

Breaking Open the Word

OUR SOURCE OF LIFE

As we come to the last Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the central meaning of Jesus' life—his gift of life. The story involves Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary. These are Jesus' friends who are from the village of Bethany. When Jesus gets the message about Lazarus' dire illness, strangely, he does not go immediately to be with them but only after two days have passed.

The evangelist's words at this point link to the story from last Sunday: One 'can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by.' It is this Light, Jesus, that then goes to Bethany, to bring the dead Lazarus to life. The interchange that Jesus has with Martha before he comes to Lazarus' tomb summarises a theology which John wants readers to transcend. Rather than wait for the general resurrection at the end time, Jesus is 'the resurrection and the life' now. Faith in him will bring people to life.

Space prevents a detailed examination of the narrative dynamic at play and the depths of the Gospel's symbolism behind the dialogues, Jesus' weeping, the various reactions to Jesus, Jesus' command to Lazarus to come from the tomb and the order to unbind Lazarus. On this final Sunday in Lent our gaze is squarely on Jesus. He is our source of life, now and into eternity. Today's Gospel invites us into a deeper communion with Jesus, who is 'the resurrection and the life'.

Fr Michael Trainor

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 smelt; 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.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

FIRST READING

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 resetttle 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

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

22 MARCH 2026

THE SAVING WORD



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.

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!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the resurrection and the life.

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 Judea.'

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.'

Jn 11:25, 26

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.



ST PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PARISH

Under the Pastoral Care of the Claretian Missionaries

848 Ballarat Road, Deer Park 3023

Parish Priest: Fr. Fellmon Libot, CMF

Asst. Priests: Fr. John Pham, CMF; Fr. Luis F. Rey, CMF

Parish Secretary - Rosemarie Mendoza

Bookkeeper - Rosa Milan

Tel: 93633132 Email : deerpark@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam.org.au/deerpark

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm



ADORATION CHAPEL

"The Master is here and wants to see you" John 11:28

Adorers are needed for these hours:

Tuesday: 1am, 2am, 3am, 4am, 11pm

Friday: 8pm

Contact: Lucy Sgro 0424056823

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

FROM VICROADS: On Monday,

23 March, the service road going to the Church will be closed temporarily while the repair of the water leakage in the Marian house is on going. Please park in the adjacent street or opposite road. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

DAYS OF RECONCILIATION

Friday, 27 March - 6:30 pm & 7:30pm
Monday, 30 March - 6:30 pm & 7:30pm
Wednesday, 1 April - 6:30 pm & 7:30pm

Solemnity, The Annunciation of the Lord, Wednesday, 25 March

Commissioning & Recommissioning

Altar Servers on Holy Wednesday, 1st of April during the 7pm mass. All Readers, Commentators, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and all church volunteers on **Holy Thursday, 2nd April** during the mass of the Lord's supper.

A VOCATION VIEW

Seeing physically dead people return to life is not a common event. But Christians, serious about their vocation, are eager to help the "down and out" find new meaning in Christ and live a full life.

PALM SUNDAY 29 March
Please bring your own palms for blessing

EASTER TRIDUUM:

HOLY THURSDAY 2 April

7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY 3 April

9:00am - Way of the Cross

Seven Last Words - immediately after Way of the Cross

3:00pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL 4 April

7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY 5 April

Mass Times are: 8:30am, 10:00am, 12:00pm; 6pm

****No 7:00am mass on Easter Sunday**

St Peter Chanel Primary School
Enrolment is now open for School Year 2027. Contact: 03 93631586 or Email: officeadmin@spcdeerpark.catholic.edu.au

No Timorese Mass for the month of March

Next Week: 29 March 2026
Palm Sunday - A

DEATH REMEMBRANCE: Joseph Grima, Barbara dela Rosa, Jose dela Rosa Sr, Emanuel Attard, John Houlihan, Emeterio Presentation, Ramonito, Jun, Emmanuel & Cely Prado, Frank Grech, Hendry & Louissa Rego, Cue Fo Vom, Erlinda Gauna, Lily Catuaan, Nicola & Tomasina Martinis, Salvatore & Carmel Origlia, Remy Tigulo, David Abela, Eufemia Jacob, Walter Bertonecello, Rolando Caelon, Josefina Marayag, Remya Ginto, Renuka Miranda, Rose Odile, Maria Neide Nascimento, Puri Carticiano, Manuela, John Vella, Yvonne, Frank Joe & Joe Gauci, Anthony & Sunta Dalini, Paula Michael Bajada, Anthony Zahra, Ma Ligoury Paul D'Souza, Ryan Hughes, Roko Koprivanac, All Souls in Purgatory

RECENT DEATH: Namalee, Joe Portelli, Colin Rogers, John Spiteri, John Vella, Senando Naritividad, Antonio Reyes Sr, Erunda Reyes, Vincent Paul Onuoha

SPECIAL INTENTION: Albert Austria, Sarah Catherine D'Souza, Siu Jong, Thai, Li Ki & family, Isabel, Pedro, Vong & family, Lucia Li, Aliza & family, Ralph Uy, Clayton Lim, McKenzie family, Meghane's baby, Nono Albert

HEALING: Pauline Gatt, Tony & Agatha Saliba, Arlyn, Charlie & Helen Aquilina, Arlyn Lim, Yvna Dayrit, Floredeliza La Rosa, Geraldine, Joshua Lai, Mu T Jung Sing, Jordan Lai, Monica Huynh, Lan In Sin, Marie Aubree Geoffroy, Gacia family, Elea Gatus

THANKSGIVING: Maria Sulfaro & family, Fr Joseph & Elroy Mascarenhas, Sarah Pratheesh, Golcalves family, Dwain & Natasha, Rochell Fraser, Ton & Doreen Moncus, Monica, Cole

THIS WEEK: 22 March 2026 - Fifth Sunday of Lent - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator	Grace S L	Richelle C	Mario N	Nelissa D	Flora S	A Tayag
1st Reader	Antonietta C	Susan C	Kathrene T	Nonie G	Diana T	E Binuya
2nd Reader	Delia J	RJ Baculo	Lorraine B	Roger S J	Mel O	R Victoria
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Ric M	Richelle C	Hilda D S	Anna C	Marvin D	Teo C
	Ernesto Co	Rukmal M	Rukmal M	Maria Sulfaro	Kirk D G R	Gloria T
	Nick S L	Roland D	Roland D	Joe M	Candida D S	Oliver T
	Charmaine R	Ferdinand T	Ferdinand T	Mariou S J	Tami M	Marie E
Altar Servers	Ric M	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry Fawaz	Raphael P Rey S	Jejicho, Jude Jherielle
	Light of Jesus (LO)	AHFI	Mt Horeb	CFCA	Arlette Mary Ann	MWF with LUHM Sisters
Choirs					Exxemoz	

NEXT WEEK: 29 March 2026 - Palm Sunday - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator	Richelle M	Alister R	Perly C	Eva O	Vernon A	D Diaano
1st Reader	Maria Milietic	Telmo E	Gynn D	Anna C	Kirk D G R	X Bossini
2nd Reader	Colleen D B	AA Aguilar	A Huang	Dulce T	Marvin D	A Diaz
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Paul M	Stefan P	Teo C	Nelissa D	Toniette S	Diana T
	Joan S	Alister R	Cedric B	Gilbert M	Jacqueline R	Ric M
	Antonietta C		Ronald D	Rosa M	Tami M	Rafael V
	Grace S L		Roland D	Frolan M	Ian H	Joe C
Altar Servers	Ric M	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry Fawaz	Raphael P Rey S	Jejicho, Jude Jherielle
	Harmonico Filipino	AHFI	MWF with LUHM Sisters	Samoan DVM	Arlette Mary Ann	CFCA
Choirs					Leah Lapid	