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Parish Website: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/wyong/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish

Parish Pastoral Council email: wyongcatholicparishppc@yahoo.com.au

PPC Secretary; Kerry Bugden ph 4388 2938

Collections (excerpt from PPC letter 20th March 2020)

It is very important that although you are not able to attend Mass at this time that your donation to our collections each week continues. The First Collection goes entirely for the support of our priests and the second collection for the support of the parish.

Listed below are the options available for you to continue these commitments.

- A. Donation/Envelopes given directly into the parish office.
- B. Credit card authority – Contact the parish office on 4388 2938.
- C. Deposit money directly into the Commonwealth bank account below:

1st Collection; SOLT

BSB 062 195

Account 10229389

2nd Collection; Wyong Catholic Parish

BSB 062 784

Account 13528001

PRAYER: Pope Francis Prayer to Mary during the COVID-19 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.**



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5th Sunday of Lent, Year A

29th March 2020

Wyong Catholic Parish

St Cecilia's Church &
St John Fisher Mass Ctr
Under the Pastoral Care
of the Society of Our

Reflection for 29th March 2020

Jesus' act of reviving Lazarus from the dead appears to have been something he undertook only with a degree of reluctance. Not only did he delay his going to see him, but spoke of his revival as a matter of 'waking one who sleeps'. Moreover, we read in the next chapter of John's Gospel that Lazarus was put to death very shortly thereafter. In effect, he gained very little by being revived, but underwent all the sufferings of physical death a second time. The miracle perhaps benefitted those who witnessed it more than poor Lazarus himself! It behoves us to accept physical death as an integral part of mortal life, something neither to be dreaded nor to be mourned excessively. Since Christ, who is Himself the Resurrection and the life, assures us of eternal happiness in the world to come, let us view physical death, not as an inexplicable tragedy, but rather as a transition from the limitations of this passing life to something unimaginably greater.

Reproduced from God's Word 2020: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield.

Message from the Parish Pastoral Council Spiritual, Mental and Physical Health.

It is imperative that at this time of the Corona Virus Lockdown we all look after our spiritual, mental and physical health as best as possible.

Our spiritual health needs will be met by prayer and the many different messages which are being conveyed to us through our parish in the Weekly Bulletin, on the Webpage or through Facebook.

Continuing mental health will be helped greatly by a positive outlook and attitude, keeping in contact with relatives and friends by phone and/or social media and asking for help as soon as it is needed, no matter how small the circumstance.

For physical health to be ensured we must adhere to all the regulations currently in place- staying at home unless an emergency necessitates you must go out, keeping the required distance if outside the home and washing hands thoroughly and regularly. As well as the messages which are being emphasised through the media, some form of physical activity is a necessity. Some suggestions for exercise include daily walking around the yard, doing some gardening and walking up and down stairs on extra occasions. Many different exercise programs are available also on the internet.

Parishioners' good health- spiritual, mental and physical- will always be a concern of our priests and other parishioners. You can always contact our priests, the parish office or parish council members if you have a need or concern.

Important Notice

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Diocese has advised that effective from Friday 20 March, in the Diocese of Broken Bay: **All public Masses are hereby suspended until further notice. Our Churches are to remain closed as well.**

Accordingly, this includes a dispensation for all the Faithful in the Diocese from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation (cc.87§1 ;1247). The Faithful are encouraged to keep the Lord's Day holy and celebrate Sunday as a domestic church by taking time to pray together as a household (c. 1248§2).

We understand that is a great concern for many of you. Please see the latest up to date correspondence on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/>

Please note: We have various resources to enable you to continue to nurture your faith in these difficult times. These are available for you near our noticeboard of St Cecilia's Church.

Another way for the Parish to keep you up to date with the current changes is through our E-Bulletins. To subscribe to this please email the Parish Office on wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au



Welcome to the 5th Sunday of Lent, where we read the story of Jesus raising his friend, Lazarus, from the dead. Mary, Martha and all those around felt hopeless at the death of Lazarus however, it all changes once they call on Jesus. Let us turn to Christ in hope and continue to call on him during these unprecedented times and know that he walks with us always.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD 5th Sunday of Lent, 29th March 2020

First Reading Ezekiel 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 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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129

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

Second Reading Romans 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.

Gospel Acclamation John 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 John 11:1-45

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, your brother will rise." Martha said, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

Resources for Catholics

Catholics are searching for content and connections to sustain and encourage faith during this time in which we find ourselves. This listing offers suggestions to assist us on the journey.

Digital and Domestic

The word 'Missa' from which is derived our word 'Mass' comes from the Latin formula for the dismissal of the congregation, Ita, missa est, literally meaning "Go, she—meaning you, the Church—has been sent"). It is related to the word 'mission'. Today, we have been sent – to take our faith out in a new and more intentional way into our homes, our communities and our world. The early Church began with house gatherings - we can continue to do the same. After all, the Church is the people of God. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in 2008 in Sydney, spoke of what it is to be Church as, "the Church, the people of God throughout the world, united in faith and love and empowered by the Spirit to bear witness to the risen Christ to the ends of the earth".

A Space at Home

Consider creating a sacred space in a central place in your home. Include a Bible, candle and Crucifix. Encourage each member of your family to add an item that is meaningful to them from their own faith journey. Keep this as a focus for your family's faith, gather around it to pray often, and make this the heart of your home in preparation to celebrate Easter.

Online Masses

Diocese of Broken Bay
Hornsby Cathedral Parish offers daily Mass on YouTube on demand.
<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/hornsby>

Mass for You at Home

Sunday Mass is live at 6am, then offered on demand.
<https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

Vatican Media Live

Pope Francis' daily Masses at Casa Santa Marta are broadcast live on this Youtube channel.
Past Masses have been recorded and can also be accessed.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJHI8bi0LWg>

The Rosary "I commend to you in a particular way the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary... As you pray the Rosary, I encourage you to ask for the grace that we need in our Church and in our world at this time. Be confident in your prayers and trust that the Mother of Our Lord will accompany you and lead you to her son, Jesus." (Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, 18 March 2020)

Let's take up this wonderful Catholic prayer in our families.

Please note: I can email or print for you a copy of the Rosary pamphlet we usually keep in the church. Please contact the office if you would like one.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In times of being unable to receive Eucharist, we come before God in prayer to express the desire in our hearts to be closely united to him.

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

Keep Us In Your Prayers
Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.

Sick: Len Miller, Victor Gibbs, Harriet Powell, Danae Roe, Peter Ford, Harry Hall, Michael Briggs, Christine Heffernan, Jennese Thompson, Martin Wicks, Leann Hazelton, Catherine Amey, Philip Dwyer, Bernadette Kiely, Ross Tollow, Steve Durnford, Ann Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Angela Watts, William Martin, Terence (Ted) Dafer.

Rec Deceased: Isidro Barrios

Anniversary: Reg Preston, Barbara G Brigoli, Jose Castanares

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