



SUNDAY 22ND MARCH, 2026 **5TH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A**

Reflection on the Gospel - (John 11:1-45)

Sunday's readings touch into the most profound of mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a new born child or to see the sick restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, death can bring unimagined grief and pain.

The conflicts in Iran, in Palestine, in Ukraine, in South Sudan, in Afghanistan and in so many other places are bringing death to hundreds of thousands of people and an extraordinary outpouring of grief. These deaths come at a time when extreme weather events continue to cause death and destruction and species loss. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that "death" so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The Gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs. It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death: "from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). It provides the occasion for Jesus to assert "I am the resurrection and the life" and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and at the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" sharing her grief and coming to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany. Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus and the community around him, or both? Lazarus is Mary's sick "brother". Martha will later claim him as her "brother". Might they all be part of a little faith community in Bethany rather than biological siblings?

A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: "Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is "for the day of [his] burial".

As so often in John's Gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama, and to bring us as actors in the theatre of life, to new levels of understanding and faith. Right now, in the face of ongoing conflict in so many places, we are called, as sisters and brothers across the globe, to weep with those who weep. Even as we open our hearts and share our resources so that some measure of "life" might be restored to those who grieve.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

BAPTISMS

We pray for and welcome this weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism – **Eliza Fava, Frankie Panetta, Alice Burton, Isaac Bandeira, Arianna Dennis and Ciara Kur Dillon**. May they, their parents and Godparents be filled with the Holy Spirit.

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Angela Betrone and Luis Barquero** who died recently and for all anniversaries that occur at this time.



SYNODALITY BEGINS LOCALLY

Synodality is lived first in parishes, schools, families, and communities. When people feel heard and valued locally, the Church becomes more credible and more missionary.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

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.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 129. R. v. 7

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

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. 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.)**
4. 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

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. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 11:25, 26

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: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The sisters Martha and Mary 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. 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.' 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.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,*

*was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.*

Communion Antiphon: John 11:26

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

PROJECT COMPASSION

Caritas is active in the aftermath of earthquakes, floods, storms, plagues, drought and failed harvests. Your generosity by **donating to Project Compassion**, makes a wonderful difference to people in need.

WORKING BEES: Save the Dates

Corpus Christi Church: 28th March, 10 -11.30am

St Augustine's Church: 4th April, 10 -11.30am

LENTEN REFLECTION EVENINGS in LENT

7pm Thursdays at St. Augustine's Presbytery

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

5.30pm Tuesdays St. Augustine's

6.00pm Fridays Corpus Christi, in Vietnamese

**New Rosters for St. Augustine's readers,
ministers and counters are available.**

JOSEPH'S CORNER HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER

We warmly invite you to join us at our **High Tea Fundraiser on 3rd May from 2pm – 5pm at Mount St. Joseph Girls' College, 133 Maidstone Street, Altona 3018**. Ticket price; \$40 per person. For table bookings of 10 or any dietary requirements, please contact Rob Quail on 0407687003. Your attendance will directly support families that need our help.

We are also **seeking donations of goods, services, or vouchers** for our silent and main room auctions. Any contribution would be sincerely appreciated. P.S. Bring cash or card for our auctions and raffle.

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL: A framework and process for renewal.

Vibrant, Vital, Viable

This coming week, you are invited to join us for one of the group sessions, as we gather to listen to each other and share the stories of our Parish communities:

- Who we have been – sharing the rich history of our faith communities and our connection to them.
- Who we are – sharing about what's working to support us in faith and community life. What do we want to hold on to or continue? What could we let go of?

The gatherings are not specific to that Church. Members of the Transition Team will assist us in leading these sessions and look forward to meeting up with you.

- **(After Mass) Sunday 22 March,
Annunciation Church, 8.30-9.15am**
- **(After Mass) Tuesday 24 March,
St. Augustine's Church, 6.30 – 7.45pm**
- **Wednesday 25th March,
Corpus Christi Church, 6.30-7.45pm**

TIMETABLE FOR HOLY WEEK

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th March

PALM SUNDAY.....Blessing of Palms at all Masses

Wednesday 1st April.....Wednesday of Holy Week

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION.....7.30pm. St. Augustine's

Thursday 2nd April...HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper.....7.30pm.. St. Augustine's

Friday 3rd April.....GOOD FRIDAY

9.00am.....Stations of the Cross.....Corpus Christi

10.00am..... Stations of the Cross (Polish).....

St Augustine's

11.00am.....Ecumenical Way of the Cross

(Uniting/ St. Augustine's/Baptist Churches)

3.00pm.....Passion of the Lord.....St. Augustine's

Saturday 4th April...HOLY SATURDAY

1.00pm.....Polish Blessing of Food... St Augustine's

7.30pm.....Vigil.....St. Augustine's

Sunday 5th April.....EASTER SUNDAY

MASS: 8.00am Annunciation Church

9.30am St. Augustine's Church

11.00am Corpus Christi Church

11.30am St. Augustine's Church (Polish)

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

LITURGY TIMES**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS

THE FIRST COLLECTION supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTON (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:
BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:
BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:
BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

TAP AND GO CONTACTLESS**DONATION TERMINALS**

in the foyers of the churches.

Follow the prompts and choose your nominated amount to donate.

Codes for one off donations via credit card



Unique to the Parish of St. Augustine's



Unique to the Parish of Corpus Christi

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK(21st & 22nd March 2026)**5th Sunday of Lent A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Rose Thomas

9.30am Tere Tutai

Sam/Anna

COUNTING:...Phillip Marques**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am Cass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Nic Fusca

9.30am.....Phillip Marques

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Julianna Barr

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK(28th & 29th March 2026)**Palm Sunday A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Kath Baker

9.30am Gerald Bain-King

Sam/Anna

COUNTING:...Val Taylor**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am Joe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Frank Galea

9.30am.....Pat McLaughlin

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Hong Nguyen

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL**VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements