

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel Ez 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am 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 re-settle 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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 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 ear 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 8:8-11

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.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 11:25, 26

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!

Gospel

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary 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 '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.



Next Weeks Readings: Palm Sunday Year A

First Reading Is 50:4-7

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

Gospel Mt 26:14-27:66

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Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Catholic Parish Toukley/Lake Munmorah
St Mary's Church 458 Main Rd Noraville
St Brendan's Mass Centre 29 Carters Rd Lake Munmorah



Vision

To be A Vibrant Eucharistic Community

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St Mary's

Principal Mr Kevin Williams 4396 5100

St Brendan's

Principal Mr Craig McNee 4358 1501

St Brigid's College

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A
29th March 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We are now living in a challenging situation with the spread of Covid -19. I personally encourage everyone to take extra care of your health and your family.

We commit all of us to God for the protection and healing. Now the decision has come to close all churches till further notice, please be strong in your faith and in God for He is always with us. We will not have Holy Mass, Light is On and Benediction until further notice. But believe that you are not abandoned in this difficult time. I ensure that all of you are in our prayers and the Private Masses we offer. Be sure of the prayers and support of your priests.

We are all invited to make our homes a domestic church. This is an ideal time go back to our traditional family prayer like the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Christ as its centre. Let us believe that any family that prays together, stays together. This is also a wonderful chance to keep the bond of our families stronger.

It has been our tradition to turn to God in prayer when difficulties arise, especially when a health emergency like Corona Pandemic affects millions around the world. We hold each other in our hearts and prayer.

Be strong in your faith and prayer.

May our Mother Mary continue to intercede for us.
God Bless you all.

With Love and Prayers

Fr.Tomy Kuruvelil

In case of emergency please contact the parish office on 4396 4455 or Fr Tomy on 0408 632 015 or Fr Baby on 0400 568 491

**ALL PARISH LITURGIES
CURRENTLY SUSPENDED**

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Saturday: Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am
9:00am

Children's Liturgy 1st & 3rd Sunday
(except school holidays)

6:00pm

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Saturday: Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Monday 7:45am
Tuesday 7:45am
Wednesday 7:45am
Thursday 7:45am (Ordinariate of Our Lady
of the Southern Cross)
Friday 9:15am (Except 1st Friday of Month)

First Friday of Month Anointing of Sick

11:00am

Saturday 7:45am

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Wednesday 9:00am

First Wednesday of Month Anointing of Sick

9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

EXPOSITION BLESSED SACRAMENT

St Mary's Church Toukley

Each Saturday – After Morning Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Mary's Toukley

Saturday 8:15am—9:00am

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

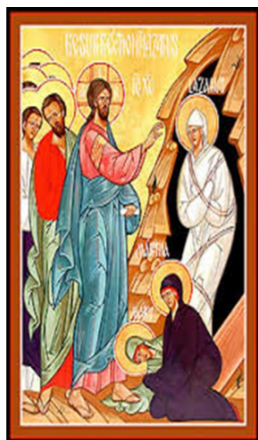
Saturday 4:30—5:00pm

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Mary's Toukley

7:25am Monday to Thursday & Saturday

8:45am Friday



"Lazarus, Come Out"

One of the simplest and most consoling hymns ever written is:
*'What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer'.*

Joseph Scriven.

In today's Gospel, we hear about the incident of the death and the raising of Lazarus. Jesus who was the friend of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, often stayed in their house whenever he was on the way to Jerusalem and received of their hospitality. By raising Lazarus from his death, Jesus not only showed His true friendship, but also showed His power over life and death.

By the time Jesus arrives at Bethany, Lazarus was already dead and buried for many days. Martha voices her regret that if Jesus had come early things would have been different. But Jesus' absence is very essential to the whole story. As explained by Jesus that through the death of Lazarus *"Son of man will be glorified"*. The death of Lazarus shows that Jesus is the life giver.

The name Lazarus means helpless. He is dead, lifeless in a tomb with a stone in front and the smell of decay inside. This is the state of Lazarus before being raised to life. Jesus wants us to step out of our tombs. When Martha told Jesus that she knows her brother will rise again at the resurrection; Jesus told her *"I am the resurrection and the life"*. When Jesus becomes the mainstay of our lives, we can experience resurrection here and now. Jesus is the Lord of life. If we believe in Him, death is something that only affects our bodies. We will still live even after our physical lives are over.

At the present times we are experiencing death culture due to the coronavirus infection and subsequent deaths all over the world. Today's Gospel reassures us, and it should help us to overcome our pain and frustration just like Martha and Mary when Lazarus died and was buried.

"Every parting gives a foretaste of death, every coming together again a foretaste of the resurrection": - A. Schopenhauer.

Fr Baby

Covid-19 Parish Update 25th March 2020

Due to the new Government regulations, all church buildings are to be closed for private prayer. The church is not closed—as we are the church and we can still pray.

The Parish office will remain open, office hours are Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Sunday Mass on TV/Internet

TV Mass 6.00 – 6.30 am on Chanel 10
Internet access <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

Holy Water can be obtained by contacting Fr Tomy on 0408 632 015 or Fr Baby on 0400 568 491.

Parish website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/toukley>

Care of the Elderly

A number of parishioners do not have access to a smartphone or the Internet. If you are aware of anyone in this situation, could you please keep in regular contact with them. I am sure they would appreciate it if you are able to contact them to see that they are coping, and if they are in need of any help.

Financial Sustainability of Our Parish

Although you are not able to attend Mass during this time, it is very important that your donation to our collections continues each week for the Financial Sustainability of our Parish

This is vital for our capacity, as a parish, to continue our Mission, during these difficult and trying times. We encourage our parishioners to donate to both the first and second collection, as well as the Charitable Works Fund Appeal, due in May, by direct debit to the parish.

We thank you for your past generosity and look forward to your continued financial support of our parish. Please contact the Parish Office to update your details.

The First Collection goes entirely for the support of our priests, including those who have retired.

The second collection is for the support of our parish, which includes all pastoral activities, as well as the ongoing day-to-day running costs eg rates, insurance and electricity etc.

Please see below options available for you to continue your financial support of our Parish.

Donation/Envelopes are to be given directly into the parish office. New planned Giving envelopes are available in the foyer of the church.

Credit card authority – Forms are available in the foyer of the church and please contact the parish office on 4396 4455.

Direct debits can be made into the Parish Commonwealth bank account for the first and second collections.

Please contact the parish office for BSB and Account numbers.

Thank you for having the patience to read this. We ask you to pass on this information to anyone but especially those without computers or smartphone access.

May Mary the Mother of God and St Brendan continue to bless you and your families and keep you safe and well at this time.

Fr Tomy

In your charity, please pray for those who have died and those who are sick.

Recently Deceased

Maureen Daniels, Clement Apiap, Frank Feliciotto, Vi Brodie, George Garvey, Felice Grasso, Fr John Barry OSA, Fr Denis Callahan, Ellen Ashton, Frederick Jurd, Eileen O'Kane, Marie Dyer, Jason Myers (Dublin), Bernard Hensley, Wesley Glabus, Veronica King.



Anniversaries

John Kennedy, Danny Kay, Ruby Prendergast, John Flanagan, Bill Tyson, Colin McIntyre, Eddie Johnston, Tony Wilson, Joseph & Stella Magri, Mary Stewart, Franceska Rose, Anselmo, Paulita, Enrico, Arturo & Pio Edwin Ambait, Pantaleon, Temotea Ambait, Elma Capacite, Romualda & Hermigilso Giba, Valmai Joseph, Dorothy Rush, Victoria Borg, Rose and Stark Families & Holy Souls.

Remembrances

Katy Ng, Olga Creighton, Colin McIntyre, Carol Brown, Scott Kay, Lisa Marie Grenot, John Thomas Matthews, Hannah McCool, Gilles Dedrouas, Lorraine Anderson

Please Pray for the Sick

Fiona Haslam, Vicky Debono, Teresa Wegrzyn, Ann Durnford Steve Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Koby Bourke, Monica Mason, John Andrews, Kathleen Wiegold, Ariane Hampton, Fr Bill Aliprandi, Linda Read, Eleanor Matthews, Andrew Kelly, Paul Covington, Fiona Gill, Koby Thomas, Evan Shepherd, Kathleen Strong, Bourke, Brian Davies, Tony Hodges, 4 year old Ethan, Faye Lund, Michael Wiggin & Vanessa Miller.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March Catholics in China



We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity

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