



Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson
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The Resurrection is central to the Christian faith. Yet it is probably one of the most misunderstood doctrines. What does it mean to say Jesus is risen? What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us?

In today's gospel we are presented with the story of the raising of Lazarus, which is intended to point towards our Easter celebrations of the resurrection of Jesus. It is also intended to stress the unique character of Jesus' resurrection.

The writers of the New Testament make clear that Jesus' resurrection was not like the raising of Lazarus, a resuscitation of a dead body. The gospels have several stories of Jesus resuscitating the dead: Lazarus (John 11:1-44); the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:21-43); and the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17). What makes these people's experiences fundamentally different from that of the resurrected Jesus is that all three were raised and would live on for a while; but would eventually die again.

By contrast, Jesus would never die again and his risen life would be very different from the manner or nature of life he had lived for more than three decades among his family, friends and followers. After his resurrection, Jesus could walk through walls (John 20:19). He was not immediately recognised by some of his closest disciples. He seems to have "appeared" to numerous different people in differing situations. He could walk along with disciples on the road to Emmaus and, then, simply "vanish" (Luke 24:31).

It is also true to say that, after the Resurrection, Jesus was the same person whom his disciples had known and loved. They recognised his voice. They touched him. They shared meals with him. Much of this serves the gospel writers' concern to emphasise the physical character of Jesus' appearances. Still it bears testimony to the corporeality of the disciples' experience. Jesus' resurrection was that of a human being, not just some disembodied spirit.

Of course, the resurrection of Jesus is but a portent of what God has in store for all who believe – as Jesus says in today's gospel, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26).

It is remarkable that all the early Christian texts known to us signal that the ultimate hope of the earliest Christians was the resurrection of the body.

For those first Christians and for us, Jesus' resurrection was only part one of an eschatological drama that must await a future fulfillment with the second coming of Christ, when all who believe will be raised and transformed into a new reality where there will be no suffering or death. We will live on.

The story of Lazarus points towards this future!

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Our Sick: Pat Thornton

Anniversaries In March: : Charles Boyle, Jeff Lathouwers, Michael Dodd, Matthew Delaney, Robert Maslin, Mary O'Keefe, Coleman O'Keefe, Brian Smith, Perc Roberts, Carmel O'Connor, Paul Couch, Geoff Gale, Martin Van Duynhoven, Park Conheady, Barry Risdale, Kathleen Noonan, Herman Dickmann, Albert Van Es, Rose McMeel, Maria Townsend, Frank Vogels, Riley Hutchinson, Mary Pouw, Jessie Giblett, Carmel



Bruce.

Recent Death: Greg McKenzie (Son-in-Law of Carmel Cecil, ex-Simpson)

Nell O'Sullivan (Mother of Bernadette Moloney)

"Our Parish Community wishes to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and worship Our God."

Advance Notice

Palm Sunday Mass: 9:00am 2nd April, Palm Sunday Mass celebrated in St. Andrews, Simpson.

Mass of the Oils 2023: Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall. The Mass of the Oils will take place on Monday, April 3, 2023. Can you please advise if your catechumens and candidates would be available and/or willing to participate in this Mass.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 26th March 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent Year A



First Reading [Ez 37:12-14](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

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. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 129. R. v.7](#)

(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.)*
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.)*
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.)*
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

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

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. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation [See 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 [Jn 11:1-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

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.

Lenten Program Books

Contact Katrina Currell if you wish to order a booklet From ashes to Hope. \$5 each.

Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions: The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series of six sessions begins on Wednesday, February 22 (1-3pm or 7-9pm) at Mercy Centre, 16 Gent St. Ballarat East. Then (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). For more info please send your mobile number and email to Sr. Veronica on veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au

Project Compassion Prayers of the Faithful

5th Sunday of Lent March 25/26: We give thanks for all the people who fill our lives with love. We pray for all those who do not feel loved, especially those yet to appreciate the depth of God's love. May our support for Project Compassion be a sign to others of the love of God for all people.

Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope's intention for March :- In his prayer intention for March 2023, Pope Francis prays for victims of abuse, and says the Church must serve as a model of safeguarding and must offer safe spaces for victims.

We pray for all who are suffering and bereaved. At this time of sorrow, incomprehension, and tragedy, we stand together. In this crisis, we pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them. Amen.

Lenten Prayer Group Friday 10:30 a.m. During Lent

Timboon 2023	26th March 9:00a.m Assembly W&C	2nd April Closed	9th April Easter/Vigil
Welcome	L Tregea		A McMeel
Leaders	P Nicholson C Bullen		
Statue	G Delaney		K Currell
Reader	E O' Connor		T O'Connor
POF	T O' Connor		G Vogels
E.M.H.C.	J McInerney		
Bulletin	Denny Family	G Swierczek	G Swierczek
Slides	A McMeel	A Vogels	A Vogels
Cleaners			
Simpson	Assembly W&C 9:00am	Mass 9:00am	Closed