



26 MARCH 2023

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

The death of Lazarus

The Gospel reading from *St. John 11:1-45*, opens with a scene of sorrow. Jesus receives the message from the sisters of Lazarus who, when confronted with the gravity of his condition, tried the only thing possible: they turned to the Lord. It is the cry of each one of us who would like their loved ones to live forever without ever leaving us.

Upon Jesus' arrival in Bethany there was a new apparently inexplicable development in the story. First Mary, then her sister Martha and behind them all the Jews who were united with them, converge on Jesus with the certainty that if there was a response to their sorrow it would come from Him. They were not irreligious people who were looking to Jesus for a solution. They profoundly accepted Israel's faith in the final resurrection and so even this event was not ultimately inexplicable. In fact Martha said to the Lord, *'I know that he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day'*.

In this last sign, worked by the Lord before His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, everything seems to flow to that new reality inaugurated by Emmanuel, God with us. Sharing our existence, Jesus had loved us with a supreme passion, with that virginal love that doesn't seek to possess the heart of the other,



but to love it in truth with delicate insistence right up to sacrificing Himself for us. In this infinite delicacy and attention to everyone, He was able to be moved by those who were linked to Him by ties of the most profound friendship who understood that it could not be anything but God's presence amongst them.

'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.' Do you believe this? She said to him, Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world. See page 2

MASS TIMES

Sunday 26 March - 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.00am

11.00am - *Baptisms*

Tuesday 28 March - 5TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am - *Bridget Christina Wright RIP*

(Foundation Mass)

Wednesday 29 March - 5TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Thursday 30 March - 5TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Friday 31 March - 5TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Adoration follows Mass at 10.30am

Saturday 1 April - 5TH WEEK OF LENT

5.00pm (Portuguese)

Sunday 2 April - PALM SUNDAY

9.00am

11.00am

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

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.

Gospel Acclamation - Jn11:25, 26

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!

Communion Antiphon

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

THE DEATH OF LAZARUS (PAGE 1) Christ then performed the great miracle of Lazarus' resurrection. He announced, through the work of the Father, that He, Himself, God made man, is the Resurrection and the Life. He is also the Lord of biological life. His voice can reach those who, like Lazarus, have exceeded the threshold of four days from their death and arrived at the point where bodily corruption commences. Faced with this sign, the words with which He foretold His Resurrection become clearer: *'I lay down my life, that I may take it again'* (Jn 10:17). how much greater is the Life that the Lord has earned for Lazarus and us in the Paschal Mystery that we are preparing to celebrate a few days from now.

It was Martha and Mary's faith, even when confronted with Lazarus' death that gave rise to the extraordinary miracle worked by Christ. This is not only a consoling story narrated in the letters of the Gospel, but it is also accessible to us today in the Church from the day of our Baptism until when we are incorporated to Him by means of the Spirit that He has given to us.

OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOOD ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

Parish Priest: Fr Leslie Adams

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Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Office (Wed 9.00am - 12.00pm)

Parish Administrator – Suzanne Quinn

General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French

Email: mail@matthewfrench.net

PARISH NEWS

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed during Holy Week and Easter Week. Non-urgent calls and emails will be responded to when Suzanne is back in the office.

VOCATIONS Are you being called to do the deeds of Christ as a priest or in the consecrated life, proclaiming the reign of the mercy of God our Father? Contact Canon John Cooke by email: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone 01329 318 869.

ORATORY DAY PILGRIMAGE - WINCHESTER THURSDAY 11 MAY. This will include a private viewing of ancient vestments and treasures not accessible to the public; a tour of the Cathedral; private tour of the 12th century Hospital of St Cross, and Mass. £26.50 (£24 OAPs) includes coach, entrance and tours. Deadline for booking: 31 March. More details are on the noticeboard. Please pay your money to Suzanne in the office.

GETTING MARRIED? Please note that you will need to give 12 months' notice (minimum). You or your partner will need to join '*Journey Into Faith*' if you are not already confirmed. You will also have to take part in a marriage preparation course. Please speak to Father Leslie.

OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN will say their first confessions today. Please keep them in your prayers.

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine, Russia and for all the world. Amen.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place every Friday at 6.30pm until Holy Week. Please join us if you can.

ROSARY This will take place every Wednesday at 9.30am and be followed by Mass at 10.00am. Join us if you can.

MAUNDY THURSDAY If anyone would like to participate in the washing of the feet, please let Suzanne in the office know.

HOLY SATURDAY If anyone would like to sign up to show an interest in some organised transport, please see the noticeboard.

DIOCESAN JOBS There are a number of jobs now available on the Diocesan website that you might like to consider. Please visit the website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more info.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

You can donate directly into the bank account:

**CDP Bournemouth
Our Lady Immaculate**

Sort code: 309304 Account: 00875075

Thank you for your continued support.

PRAYERS PLEASE

Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially:

Win Sheridan,
Germain McAulay,
Geoffrey Dixon,
Joe Bonnici and
Christopher Browne

I am the resurrection and the life

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. One day, he became ill and so the sisters sent a message to Jesus. On receiving this, Jesus said, *'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'* He stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, *'Let us go to Judaea. Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.'*

The disciples said to him, *'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.'* Jesus then said, *'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.'*

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. She said, *'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, *'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.'*

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, *'The Master is here and wants to see you.'* Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, *'Lord, if you had been*



here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, 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 and 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.'*