

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God are my strength.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:



Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 May almighty God have mercy on us.... **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ezekiel 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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 129

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 Romans 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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ

GOSPEL John 11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45 (Shorter Form)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
 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.'

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.'

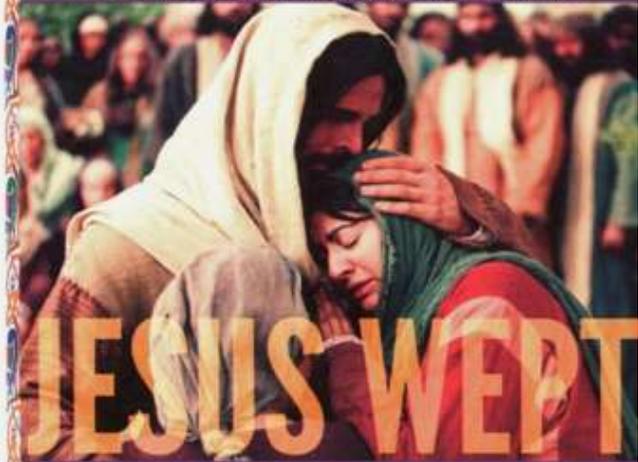
When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

focus on sunday

The gospel of Jesus is one of hope. In raising someone from death he promises companionship, hope and eternal presence to all his people. This is the message of Christian hope.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
 May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bless, O Lord, your people, who long for the gift of your mercy, and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire they may receive by your generous gift. Through Christ our Lord.



I wonder is the story of Lazarus on two levels: raising him from the dead to return to this life, and a prophecy of life after death. Is Jesus speaking on two levels? Probably. The end of the story is relevant to both: as Lazarus was unbund to return to this life, we will hear the call of 'Unbind, go free' at death.

Our vision of death is that it will free us from different bonds: of sin with the forgiveness of God, of pain with the joy of God, of hurt and selfishness with the love of God. This vision of the afterlife brings with it the grace of hope, based on faith in the message of Jesus. The vision of death is about reunions: as Lazarus was reunited with family and with Jesus, death is the doorway into reunions with those gone before us.

It has been called a 'second birth', as we are born into new life, different in quality from this life; and all we know is that 'our mortal bodies will be like his in glory'.

We need sometimes to soak ourselves in the mystery of eternity to give us hope at times of distress, especially when death is near. Many funerals now, while rightly giving thanks for the life of the deceased person, fail to recall where the person is now, and to pray for our faith and consolation that he or she is with God.

As we soon enter Holy Week, we will often remember this mystery of death which is the pathway to the risen Jesus of Easter day, offering us a share in his new life.

Risen Lord, give all of us hope in time of disaster especially for those approaching the hour of death. Donal Neary SJ Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger.

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St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield



**Fifth Sunday
of Lent
2nd April 2017**

Mass Times

Saturday : 6 pm Vigil
Sundays : 10:30 am & 12 noon
Weekdays : Mon. – Fri. 10:00 am
Monday 7:30 pm

Contact: Co-Parish Priest Fr. Paddy Boyle 086 1011 415
Co-Parish Priest Fr. Gerry Corcoran (Moderator) 01 847 9822
Parish Office 8160984 Sacristy 8160981
www.stpaulsparishayrfield.com Email : parishofficeayrfield@eircom.net

We remember at Mass and in our prayers those who have gone before us

Saturday 1st 6:00 pm

Anthony Walsh
4th Anniversary

~~~~~  
*Your prayers are also requested for the happy repose of the souls of*

**Monty Lonergan  
&  
Liam Doherty**  
*recently deceased.*

~~~~~  
Monday 3rd 10:00am

Peggy Henshaw
Recently Deceased

~~~~~  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00am

**For all Parishioners who supported The Doherty Family on the recent illness and death of their Son Liam.**

*May they rest in peace*

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday mass and devotion to St. Pio at 10am.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday.  
10am mass will be offered for all those on the Altar List of the Dead.  
After mass a celebration of the **sacrament of the sick** for those who wish to avail of it will take place.

**Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit**  
Sr. Carmel Lee will be speaking at all masses this weekend about missionary work

**Lenten Talks** continue with a 'Ten Minute Talk', **every Wednesday** at 10:00 Mass:

**April 5<sup>th</sup>:**

"If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples"

**Where do we find the Word of God?**  
– Fr. Donal Neary SJ

## Mission Coffee Weekend

 The Infant Jesus Sisters are deeply grateful for your extremely generous response to their request for help for their Nigerian mission. The amount raised is **€2,000**. The Sisters will certainly use these funds to educate young people and help those with health problems. May you be blessed abundantly for your generosity.

**The Sunshine Fund, Advocate** Collection will be taken up after all masses next weekend.



## You Shall Be My Witness - Confirmation Preparation Mass

This Saturday at the 6:00pm Mass, we welcome the children who are preparing for Confirmation and their families. This is the final celebration in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Ceremony of Light symbolises the passing on of the Christian faith. As we remember the days of preparation, we thank God for all the blessings bestowed on the children during the months of preparation and we thank him for choosing these young people and offering them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## A special collection for The World Meeting of Families 2018

will take place, **this Weekend**, on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2017.

This collection will replace the *Share* Collection.



Pope Francis has personally chosen Dublin to be the host diocese for the World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018.

Planning for this great national and international celebration of faith is well underway. Hosting this important event requires an enormous amount of planning and funding. In this regard a second national collection will be held this weekend. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated. We take this opportunity to thank you for your support for last year's first national collection.

## Thought for the day

***I am the resurrection and the life.***

***Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.*** (Jn. 11:25)

Christian truth is attractive and persuasive because it responds to the profound need of human life, proclaiming convincingly that Christ is the saviour of the whole person and of all persons. This proclamation remains as valid today as it was at the day Christ raised Lazarus from the dead, as when the first great missionary expansion of the Gospel took place.

- Pope Francis

**Prayer:**

***Lord, open my eyes that I may see,  
my ears, that I may hear,  
my heart, that I may love.***

**Notice to Coeliacs:** If you have been advised to abstain from Gluten, please contact the Priest before Mass so that we can try to accommodate your requirements.