



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday 9.00am to 12 noon. Tuesday & Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm

Fifth Sunday of Lent A—29th March 2020

First Reading Ez 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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129. R. v.7

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

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| <p>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.)</p> | <p>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.)</p> |
| <p>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.)</p> | <p>4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
 and fullness of redemption,
 Israel indeed he will redeem
 from all its iniquity. (R.)</p> |

Second Reading Rom 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.

Gospel Jn 11:3-7. 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, '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.

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PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

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Dear Friends

I ask, "Is he talking to me?". I mean is Jesus talking to me or to Martha? "Take the Stone away" he commands. But Martha replied, "Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day". Immediately Jesus retorted, "Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?". That was enough for them to remove the stone. Which stone is he telling me to remove in obedience to his command? The stone is anything that tells us "nothing can be done about it"; "It is dead, smelling by now, four days gone and no hope". Isn't Jesus saying "believe me and open the grave", "take the stone away simply because I say so - and you will see God in action, God glorying his name among unbelievers. By unbelievers, I don't mean godless people, but believers who profess to believe but can't see the possibility of God doing it now.

When Jesus arrived at the house of Martha, Mary and the deceased Lazarus, (their brother), Martha said to him "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". The question is: does she really know as she claims? What a great difference between knowing and action-impelling-knowing. How could she have said she knew that whatever Jesus asked of God, God would grant him and still, she resisted and said afterwards "Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day"? Maybe, she thought Jesus wanted to just have a 'viewing' of the dead Lazarus. Or maybe, she wanted to remind Jesus how poor they were that made them unable to afford embalment for their brother – a reason for the smelling. If she called Jesus Lord, could she not have known that the Lord would know they were poor – having been their friend for some time? Did she think that the Lord would not know that the corpse, having stayed four days in the tomb, would be smelling by that time?

Sometimes, we humans try to let God know he can't do it even as we profess we know he can do it. It all depends on how connected or disconnected our knowledge and faith are, how far apart they are and how far they can agree. When Martha said "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now," Jesus explained that he is always present to those who believe. "Your brother" said Jesus to her "will rise again". "I know he will rise again" said Martha, "at the resurrection on the last day". And then, 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?**". And Martha unhesitatingly answered: "Yes, Lord, ... I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world". But did she really believe?

We Christians sometimes are full of unbelief despite our believing. We profess our faith as taught or as we were made to believe but remain full of unbelief. Like the man in Matthew 9:14-29, who brought his son for Jesus to heal him. Jesus was not there. His disciples tried to cast out the demon so that the boy would be freed and healed, but could not. When Jesus returned, he asked why they were arguing. And the man explained and then added: "But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us". Jesus seemed disappointed at that and said to him, "If you can!" Everything is possible to one who has faith." Then the man cried out, "I do believe, Lord, help my unbelief!". We believe Lord, help our unbelief, especially at this time of the COVID 19 pandemic.

We really need to put our trust in the Lord, who is the Resurrection and the Life, who can even raise the dead. This is what St Paul said:

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia (China [my addition please]). We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death.

But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

In the first reading he has promised to raise his people Israel from their graves – meaning, from their captivity – from whatever that holds his people in bondage, be it exilic experience of the then Israelites or COVID 19 experience of the modern Israelites today. All we need to do is to have the spirit of Christ in us. As St Paul, in today's second reading says: "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 letter to the Hebrews says that Jesus became human so that by his blood he would break the power of the devil and death and "free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death" (Hebrews 2:14-15). **So be not afraid.**

CHURCHES

St Brigid's Church
39-49 McLaren Rd
Nerang Q 4211

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4211

SCHOOL

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DAVID SEWELL
Principal

MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

Week Day Mass Cancelled until further notice

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Cancelled	7.00 am
Wednesday	Cancelled	5.45 pm
Saturday Morning	Cancelled	9.00 am
Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the Third Saturday of next month at	Cancelled	9.00am

The next Anointing Mass will be to be advised

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	Cancelled	6.00 pm
Sunday	Cancelled	8.30 am

Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am,	Cancelled
Saturday at 8.30am.	Cancelled

Divine Mercy Prayer	Thursday	Cancelled	7.30 am
Adoration	Thursday	Cancelled	6.00-7.00pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am Cancelled

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church Cancelled

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont 4th Sunday of each month Cancelled

Next Mass at St John's : to be advised



We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus

We pray for the recently deceased : Betty Redpath

We pray for the departed whose anniversaries occur at this time:

We also remember their families—*may they be comforted and supported in their loss by this Community of Faith.*

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Darren Sandstrom, John Sweeny, Cecilia Kurtz, Kruze Patfield, Pat Ashton, Elle Rosier, Tony Bertram, Daryl Williams, Ava Mansfield, Shirley Jean Carr, Kath Fisher, Brenda Dale, (Baby) Paris Organ, Maureen Bourke, Jasmine Fay Parada, Patricia Smith, Maureen & Paul Hume, Valda Silvy, Joan Gordon, Amanda Gordon, Shelly Ryan, Sandra Miller, Nona Maguire, Linda Harri.

Our prayers are also offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing Homes.



Celebrate the faith with your community, from home:

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is taking a number of actions to help protect the community and curb the spread of COVID-19. While Masses have been suspended, there are plenty of other ways you can celebrate your faith and connect with the Catholic community.

Watch Mass online. Mass from St. Stephen's Cathedral 12:30pm weekdays, 8am and 10am Sunday at www.archbne.org/bzw.

The online edition of The Catholic Leader newspaper will be extended to all parishioners for free during this time. Keep faith with the Leader at www.catholicleader.com.au.

Our faith will sustain us through challenging times. Please keep helping your parish community by continuing your weekly offering via direct debit. Call the Archdiocesan Development Fund at 07 3324 3777 to find out how.

AN EXTRACT FROM THE MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

Dated 23rd March 2020

Following directives from the Federal Government,

- * All parishes in the Archdiocese of Brisbane are required to suspend with immediate effect all Masses, including weekday Masses.
- * Funerals—Funerals should be a private event strictly limited in size and in line with Queensland Health guidelines. The 4 square meter rule shall be adhered to and social distancing of 1.5 metres observed throughout. If you need advice in this matter please contact aomail@bne.catholic.net.au.
- * The Sacrament of Reconciliation should not be celebrated until further notice. The Holy See has given permission for the celebration of the Third Rite in exceptional circumstances which are unlikely to apply in this country. Approval should be sought from me or Bishop Howell for any proposed celebration of the Third Rite.
- * Baptism and weddings should be delayed if at all possible. If these celebrations need to proceed, attendance should again be strictly limited, with the 4 square metre rule and social distancing of 1.5 metres observed in line with the advice I gave last week.
- * First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion should be postponed until the pandemic is over. All other parish events, both outdoor and indoor, should be cancelled. This would include events such as outdoor Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

In days to come, I will provide Archdiocesan directives for the celebration of Holy Week, which will be based upon the guidelines already produced by the Holy See.

PRAYER WRITTEN BY ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

May the God to whom we turn in this moment listen to the pleading of our heart and answer as he has so often before, so that love may come from fear, hope from despair and joy from sorrow.

Almighty and all-merciful God,
 Lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
 In whom there is no shadow of death,
 Save us in this time of crisis;
 Grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
 Watch over all medical people
 As they tend the sick and work for a cure;
 Stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
 If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
 By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
 That hope may never die
 And the light of Easter, triumph of life,
 May shine upon us and the whole world.
 Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
 Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
 Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

Dear Parishioners and all people of good will

We all know this is a challenging time. We are call to trust in God and show our trust by our life of prayer. I have been praying and offering Masses for all of you. I encourage you to fast if you can. Say up to 60 decades of the Rosary if you can and read as many Psalms as possible. The Archbishop's prayer has been provided as well. Please say it often. And above all, live holily and love sincerely. This is a time to seek the face of God and the assistance of the Saints in glory, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary: Helper of Christians and St. Mary MacKillop.

Please do not fear. God is in charge still. May God keep all of us safe and healthy, grant healing to the sick and eternal rest to the dead.

Jesus have mercy on us
 Blessed Virgin Mary help us.
 Our Lady, health of the sick. Pray for us
 Refuge of sinners. Pray for us
 Comforter of the afflicted. Pray for us
 Helper of Christians. Pray for us.
 Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Have mercy on us.
 Immaculate Heart of Mary Pray for us.

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIALS as at 22nd March 2020

1ST COLLECTION:	\$ 171.25	- For Clergy Support (Greatly affected by COVID 19 Crisis)
2ND COLLECTION:	\$ 633.25	- For Parish expenses such as administration, and maintenance of all our buildings and properties.

WE STILL HAVE AN OUTSTANDING DEBT OF \$3,000.00 from the installation of the air conditioners. If you feel touched to help, please do. I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Be assured of our prayers, and of your divine rewards.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya