



# St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield

Fifth Sunday in Lent – A 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Webstreaming : [www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-paul-s-church](http://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-paul-s-church)

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



### Pastors Desk

In today's gospel Jesus receives the message from Mary and Martha that their brother Lazarus is ill.

Although Jerusalem is only around one kilometre from the village of Bethany Jesus is delayed getting there and by that time Lazarus has died. Hearing that he has arrived Martha goes out to meet him while Mary stays indoors. Martha tells Jesus that 'if he had been here her brother would not have died' but she knows that no matter what he asks God for, it will be granted. Jesus reassures her that he will rise again on the last day. In return Martha expresses her faith in Jesus' assurance of the resurrection of her brother Lazarus.

Mary then comes to Jesus and he is immediately moved by her tears. He asks where they have put Lazarus body and is invited to 'come and see'. When he arrives to the tomb Jesus asks for the stone covering the exit to be moved and then cries in a loud voice 'Lazarus come out'. He miraculously appears and Jesus tells others to unbind him and let him go free.

In these closing weeks of Lent, we pray that we may be able to roll away any 'stone' in our lives that is preventing us from being free and living in Gods light. We can all be bound by different chains in life, addiction to drugs, alcohol, gossip, slander, prejudice, hatred and anger etc. Jesus calls us forward, out of these tombs we often find ourselves in from time to time.

Lord, we have been raised to new life with you through baptism!

*Fr. Gerry Corcoran.*

### A Prayer for Healthcare Workers during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19

Loving God, we place into your care all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers. Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body. Keep them safe from harm. May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing to heal and help those affected by the coronavirus.

God of all consolation may they know your protection and peace.  
Bless them in these challenging days and bless their families. Amen.

### \*\*\* CORONAVIRUS MEASURES \*\*\*

DUE TO MEASURES INTRODUCED BY HEALTHCARE AUTHORITIES LIMITING ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC INDOOR GATHERINGS TO 100 PEOPLE, PUBLIC MASS IN THIS CHURCH IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

St. Paul's Church will be open for Private Prayer each weekday, Monday to Friday from 11 am to 1pm.

**Social Distancing must be adhered to by spreading out in the seating throughout the church.**

#### Mass Times

Due to the present circumstances

**MASS WILL BE TRANSMITTED VIA WEB-CAM ONLY**

Saturday 6pm Vigil & Sunday 10:30am

Weekday: Monday – Friday 10 am

#### Contact:

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## Lockdown

### A Reflection by Brother Richard Hendrick OFM Cap

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death. But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet the sky  
is no longer thick with fumes, but blue and grey and  
clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi People are  
singing to each other across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open so that those who are  
alone may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is  
offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers  
with her number through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless,  
the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and  
reflecting. All over the world people are looking at  
their neighbours in a new way. All over the world  
people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that, Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe. Listen, behind the factory noises of  
your panic The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing, Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able to touch across the  
empty square, Sing.

**Brother Richard Hendrick, 13 March 2020**

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



Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm & Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 10:30pm

**Sandra Purcell** Birthday Remembrance

**May & Matt McCarthy** Anniversary

**May Keogh** Anniversary

*May they rest in peace. Amen*

*Your prayers are requested for all the frontline workers  
who are dealing with this Covid-19 crisis,  
for Nurses, Doctors, Carers and Support Staff.*

*Pray for all who have passed away due  
to this Coronavirus and their families,  
Pray for those who are in ICU's, sick at home or in  
care, in self isolation and families and friends.  
Pray also for all the workers who are providing  
the basic necessary services*

### **Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic**

O Mary, you always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping  
your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy  
Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of  
we who are in trial, but deliver us from every  
danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



**Notice to Coeliacs:** *If you have been advised to abstain from Gluten, at communion time, there will be a ciborium placed on a small table at the side of the altar containing consecrated hosts with very low traces of gluten in them. You are invited to help yourself to receive this instead of the congregation hosts.*