

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

29 March 2020

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

John presents us with a wonderful and moving portrayal of the humanity and human love of Jesus: his concern for his friends in their bereavement; his response to the emotional and sensitive Mary; his words of encouragement to the more practical Martha. What is truly touching about this incident is John's insistence on the deep love that Jesus felt for this small family group.



Family and friends had come to mourn Lazarus. There was no doubt he was dead. The rabbis believed that the soul hovered near the body for three days, and so with Lazarus having been four days in the tomb no one held any hope of resuscitation. The raising of the dead was one of the surest signs that Jesus worked by the power of God, since God is the author of life. Yet Lazarus' restoration to life points forward to something even greater, namely resurrection and eternal life. Lazarus would eventually die again but those who believe in Jesus will never die.

Why didn't Jesus prevent the death of Lazarus rather than wait to overcome it? John, looking back at the incident, can see that it was all for the better. The miracle sign showed God's glory. The God of healing love is revealed through the work of his Son. Hidden deep within the episode is a further truth: that Jesus' gift of life to Lazarus involved his own death, the offering of his own life. To love Lazarus and give him life Jesus had to be willing to risk and lose his own. The trip to Bethany was overshadowed by the approaching cross.

Do we believe the words of Jesus that whoever lives and believes in him will never die? Can we profess our faith as Martha did? The death of Jesus gives life. Jesus, sent by the Father, reveals to us the true meaning of life and death. We can take the opportunity in these last weeks of Lent to examine our faith in times of suffering and our hope in the face of death. We are asked to look beyond the signs, however wonderful they may be. The signs point to Jesus, the Son of God. Our faith is in him.

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are the resurrection and the life. Help me to know and to proclaim your victory over suffering and death.



Brentwood Catenians

Our mission statement is - strengthening family life through friendship and faith. If there are any gentleman interested in the Catenian Association please contact Peter Brisbourne our membership officer on 01277 219746.

Parish Representatives

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Lockwood

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER:

Sally Haggerston

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Willa Jackson

STEWARD OF THE GOSPEL:

Mary Brooks

PARISH COORDINATORS:

Jan Jarvis

HEAD USHER:

Tim Murphy

FINANCE CHAIR AND GIFT AID:

Chris Brooks

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM:

Chris Brooks

MISSIO:

Clare Barton

NEWSLETTER:

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Hello everybody - I hope you are well and safe. It was quite wonderful to see people at different times throughout the day paying visits to church last Sunday. Pope Francis called all Christians to respond to the virus with prayer compassion and tenderness. He asked us to lift our voices to Heaven to our Father who is watching over us. I ask all our families to be faithful to the Rosary every day and to say the Angelus prayer also to our Blessed Mother Mary.

Remember we are in the season of Lent preparing for Easter. Jesus bore our sufferings for love of us. Let us lift up our isolation at this time to show Jesus we love him. Our Sunday Gospel is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the tomb. Jesus knew what was the loving thing to do. To restore home to his sisters and relieve their terrible grief as a sign of his and his father's love. But in effect, it meant that he would be killed. And us, let us humbly thank him for showing us what it means to have the courage of loving conviction. Let us look deeply into our lives. Are we avoiding perhaps looking the other way, distracting ourselves from loving things that we are called to do? What will we do in these final two weeks of Lent?

During this period of isolation please look at our website for news (www.stjosephshutton.org)

Please remember that at Wickford Catholic Church, Mass is streamed on Sunday at 10.00 a.m. Also if you have Sky you can see Mass and other Catholic events on EWTN 588 all day. You are all remembered in the Sacrifice of the Mass which is said albeit in a locked church.

Keep safe and God's blessing on you all.

Prayer For Those Affected By The Coronavirus

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against the Coronavirus that has claimed the lives and affected many people across the world.

We pray for your grace; for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and its consequences; and for stemming the tide of its transmission.

Guide the hands and minds of the medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion; and of those governments and private agencies that are tasked with finding a cure or solutions to this epidemic.

RESPONSE: We pray for those afflicted, may they soon be restored to health. Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and help those in need. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen

Mary, help of Christians

Pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel (patron saint of healing)

Pray for us.

St. Edmund the Martyr (patron saint of pandemics)

Pray for us.

St. Roch (invoked against epidemics)

Pray for us.

St. Jude Thaddeus (patron saint of lost causes, desperate situations)

Pray for us.

Church Closure

At the direction of the Bishop, all churches will be closed all day with effect from 24 March 2020 until further notice.

A Personal Note From Fr. Leslie

Our parish is our family and we all feel so cut off, not being able to see our lovely children and friends. Saying Mass in an empty church is a strange experience. It is truly a Lenten experience.

I plead in the Rosary to my maternal Mother Mary. I see some of our older parishioners coming to light their candle of hope and love.

May our Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit lead us safe through where, as Pope Francis says, we will be laughing together again. But I am truly humbled by offers of help and drawings of happy pictures from the children which drop through my letter box.

Thank you and
God Bless to you all.

Pope Francis

Pope Francis said. 'We will return to the street. When we will hug again. When the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other. We will love everything that has so far seemed futile. We will go back to laughing together'.

Virtual Masses

Fr. Dominic Howarth is holding a Virtual Mass on Instagram from the Walsingham House chapel daily at 10.30 a.m. It is hosted on the "@BrentwoodCYS" Instagram account.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford will be live streaming Sunday Mass at 10.00 a.m. You can watch the live camera view at the bottom of their homepage:

www.wickfordcatholic.com

Or follow Bishop Barron's daily mass on Youtube.

<https://youtu.be/H-0qg8V10V8>

The URL for EWTN where daily masses are also on live stream.

<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/weekly-grid>

Or watch EWTN on Chanel 588 on Sky.



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