available from Sunday 23rd April.

24 Hour Adoration – Please note: there will be **No Adoration** on the 31st March to 1st April or 7th April to 8th April because we have the Altar Server Practises – 1st of April at 11am and 8th April 10am.

<u>Palm Crosses</u> - If you would like to come and help us make palm crosses for Palm Sunday, we are meeting in the hall on Thursday 30th March at 6:30pm. Please let Ellen know, if you are attending on 8346677.

Stations of the CrossEvery Friday during Lent 7pm

NEXT SUNDAY: 2nd April 2023 Palm Sunday (Yr A)

Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66;

LITURGY ROSTER

Readers: L. Ahio, C. Tagiilima Gospel Readers: S. Shaw, R. Cardoza Prayers of the Faithful: B. Molloy Offertory: Capundag Family Special Ministers: P. Capundag

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

Altar Server Practise – 1st April at 11am

SUNDAY CUP OF TEA ROSTER

Bonds of Marian Love

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

27 Mar: Leo Hendrickx, Margaret Hall 28 Mar: Jean Harris, Robert Taylor, Maria Trbuhovic, Leslie Hahn, James Thomson and Brian Walsh

29 Mar: William Lorrigan

PARISH FINANCES

Parish Priests Total Cash and AP's \$2,690.13 \$1,345.07 \$4,035.20

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE ~ PASSION SUNDAY ~

2nd April
The Commemoration of the Lord's
Entrance into Jerusalem

8:00am Latin Mass 10:00am English Mass

~ HOLY THURSDAY ~ 6th April

The Mass of the Last Supper - 7:00pm Adoration till 12am (Midnight) in Church

~ GOOD FRIDAY ~ 7th April

The Passion of Christ Veneration of the Holy Cross

Stations of the Cross – <u>10:00am</u> Veneration of the Holy Cross – 3:00pm

> ~ HOLY SATURDAY ~ <u>8th April</u> Vigil of Light - <u>7:00pm</u>

Please bring:
a bell to ring during the Gloria
Please note: we are providing candles
this year.

~ EASTER SUNDAY ~

9th April

The Resurrection of the Lord
8:00am Latin Mass
10:00am English Mass

~ Easter Week (Monday - Saturday) ~ All Masses at 9am