

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, '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.

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Reflection by Greg Sunter

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John. Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief.

The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.



ST MARTIN DE PORRES
Catholic Parish
Avondale Heights
Today's Celebration is on pages:
Old Missal: 80 New Missal: 183



5th Sunday of Lent, Year A

22 March 2026

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 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. 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

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

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.

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

🌐 www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday

Charles Meneze: Tuesday

Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm

Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am
Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

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The Augustinian Sisters

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Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick: John & Rossini Burns; Pan Giannenas; Anna; Mark; Franca, Nazzi & Teresa Demaio; Peter Falzon; Nancy Green; Emily & Grace; Monica Marland; Mellisa; Charles.

Recently Deceased:

Susan Broad; Giuseppina Troise; Sr Eulalia Ferriggi, OSA (Malta); Anne O'Prey; Edmund Boileau; Philip Cassar; Lawrence Vella; Ian Howe; Feliciana Lisio; Salvatrice Melia; Carmen Schembri; George Borg; Concetta Malgioglio; Mario Parnise; Noel Tovey; Veronica Mondeddu; Emmanuel Sammut.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Frank Anile; Mary & Joseph Rapa; Ivana Barbis; Ana Dokmay Viraphon; Ana Herb Viraphon; Peter Kone Viraphon; Anna Thi Cuong Nguyen; John Van Duc Nguyen; John Van An Nguyen; Mile Jovanovic; Victor Degabriele; Dominic Cumbo; Bernarda & Francis Grima; Teresa, Emmanuel, Tonina, Phillip Sammut; Emmanuel & Nazarena Farrugia; Adam Hood; Rita & Carmelo De Bono; Joseph Consiglia.

Parish Support Programme:

Pays Wages, Electricity, Cleaning, Insurance, Rates, Maintenance.

Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$1,928

Loose: \$942

Presbytery: Supports Parish Priest, Retired Priests & Cathedral. \$1,651

CONTRIBUTING TO THE COLLECTIONS

Have you left your cash at home?

Why not use our **QR Code** or the **Donation Tap Machine** (Max. \$99).

Please see one of our friendly volunteers with the machine in the back of the church if you wish to tap your card/phone to donate.

Thank you for your generosity.



CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND

Baptisms:

We congratulate and pray for:
Amelia Ruggieri & Sicily Lepua.



LENTEN PROGRAMME

Easter Individual Reconciliations

Monday 23rd March 7pm

English; Italian; Maltese; Vietnamese

Tuesday 24th March Vietnamese 7pm

For Palm Sunday:

Saturday 28th March By 10am

Please bring Cypress, Palm and Olive branches to the church.

Help set up the church. After 10am

Easter Rosters are in the Church Foyer

Please indicate where you can help.

Reflection Day with Sr Connie

in Preparation for Easter

Tuesday 24 March 10am - 3pm

In the Pastoral Center

Please bring your own lunch.



Reflection Sessions with Sr Cres



Wednesdays after Mass in the Pastoral Centre Meeting Room. All welcome.

Stations of the Cross After 9:15am Mass

Vietnamese - Thursday English - Friday

EASTER PROGRAMME

Palm Sunday - 28th/29th March

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

English 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday 2nd April 7pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper & Altar of Repose

Good Friday 3rd April

Morning Prayer and Way of the Cross for Children 10am

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - English 3pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - Vietnamese 5pm

Holy Saturday 4th April

Individual Reconciliation 10.30am - Noon

Solemn Vigil Mass of Easter 8pm

Easter Sunday 5th April

Mass at Dawn - English 8:00am

Easter Sunday Mass - English 9:30am

- Vietnamese 11:00am

The Annunciation of the Lord

The Angelus

25th March

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the word was made flesh:

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord,

Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom

the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made

known by the message of an angel, may by

His Passion and Cross be brought to the

glory of His Resurrection, through the same

Christ Our Lord.

Amen



The Annunciation of the Lord

Wednesday 25th March

Mass: 9:15am

Instruction - First Eucharist & Confirmation

For children who do not attend a Catholic school.

Please contact the Parish office if you wish

to enrol your child to receive First Eucharist

or Confirmation Sacraments this year.

Information Evening - 7pm Wed 22nd April.



5th Sunday of Lent

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

Please donate today

