



ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC PARISH OF CRONULLA

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Incorporating: Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena & St John Fisher, Kurnell
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AS A COMMUNITY WE SERVE GOD



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LEPT, YEAR A – PASSION SUNDAY

Prayer of the Church: Psalter Week 1

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.

Responsorial Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon:

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

Acknowledgement to Country

St Aloysius Catholic Parish acknowledges the Gweagal people of the Dharawal Nation as the traditional owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves in prayer and action to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

DIRECTORY

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www.facebook.com/cronullacatholic
Although the Church and Office are closed,
all Masses are livestreamed and the office is
responding to messages and calls.

Reflection from our Parish Priest

Today's Gospel is one of the great Gospel passages. The event is the miraculous return to life of Lazarus, but the message is the glorification of God and the revelation of Jesus Christ as truly God and truly man. The irony of Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life meant that the death of Jesus was certainly going to happen.

The Pharisees could tolerate a prophet who healed people or even a Rabbi who preached forgiveness. But a person who could raise the dead to life was an unacceptable threat and danger. Some Scriptural scholars argue that many of the High Priests and Jewish leaders received their positions of authority through corrupt practices and through making their opponents disappear. For a person to have the ability to bring people back to life, even people who were silenced, was a real and substantial threat to those in authority.

In the Jewish tradition, it is believed that the soul separates from the body three days after death, and once a person has been dead three days, the soul goes to its final resting place. Jesus arrives in Bethany on the 4th day – the 4th day is significant theologically. The reaction of Martha and Mary plays into this understanding. Both Martha and Mary believed that Jesus could have restored Lazarus to physical life anytime in the first three days after death, but after three days, even they thought Jesus couldn't help. Jesus says to Martha "Your brother will rise again," but Martha only thinks that Jesus is talking about the resurrection on the last day.

Mary, who only a few chapters earlier sat and conversed with Jesus for hours while Martha worked hard in the kitchen, now refuses to even leave the house to see Jesus. Mary must have felt let down by Jesus. Mary says "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." And then we have the shortest verse in all of the Scriptures: "Jesus wept." It is ok to weep at the death of friends. Jesus is not only God but is a man with human emotions.

Then Jesus as God calls for the stone to be rolled away and for Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Martha, continuing in her disbelief, reminds Jesus that it is the fourth day. What Martha is saying is that Lazarus is no longer here – his soul has gone to its resting place, and that even Jesus could not reverse the eternal rest.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is showing us that he is truly God and truly man. Jesus brings Lazarus back to life which shows that he is God. Jesus weeps at the death of a friend, which shows that he is human.

During this time of crisis across the world, let us know that Jesus feels and experiences the same isolation, pain and grief that many people are experiencing across the world. It is good to also know that Jesus as God has a plan to make all things new through the experience of death. As we approach nearer to Holy Week, let us approach with firm faith and belief that Jesus is both God and man, and that God can bring good out of the most difficult of times.

NOTICE ABOUT OFFERINGS AND COLLECTIONS

You can still contribute to the first and second collections, to Caritas and other special needs. Offerings can be dropped into the parish office drop box, made via phone or through the Parish Website via the DONATE Button. Caritas donations can be processed throughout our Parish Facebook Page or after Easter.

Mass Offerings for specific intentions are still being received and offered during this period.



First reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 ::::

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

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: Psalm 129 ::::

R. With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

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.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

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.**

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 ::::

The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.

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: John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33-45 ::::

I am the resurrection and the life.

Mary and Martha 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.**

Mass Schedule for the Next Week

All Masses are livestreamed

THE CHURCH IS CLOSED AND UNACCESSIBLE DUE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OF SERVICES

Tuesday 31 March to Saturday 4 April (8am) —

Mass is livestreamed

(Palm Sunday)

Saturday 4 April 5pm and Sunday 5 April 10am

Mass is livestreamed. Go to our website or

www.facebook.com/cronullacatholic

All Holy Week and Easter Services will be Streamed.

Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Good Friday - Service of the Lord's Passion 3pm

Easter Vigil - 7pm

Easter Sunday Masses: 8am and 10am

TAKE A SELFIE, SEND IT TO THE PARISH AND HAVE IT PLACED IN YOUR PEW AT THE CHURCH

So we can keep our parishioners in the pews as we gather online, the Parish invite parishioners to **send a photo of yourself and your family to the parish office** (email to pastoral@stalcron.org.au or drop into the Parish letterbox at 18 Giddings Ave Cronulla). This picture will then be printed and placed in the church in the various pews (as per the image attached). If you have a preference for the area you wish your photo to be placed in, where you might regularly sit, please include this information with the photo.

