

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.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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Breaking Open the Word



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

THE SAVING WORD

22 MARCH 2026

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

FIRST READING

Ezek 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.

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

Rom 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Jn 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 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.’

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**"To grow in discipleship of
Jesus and go make disciples"**

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Upcoming Solemn Feasts:

8am March 25th The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Extra Reconciliation

6pm-7pm Thursday March 26th

Holy Week

29th March Palm Sunday (**Beginning Outside**)
31st March Chrism Mass – 7pm @ Cathedral
2nd April Holy Thursday - 7pm Mass
3rd April Good Friday Stations - 10am
3rd April Good Friday Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion - 3pm
4th April Solemn Easter Vigil 7pm @ Mundaring (**Beginning Outside**)
5th April 730am Easter Mass @ Chidlow
930am Easter Mass @ Mundaring

DIRECT DEPOSIT collection details

1st Collection: Priest upkeep

Sacred Heart 1st Collection

BSB: 086006

A/C #: 985196641

2nd Collection: Parish

Sacred Heart Mundaring Parish

BSB: 086006

A/C #: 673418807

Would you like the Anointing of the Sick?

"It is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived." CCC #1512

PRAYER CORNER

✚ Prayer Intentions for the sick

Tess Howden
Janina Wren
Trevor Clark
Dennis Denoual

Do you know of someone in the parish who is sick and would appreciate some prayers?

NEWS, EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

Easter Triduum Roster

The Easter Triduum marks the beginning of the school holidays and a number of people will be travelling or visiting family. Easter becomes anything other than routine, with different times and demands of the various liturgies. To support our celebrations, there is a special roster people can sign up to if they would like to assist.

From the need for extra readers, to powerpoint clicker operators, collectors, those to have their feet washed, to helping set up a cuppa to welcome new Catholics after the Easter Vigil, if you wanted to assist there's a **clipboard** in the **side entry porch** you can record your name to assist during the various Triduum celebrations.

Chrism Mass – 31st March 7pm @ Cathedral



The Bishop breathes on the opening of the vessel of Sacred Chrism, recalling our Lord's own gesture of life-giving breath that brought about the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

Project Compassion

We have all been confronted with the distressing scenes of war in the news. Regardless of politics, we should pray for and try to assist those caught in the middle of such conflicts. **Caritas**, Australia's Catholic International Aid organisation, supported by the Project Compassion appeal, provides humanitarian support throughout many parts of the world, including the Middle East, and places not in the media spotlight, like Sudan. Let us be generous. More information can be found at www.caritas.org.au



Parish First Reconciliation Classes

- April 22nd 5 - 545pm Parent Information night.

Wednesday 415-5pm classes:

- April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27
- June 3rd Practice
- **First Reconciliation** 415- 5pm Wednesday, June 10th (parents welcome to attend and also receive the sacrament)

Opportunities for Confession

On the inside cover of the Lenten *Compassio* books is a guide to Reconciliation. Lent is a great time to encounter God's mercy in this Sacrament.

Many of us have encountered that friend or work colleague that never admits they are wrong, nor sees that anything they do negatively impacts their relationship with others! Lets be challenged to not be that kind of friend to Jesus!

Rather, great relationships are helped through humble self awareness of our shortcomings. So too with God, we realise there's often a gap between where we are and the holiness of life we are called to live! So let us be generous in approaching the opportunity for Reconciliation over the next few weeks.

Sometimes, it's more comfortable to go more anonymously, which is understandable. Works on this capacity for our own confessional have been delayed because of extra busyness the last number of weeks, but will eventually be available. Reconciliation is also held in neighbouring Greenmount before their Saturday morning and evening Masses, or by appointment.



Ignite 2026 Conferences

Held in Darwin Jun 19-21, Sydney 9-12th July and Brisbane 24-27th September, these conferences will be a reviving experience of faith. From being immersed in a culture of incredible people, uplifting worship, powerful speakers, beautiful sacraments and insightful workshops to ignite a new hope and purpose in Jesus. From primary school children to grandparents, there streams of events for kids, young adults and older adults. From small groups to over 300 people, there's a chance to experience a vibrant faith, connected to the wider Church community.

Igniteconference.com.au for more information.