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Gospel Acclamation (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 (Jn 11:1-45) A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters 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.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied:

‘Are there not twelve hours in the day?
A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling
because he has the light of this world to see by;
but if he walks at night he stumbles,
because there is no light to guide him.’

He said that and then added, ‘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.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘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.’ Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. 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.’

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. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

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: 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.

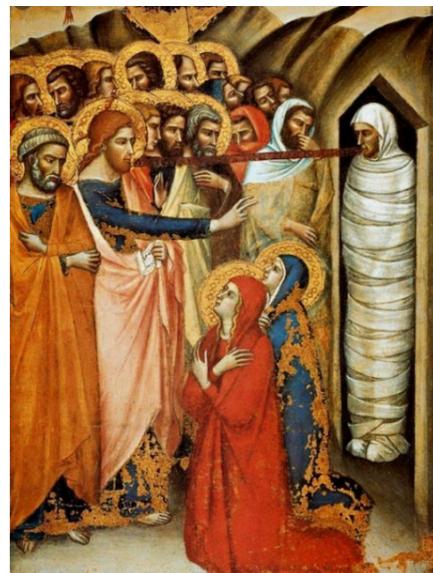
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

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

The raising of Lazarus by Luca di Tomme



ST. MONICA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Moonee Ponds

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Parish Office: **Sonya Bading, Thandi Chindove** (Monday to Friday 9 am ~ 3 pm)
Pastoral Assistant: **Abygaile Cukavac** (Tuesday and Friday)
School Principal: **Mr. Peter Moore** — School Phone No: **9375 1132**



Violet

5th Sunday of Lent

28th / 29th - March, 2020

NO MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

ALL PARISH GROUP GATHERINGS AND EVENTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

By order of the Archbishop of Melbourne, all public liturgies and celebrations of the Mass are immediately suspended. Please find updated notice on our website and parish Facebook page.

We pray for those suffering from the virus and for those whose work and livelihood have been affected. We pray for the eternal repose of those who have died and ask God’s blessing on those caring for the sick and seeking to find a cure. We seek the intercession of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Universal Church, as we pray for the protection of all our people.

*Sunday Mass will be available on our Parish Facebook page, ‘St Monica’s Catholic Church’ every week.
No account needed*

"Out of masks. Out of hand sanitizer." Signs like this began appearing on pharmacy doors in recent days. But, honestly, the shortage of these items is not what is most alarming right now. There are other shortages of a more vital nature, such as the lack of beds in intensive care units at some hospitals. This is already forcing healthcare workers to filter through the patients with COVID-19.

Living in an affluent society, we have eliminated words like *scarcity*, *shortage* and *lacking* from our vocabulary. We have forgotten that our world is finite and that the resources we have are not unlimited. We’ve forgotten that the consequences of our choices will be felt by future generations and that the world we live in is the result of decisions made by people before us, sometimes decades ago.

This is the situation for our hospitals, which are on the front line in managing the influx of coronavirus patients. There will surely be lessons to learn for the future.

Society has delegated healthcare workers to take care of the patients with limited resources. These caregivers are paying a heavy toll right now.

We can show solidarity with them by following all the recommendations for stopping the spread of the virus and by respecting confinement measures. This will cause certain inconveniences, but it will help us realize in a new way how fragile our world is.

This can also be an opportunity to discover a new way of living, As Pope Francis says in *Laudato si'*, “Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs which only diminish us, and being open to the many different possibilities which life can offer” (LS 223).

WE PRAY FOR

The elderly and the sick

**Marius Fenando; Dantina Frederico; Stella Mammone;
Gino Salva;**

RECENTLY DECEASED

*In Faith, Hope and Love, let us pray for repose of the souls of
Rosa Garro; Fr. Giuseppe Berardelli; Marie O’Donnell*

ANNIVERSARIES

We remember in prayer

Salvatore Torre (Sam); Irene and Osmond Bastian; Shirley & Malcom Baptist

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, as the traditional caretakers of the land which is the St. Monica’s Catholic Parish. We acknowledge the Elders, past & present. May we, too, be good stewards of this land.

Can prayer save us from COVID-19?

La Croix International 22/3/2020

A bishop warns against fideism and urges charity

In the Diocese of Vanne in northwest France, for instance, resistance to church closures was so strong that the local bishop, Raymond Centene, was forced to make a public statement in which he warned that 'risking one's health and that of one's neighbour' by congregating in large numbers for religious services was not an act of charity.

He also advised the people that praying for 'health without taking any precautions to prevent the spread of disease is not faith but fideism'.

The bishop's message is apt for our times because fideism (denying the power of unaided human reason) is a blind faith, which could actually worsen the outbreak. This happens when people of faith neglect to take the necessary precautions validated by science, while believing and praying that God will protect them from infection.

One must also reject the false claim of those Christian leaders who blame God for this outbreak, saying it is divine punishment for the sins of the world.

Rather than blaming God, a particular country, political party or national government, there should be a national and global effort to fight this scourge.

Faith should inspire people to see our common humanity under threat, to see in those who are suffering, a brother or sister so that we can all work together in lifting up those who are weak, comforting those who are dying and giving hope to those who are frightened.



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.

First Reading (Ez 37:12-14) A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

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 (Ps 129)

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

1. 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.)**

3. 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.)**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading (Rom 8:8-11) A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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

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Stewardship: If you would like to change from the Giving Envelopes to Direct Debit or Credit card:

Please download the forms from our website under 'Stewardship' or contact the Parish Office by email at mooneeponds@cam.org.au or by ringing 9370 5035. We appreciate your continued support in this difficult time.

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

**Caritas
AUSTRALIA**

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl living with a disability, and struggling with food insecurity and discrimination in Malawi. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.

Let's Go Further, Together.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes,
by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You have already come,
I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;
never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen



*La felicità richiede di saper
limitare alcune necessità
che ci stordiscono,
restando così disponibili
per le molteplici possibilità
che offre la vita.*
(Laudato Si' 223)



WEEKLY POCKET PRAYER

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

Lord, when I feel ashamed or humiliated,
help me to see myself the way that you see me,
and to view others with the same compassion.
Amen.

Older Children home alone

When deciding if your child is old or mature enough to stay home alone, it's useful to consider the following questions:

1. Do they feel comfortable and confident about being left alone?
2. Can they use the telephone?
3. Do they know how to keep themselves safe? For example do they know not to answer the door and not to swim in the pool?
4. Are they mature enough to handle any problems that might arise like a fire or injury?
5. Do they have any illnesses, such as asthma, that may make it unsafe for them to be alone?
6. Do they know appropriate adults in your local area who they can contact for help?
7. Do they know how to access emergency services by ringing 000?
8. How long will you be away? There is a big difference between you going to the shop for a few minutes and being gone for several hours.
9. Who else is in the house?

Child Safety Tips

