

Corpus Christi, Bolton
29 March 2020 - Fifth Sunday in Lent



The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way, our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds - what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1</i> <i>Sunday Missal: page 582; Preface page 593</i>	Prayers Please
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 29 March - Saturday 4 April Church Remains Closed Until Further Notice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fr Alf will celebrate a Mass in private for you all</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer For The End Of The Virus</p> <p>Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.</p>	<p>We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends. Bernard Holder, Christopher Scott, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Colin Spragg, Margaret Padfield</p> <p>Lately Dead: Margaret Russell, Eric Strong, Morris Samson, Paddy Fitzgerald, Elizabeth O'Brien, Alain Littaye, Eric Wood</p> <p>Anniversaries: James Garnet, Rita Brookes, Albert Lomax, Daniel & Veronica Evans, Canon A Dorran, Bernard Ramsden,</p> <p>Mass Intentions Margaret Russell, Eric Strong, Morris Samson, Paddy Fitzgerald, Elizabeth O'Brien & Friends, Alain Littaye, Eric Wood, James Garnet, Rita Brookes, Albert Lomax, Daniel & Veronica Evans, Canon A Dorran, Bernard Ramsden, Gladys Hall (Birthday Remembrance, Barbara Grimes (Birthday Remembrance, A Special Intention</p> <p>Let us also pray for all key workers who are on the front-line during this current pandemic. We thank them for all they are doing and ask the Lord to keep them safe.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hope In The Future</p> <p>We pray for the people of the parish of St Mary, Oswaldtwistle, and Fr Sean O'Brien, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and for Mount Carmel High School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 3 (of 6):</p> <p>We pray especially for: candidates for the sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers.</p>
<p><i>Sunday 5 April</i></p> <p><i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord</i></p> <p><i>The Start of Holy Week</i></p>	

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Church Closure and Mass: It is important to remember that whenever a priest offers Mass, he does so with and on behalf of the people, even if they are not physically present. For the time being, parishioners are invited to make a spiritual communion at home: *“My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.”*

Church Services Online: Fortunately, there are many online resources available to help you with your prayers at this time, including the daily live streaming of Holy Mass. For links go to: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/covid-19-online-resources

Our Schools: Please remember in your prayers the teachers, children and families who are still in school. We are very grateful for all they are doing to support our community at this difficult time.

Sunday Collection: As there will not be any Sunday Masses for a while, there will also not be an opportunity to take a Sunday collection. Because the Parish survives on the generosity of all our parishioners, we would invite you to set aside (if you are able) the amount you would normally give in your offertory envelopes (if you have them), and save them up until Sunday Mass resumes. If anyone wishes to change to standing order, please let us know at the parish office, and we can arrange this. *Thank you, as always, for your continued support.*


Rededication of England as Mary’s Dowry: This Sunday (29 March) each of us is called to make a personal dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to seek her help in building a strong spiritual foundation for the many challenges we face in our country today. Please make your personal dedication at home by asking the prayers of our Blessed Lady and by saying the Holy Rosary. More details about the rededication are available at: www.behold2020.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Pope Francis has made a recent statement: “I know that many of you go to confession before Easter ... many will say to me: ‘But Father I cannot leave the house and I want to make my peace with the Lord. I want Him to embrace me How can I do that unless I find a priest?’ Do what the catechism says. It is very clear. If you don’t find a priest to go to confession, speak to God. He is your Father. Tell Him the truth: ‘Lord, I did this and this and this. Pardon me.’ Ask His forgiveness with all your heart with an act of contrition, and promise Him, ‘afterward I will go to confession.’ You will return to God’s grace immediately. You yourself can draw near, as the catechism teaches us, to God’s forgiveness, without having a priest at hand.”

Marriage Matters (www.twoinoneflesh)
The Lord will lead us back together:
Ezekiel’s words apply to us when we are going through tough times in our relationship, when intimacy, physical or otherwise, seems impossible. At such times, Jesus weeps for us as He did for Lazarus. He will bring us back together if we ask Him and are willing to be vulnerable enough to explore together the changes we need to make.

Think Vocation
Martha and Mary have strong faith in the Resurrection and Jesus builds on their faith at a very difficult time for them, by raising their recently deceased brother Lazarus from the dead. Let us pray for all those who are involved in working with the bereaved within the Church. May their faith in the resurrection bringing comfort and hope to those who feel the pain of the separation that death causes.

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