



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Diocese of Northampton
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26 th March 2023 Psalter Week 1	Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A) THE RAISING OF LAZARUS	
First Reading	Ezekiel 37:12-14 <i>I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans <i>The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; who ever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!	
Gospel	John 11:1-45 <i>I am the resurrection and the life.</i>	
Saturday 25th March +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass (For the Parish)
Sunday 26th March +	10.30am	Mass (Ann O'Connor RIP)
Monday 27th March <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 28th March <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Srs Delia, Mae & Margaret Int)
Wednesday 29th March <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Elizabeth Barnett – Recovery)
Thursday 30th March <i>Feria</i>	6.15pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Margaret & Leo Roche RIP)
Friday 31st March <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am 3.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Fr David Int.) Stations of the Cross
Saturday 1st April <i>Feria</i>	10.00am 10.30am- 11.30am	Mass – (Adrian John Int.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession available
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION		
Saturday 1st April +	5.45 pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass (Josie & Tom Bermingham RIP)
Sunday 2nd April +	10.30am	Mass (For the Parish)

BON VOYAGE! - On this Monday 27th March Sr **Delia Mullooly, Sr Mae Hanrahan** and **Sr Margaret Abbot** will be moving to Lucan near Dublin in Ireland. On behalf of the parish, we are presenting them with a gift. We hope and pray that they have a safe journey and blessed new start in Ireland. They have been friends to us all here and we are grateful for all they have contributed to the parish.



**May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.**

Sr Hannah Sullivan DHS – RIP – the Requiem Mass for Sr Hannah will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at on **Wednesday 5th April at 11am.**

Stations of the Cross - Throughout Lent, we will be praying the 'Stations of the Cross' here at Our Lady's each **Friday afternoon at 3pm** – everyone welcome.



LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY – The final talk in our series of talks for Lent about prayer will be held on **Thursday 30th March.** – what prayer is and some different kinds of prayer, how we can learn to pray, and what we can use to help us to pray. Fr David will lead the talks but there will be time for questions and discussion as well. The talk will begin at **7.30pm** after 7.00pm Mass. Everyone is welcome!



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - In preparation for celebrating the great feast of Easter, there will be a special Service of Reconciliation here at Our Lady's this **Wednesday 5th April at 7.00pm.** Fr David will be assisted by three other priests. If you are not able to attend this service, Confessions are available during Exposition on Saturday morning and from 5.45-6.15pm on Saturday evening and by appointment.

FROM MK FOODBANK – URGENT APPEAL: Food donations in February amounted to 21,000 items, sadly this was less than half of what went out in parcels (55,000) meaning that our stocks are now very low. Please do support us in whatever way you can.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES - The new offertory envelopes are ready for collection. If anyone new to the parish would like a set, please contact Denise.

MESSAGE FROM DENISE – “Can you please avoid putting foreign coins, especially Euros, into the collection & the votive candles as I am unable to bank them. Thank you.”

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS – after 10.30am Mass next Sunday 2nd April. If you would like to help with serving tea/ coffee or washing up on any first Sunday of the month please speak to Áine Cooper or email her on aine.cooper@me.com. Many thanks.



MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER – 7pm Thursday

6th April – we are looking for six volunteers – 3 Male + 3 Female – for the Washing of the Feet during the Mass. If you would like to assist, please contact Denise or speak to Fr David.

MANY THANKS TO THE SVP for the enjoyable lunch they organised on 17th March, St Patrick's Day, in the parish hall. It was a great success and we are grateful to everyone who came and all who helped to support it.



RECEIVING THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FROM THE CHALICE

Bishop David has granted permission for parish priests to reintroduce the giving of the Precious Blood at all Masses from Maundy Thursday. He says that each parish should make their own decision as to when and how to do this. The Bishop strongly encourages us to use the opportunity to provide some developed catechesis on the Eucharist as well

as on the actual reception of the Chalice.

Mgr Kevin McGinnell from the Diocesan Liturgy Office writes, “The Chalice has been reintroduced in other countries already and in other ecclesial communions. That this has happened without problems may help allay the questions people have about the possible transmission of infections and other practical considerations. There are several scientific papers available which clearly show how there is no need to be unduly concerned. *These can be made available if required.*”

Would parishioners like this to happen? Please let me know.

If we are to reintroduce reception of the Precious Blood from the Chalice, we will need to have volunteers to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These will need to be trained.

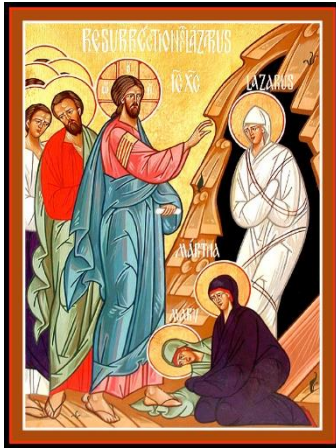
I would suggest that, if we go ahead with this, that we begin on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ) on 11th June. Do let me know what you think.

Fr David



Thought for the Week: “We had deserved to be left incapable of praying; but God in His goodness has permitted us to speak to Him. Our prayer is an incense that is delightful to God.

St John Mary Vianney



Gospel Reflection - We all face times of sorrow and grief in our lives and are aware of the difficulties and challenges that such times can arouse! On this Fifth Sunday of Lent we are at the climax of our journey of faith and vision, which we have been exploring with the Samaritan woman and the blind man. Today Jesus takes us with Him into Resurrection. Ezekiel prepares us for the scene, by comparing the Exile with death and the Return as Resurrection and spiritual renewal. It is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus and we are raised!

In the Gospel, St John wishes to awaken faith in Jesus, by showing its effects in Him. We hear the challenge He gives and how people come to faith. Martha is our model, despite her feelings of loss; she makes her act of faith when asked by Jesus, who is the source of life, both physical and eternal.

Friends are needed now, Jesus is the same as us, so we can wonder why He has not gone immediately to Bethany. They share in Lazarus' death and so we can identify with Martha's words of reproach. We feel abandoned too, so how are we to respond? By doing as she did: going to Jesus and pouring her heart out to Him: *"I believe that you are the Christ...."* Prayer is our key too! Neither a good life nor a close relationship with Jesus will, of themselves, be a guarantee against tragedy. Hand all over to Him. We will feel alone until we begin to see God is with us in the suffering, providing hope in adversity, strength in weakness! Jesus is a faithful friend, even in death he can still reach out – He is with Martha and Mary – in the comfort, support and affirmation given by all who help them. They state their belief in Jesus, even though they do not have all the answers to all their questions. He knows the anguish of grief, but He has overcome death by going through it and transforming it. He is our pathfinder and our beacon of hope.

May the words which follow help us at these times, when personally or we are with others: *"I believe in death, it is a part of life – we are born to die, that we may live more fully! We are born to die a little each day, to selfishness, pretence and to sin. When we pass from one stage of life to another, something dies, but something new is born. We will taste death in moments of loneliness, rejection, sorrow, disappointment, and failure. We die before our time if we live in bitterness, hatred, or isolation. Each day we create our own death by the way we live. For we who have faith, it is not putting out the light, but putting it out, because the dawn has come!"* When we are called to share with someone in grief, from our hearts we might say: *"In the midst of your sorrow, new seeds are sown – of consolation, hope, resignation and even gratitude. The winter will pass and spring will come to the garden of your heart. Those seeds will grow, blossom and bear fruit – then your sorrow will turn to a joy which none can take away."*

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter