

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for, Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Barrie Poulton, Bridget Walsh, Cathryn Walsh.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES



We pray for Dolores Farrugia and Dorothy Murphy who died recently and for Frank Zahra, Margarita Renzi, Rosaria Laudato, Lachlan Sagona, Giovanni Raunik, Peter Wentworth, Brendan Rooney, Kevin Hynes, Francis Spira, John Bartolo, Marcelle Michaud, Sr. Mary Byrne, Win Kelly, Jim Houlahan,

Antonio Fernandes, Kevin Creaney, Terrence Duffy, Carmel Johnson, Cynthia Frawley, Harry Orr, Norma Ranson, Des Driscoll, Noreen Hunter, Geoff Hopkins, Kevin Grace, Giuseppe Nardo, William Spurling, William Dorgan, Lou Hindle, Charles Little, Fran Mannix, Michael McGrath, Kevin Walsh, Ted Literski, Margaret Mangion, Len Owens, Gordon Barnes, Edward Maguire, Mary Zahra, Gertrude Embach, Andrew Murphy, Robert Telfer, Win Hogan, Les Williams, Severina Ordinario, John Smith, Giovanni Radoicovic, Robert James Burke, Chahady Yacoub, Samia Yacoub, Piore Soussan and Nancy McCrae; whose anniversaries are at this time.

PLENARY COUNCIL PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen. Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.



St Mary's Parish



A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016 Telephone: 9397 6066 Email: williamstown@cam.org.au Web: www.cam.org.au/williamstown

29th March, 2020

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall PH: 9397 6066 MO: 0400 524 363 Email: greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian 0450 789 951 Monday, Tuesday 9am - 3.30pm

Parish Office Manager-Secretary

Heidi Zahra Tuesday 8:30am - 4pm Thursday 8:30am - 4pm Friday 8:30am - 4pm

Wednesday Secretary

Kylie Skinner 8.30am-3.30pm

St. Mary's School

Principal Anthony Hockey

Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes. Saturday at 6:30pm Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm - 3:30pm Wednesday

Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly 7.00pm at Parish Centre. Baptism must be booked prior to attending Preparation Night.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8:8-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-45.



Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (...continued..) When Jesus arrived, he found Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at

home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. (...continued).



Dear Parishioners

Below is a sermon from me for this weekend of the 5th Sunday of Lent, March 28th/29th. Otherwise there are other suggestions on my new extra website which will also give another different sermon (sermon 2) from myself on a different aspect of this 'raising of Lazarus from the dead'. Please ensure that you type <https://fathergreg.online> into your address bar (very top of page) and not through google or any other search engine. Hope this all helps at this rather extraordinary time.

SERMON 1: Everybody needs friends – even Jesus. In the village of Bethany, Jesus had three very special friends: the sisters Martha and Mary, and their brother Lazarus. They must have all shared a chemistry between them as we know it happens with us as well. Their house remained open to Jesus when many other houses locked their doors on him. Consequently, when Lazarus became really very ill, it was only natural that the first one the two sisters should turn to was Jesus. They sent an urgent message to him, couched in language calculated as an appeal to the heart. It simply said: "Lord, the man you love is ill." Their confident hope was that Jesus would drop everything and come and cure Lazarus. But surprisingly (to them) Jesus did not drop everything and rush to the bedside of his dying friend. Instead he stayed on where he was for two whole days. We don't know why!! His delay in coming must have been heartbreaking for the sisters. Right in front of their eyes their brother's life was ebbing away. And the one they believed could do something about it wasn't there! Well, lo and behold Lazarus dies. The desolation his death caused to Martha and Mary is quite evident in the Gospel. Of the two, Mary seems to have been the worst affected. She wouldn't even leave the house! While I am sure they had sympathetic people around them, the one they most wanted to be with them was not there. Jesus, their friend and the friend of Lazarus was surprisingly absent. When he finally came, they suggested that he could have prevented his death. "Lord, if you had been here, our brother would not have died." The desolation experienced by Martha and Mary is one many of us have experienced. When something bad happens to us or to a loved one we might easily think God does not care about us, if he really loved us! We might feel abandoned by God. So what can we do? I suppose most likely we should imitate Martha.

Sure the story of Lazarus shows Jesus as a faithful friend. Indeed, he did not leave Martha and Mary to grieve alone. But we must remember he does not leave us alone either, no matter what the tragedy, whatever the circumstances. He is always close by.

The story represents Martha as a model of faith. In her hour of grief, she ran to the Lord and poured out her sorrow to him. And when he challenged her to believe, she made a wonderful profession of faith. "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world." Like Martha, what we can do in our griefs (caused by even confusion from the covid-19 virus and maybe deaths of friends through this) is to turn to God. We need to keep on conversing with Him, to go on praying, to go on believing in God's ultimate plan for us and our loved ones. Neither a good life, nor a close relationship with God, will necessarily spare a person from a normal death or even a tragic one. In the face of our pain all we can do is try to support each other and commend ourselves and our loved ones to God. Then in a real way we abandon ourselves to His care.

Even though there are no public masses, the parish has to keep paying staff and general running costs. Accordingly, unless in some financial trouble at this time could you please put your financial commitment through the slit next to the presbytery door unless you give through credit card etc. This is appreciated particularly at this difficult time.

St Mary's school has had to take out a loan of approximately \$900,000 in a first stage project for the school. You will notice some activity around the premises as the builders restump both school hall and certain classrooms, plus refurbish other classrooms, underpinning wall and helping with drainage.

All those involved as a leader with the Christmas Pageant, Children's Liturgy of the Word need to have read our 'Child Safety Policy Document' and understand your responsibility as a volunteer in order to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children are paramount at St Mary's Williamstown. Please pick up policy from our Parish Office if you have not already done so and then sign it and return – thanks.

Fr. Greg 27/3/2020