

# Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish



C/- 7 Mann Street, Mount Barker  
South Australia 5251



*We are a Community learning to be disciples of Jesus.*

## Fifth Sunday of Lent - 29 March 2020

### *I thank God for their heroic example*

Medical personnel who gave their lives caring for coronavirus patients received the Pope's admiration during Mass on Tuesday at the Casa Santa Marta. Pope Francis began Mass with these words:

*"I received the news that in these days, a number of doctors and priests have died, I don't know if there were a few nurses. They were infected...because they were serving the sick. Let's pray for them, for their families. I thank God for the example of heroism they give us in caring for the sick."*

He then reflected on the theme of water suggested by the readings of the day (Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5 1-16).

The readings present water as a sign and means of salvation. This water brings life, and heals the "waters of the sea", making it "new water". It is beside a pool of water that Jesus encounters a paralyzed man. He'd been waiting beside that water to be healed for 38 years. Pope Francis delved into the incongruity of a man who waited that long without doing anything to help himself.

*"It makes us think. It's a bit long, isn't it? Because someone who wants to be healed would have organized things so that someone would help him..."*

His response also makes us wonder. "He doesn't say 'Yes'; he complains. About the illness? No." Neither do we see him jumping for joy or "telling the whole world" as others did after they were healed. He doesn't even thank Jesus when they meet up again in the Temple. Rather, he goes off to inform the authorities. What's wrong with this man?

*"His heart was sick. His soul was sick. He was ailing from pessimism...from sadness...from apathy (acedia). This is the man's sickness. 'Yes, I want to live', and he just stayed there. Is his response: 'Yes, I would like to be healed'? No, it's 'it's always the others that get there first'."*

These type of people breathe by complaining," the Pope remarked. We do not see the "joy and decisiveness" that the man blind from birth had after being healed. "Many of us Christians live in this state of apathy", the Pope said.

*"Apathy is poison. It's a fog that surrounds the soul that doesn't allow it to live. It's also a drug because if you taste it often, you like it. You end up addicted to sadness, addicted to apathy..."*

Pope Francis concluded his homily encouraging us to reread the 5th chapter of John.

*"Let's think of water, water that is the symbol of our strength, of our life – the water that Jesus used to regenerate us in Baptism. Let's also think about ourselves – if there is the danger that one of us might slip into this apathy, into this "neutral" sin – neither black nor white.... This is a sin that the devil can use to drown our spiritual life and our personal life. May the Lord help us understand how awful and evil this sin is."*



#### **The Parish Team:**

Father Richard Morris PP

8391 1053

**Website:** [www.barkerstrathcatholic.com](http://www.barkerstrathcatholic.com)

Father Ian Wilson, Assisting Priest

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Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary (Wed/Fri)

8391 1053

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8391 1471

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**Father Richard's email address:**

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## *Please Pray For...*

### **Sick**

Irma Bachmeyer, Michael Porter, Ashlee Lloyd,  
David Neville, Helene Meijer, Patricia Smyth,  
Sophela Ocampo, Peter Silverman.

*Names are kept on the sick list for 4 weeks.*

### **Recently Deceased**

Jennifer Fahey, Geraldine Griffin, Mary Centofanti,  
Keith Deboar (Dad of Debbie Duffield).

### **Anniversaries**

Fr. Bill Modystach, Aldo Baraglia, Claire Myatt,  
Edith Ashford, Valda Millard, Terri (Teresa) Barton,  
Teresa Campbell, Joseph and Eudoxia Mencil,  
Karol Mencil, Wtadystaw Kaczor, Fr. Timothy Murphy,  
Roslyn Goyne, Colin Bagshaw, Christopher Marriott.

*Anniversaries from Saturday 28 March to Friday 4 April.*

## *Parish Pastoral Council*

Neil McGoran (Chair), Fr Richard Morris (Ex Officio),  
Sonia Nelson (Ex Officio), Yesamma Hendry, Sandra Lloyd,  
Jo Manalo, Jan Sobotta, Joanna Falkland, Teena Cobiac,  
Mike Galea, Stewart Chilcott, Michelle Muller, Tung Pham.

*Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.*

## *Parish Finance Council*

Tom Hardy (Chair), Father Richard Morris (ex officio),  
John Barton (Treasurer), Michelle Muller (Secretary),  
Jim Mann, Noel Duffield, Martin Kidby.

*For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.*

### **Collections Last Week**

<b>1st Collection</b> (supporting our priests)	\$ 30.00
<b>2nd Collection</b> (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 60.00
Loose plate	\$
Direct debit	\$ 365.00
Total second collection	\$ 415.00

### **Ways to give to the first and second collections:**

1. Arrange regular direct debits from your bank account: contact the office for the BSB and account numbers for our first and second collection.
2. Select this link: [adelaide.catholic.org.au/donation](http://adelaide.catholic.org.au/donation) each time you wish to make credit card payments to the first and second collection.
3. Post your planned giving envelope or envelopes marked 'first collection' and 'second collection' through the 'messages' slot in the Parish House front door.
4. Post cheques to Mount Barker-Strathalbyn Catholic Parish, 7 Mann Street, Mount Barker SA 5251.

## *The Parish Office*

The parish office remains open. Please ring or email if you need any assistance. Check out our outdoor leaflet box!

**Reconciliation is still available by appointment.**

## *Reflection on the Scripture Readings*

As Lent draws to a close, the story of Christ raising Lazarus' from the dead acts as a premonition of what is to come.



Like Lazarus, Christ's torment will not end in death, but with the glory of God.

The opening of the narrative calls to mind Christ's impending death as Lazarus' sister, Mary, "anoints the Lord with ointment." This is a very real and very terrifying prospect of His disciples. The family of Bethany, which the gospel of John refers to as friends of Christ, will soon become entangled in the

drama of Christ's rejection by the nation's leader.

The fact that John chose to refer to the family of Bethany as friends and not disciples is indicative of the meditative style of his gospel. In John 15.15, Christ openly refers to his disciples as "friends, not servants." Likewise, repeated references to "the beloved disciple" in the narrative that follows brings out, in graphic detail, the implication of these words.

Lazarus' story leaves us in no doubt that Christ has triumphed over death. Lazarus has lying in his tomb for four days, long enough for putrefaction to have set in (a fact duly noted by his sister). Outside his tomb are numerous mourners, not all of them well-disposed to Jesus. "Could He not have prevented this man's death", some of them ask.

Christ, however, makes clear that this confrontation with death is a sign. After the death of Lazarus, He sets out for Bethany, declaring: "I am glad for your sake, because now you will believe." Although He knows the Father "always hears him", He addresses the Father publicly "for the sake of those who stand around, so that they may believe that it was you who sent me.

Through a series of exchanges, Christ is able to lead the sisters of Lazarus towards a fullness of faith that will bind them to Him in His final victory over death. Like His other disciples, Martha has already accepted Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into this world." Now she understands the implications of His coming. "I am the resurrection and the life", Christ stated. "The very source of eternal life."

John Thornhill SM

## *Question of the Week*

*Jesus said to Martha, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who follow me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'* (John 11: 25 – 26)

Adults: How does belief in the final resurrection from the dead affect your family's daily life?

Young People: What relationships or hopes seem dead in your life right now?

Children: What do you hope for after your life on earth has ended?

## Mass online and on TV

We may choose to watch and pray with the Masses that are available on Television and on the Web. Some of these are:

Mass for You at Home 6.00am Sunday morning, Channel 10.

Mass For You at Home daily - Cathnews.com.

Daily Celebration of Mass by Pope Francis from Casa Santa Marta [www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va), live at 4.30pm Adelaide time or replayed at any time later.

Daily Reflection on the Readings and other resources: [Pray-as-you-go.org/home](http://Pray-as-you-go.org/home) or download the Pray as you Go App.

Sunday Mass (with no congregation) livestreamed from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral each Sunday at 10am. The Mass can be viewed live or on demand at [www.adelaide.catholic.org.au](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au). It will also be available on Facebook or YouTube.

There are also plans to broadcast major Easter services such as Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday on Channel 44, a community television station which you can access on a standard television. More information will be available soon.

There are also some useful links on our own parish website: <https://www.barkerstrathcatholic.com/useful-websites.html>

## The Southern Cross newspaper

The Easter edition of The Southern Cross will be inserted in The Advertiser on Saturday April 4. However there will not be any printed copies available at the church. You can also access The Southern Cross online at [www.thesoutherncross.org.au](http://www.thesoutherncross.org.au).

## Youth Ministry Resource Online

The Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults is compiling resources for youth and young adult ministry in these extraordinary times. To view these resources visit [cathouthadelaide.org.au](http://cathouthadelaide.org.au).

## Project Compassion

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them. **Let's Go Further, Together.** Donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, visit [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phone 1800 024 413.



## Prayer for Coronavirus

With Bishop O'Kelly's support, Fr Philip Marshall is calling on us to pause for prayer at **8am every Friday** from now until at least Pentecost. We pray for an end to the pandemic, healing for people suffering from the illness, for those researching a vaccine, for our political and community leaders to provide wise leadership and for our health workers:

Almighty and All loving God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We pray to you through Christ the Healer  
For those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19  
In Australia and across our world  
We pray too for all who mourn the loss  
Of each and every person who has died as a result of  
contracting the disease.

Give wisdom to policymakers,  
Skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,  
Comfort to everyone in distress  
And a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and  
distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord  
Who showed compassion to the outcast,  
Acceptance to the rejected  
and love to those whom no love was shown.  
Amen.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### FIRST READING EZEKIEL 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

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

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### 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.**

**SECOND READING ROMANS 8:8-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 11:25, 26**

*Sung Antiphon*

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

*Sung Antiphon*

**GOSPEL JOHN 11:1-45**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**April 5, Palm Sunday, Year A**

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66