



## **The Catholic Parish of St. Patrick's**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Chapel House: 30 Low Craigends, Kilsyth, Glasgow G65 0PF

Parish Clergy: Fr. Daniel P. Doherty & Fr. Sean Bradley

Website: [www.saintpatrickskilsyth.org.uk](http://www.saintpatrickskilsyth.org.uk) Email: [pp.stpatricks@gmail.com](mailto:pp.stpatricks@gmail.com)

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**A message from Fr Daniel** - I do hope everyone is staying safe and looking after each other, especially, keeping in touch with those self isolating. Please be reassured that Fr Sean and I, are both celebrating Mass everyday, remembering you all in a very special way. I would like to say a word of thanks to the many people who have been in touch over the past five days via text, email and telephone, checking that we, including Alessio, our seminarian, are keeping well and safe.

As we enter the fifth week of Lent, we are still strongly encouraged to persevere with our Lenten exercises. Infact, prayer and penance could not be more important at this time, especially praying and doing penances for those ill due to the coronavirus, their carers and our excellent NHS staff. On our website and the archdioceses, there are aids to assist you in your prayers: Stations of the Cross, Prayer to St Corona, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Another excellent idea a parishioner shared with me was creating a sacred space, possibly a spare room or a corner in our homes where we can go on a daily basis to pray, especially on a Sunday. It would be a good idea for all of us to read and reflect on the Sunday Readings and continue to say the Memorare. Within the next two days we plan to have on our website an activity folder titled Holy Week Day by Day. This will help our young people to continue to stay focused on this most Holy week in our Church calendar.

If you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact the parish by telephone or email. Please continue to pray for each other during these difficult and challenging times.

- **Mass intentions** - please continue to hand in your Mass intentions as normal. The priests will continue to offer these Masses and pray for them. We will also list them on the website as usual.
- **A word of thanks** to all those who kindly handed in their offertory envelope/donation last weekend. Greatly appreciated.
- **A number of people** have been in touch to request our bank details to setup standing orders, once again we appreciate people being so thoughtful and generous. If you are in a position to do this, our bank details are as follows:

**RBS, 18 Tay Walk, Cumbernauld G67 1DE**

**Name of Account:** Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh St Patrick's Church, Kilsyth

**Sort code** - 832323

**Account** - 00255000

- **Parish Draw** It has been decided to suspend the draw until things return to normal. Once we restart, we will refund all those who have continued to pay by standing order.
- **In your prayers** please remember Stephen Nash who died recently. We also remember his family at this sad time.
- **Please remember** to put your clocks forward one hour on **Saturday (28th)** evening.

## *Gospel Reflection for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 2020*

With this, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we are challenged to consider perhaps the most daunting element of our human existence ~ that of death, resurrection and eternal life. The afterlife, our existence beyond the moment of death, what happens to us when we die, have been issues that have fascinated the minds of people for centuries.

Much has been written and presented in the media concerning the afterlife with various forms of stories about people 'living' beyond death. We hear of various television programs that touch on these questions: **Glitch, The Returned, Resurrection** and the like. As fascinating as these stories are, they remain at the level of fiction and fantasy. Today's Gospel **[John 11:1-45]**, however presents us with the Christian understanding of life after death, resurrection and Jesus Christ as the source of Eternal Life and Resurrection. It prefigures his own death and his destruction of the power of death through his Resurrection on that first Easter morning.

In today's Gospel we hear of Jesus challenging Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus, regarding their faith in the Resurrection and in Jesus as the source of eternal life: **'I am the resurrection and the life, if anyone believes in me, even though they die, they will live...do you believe this?'**[John 11:25-26]. This challenge becomes more essential as Lazarus' sisters seem a little upset at the fact that Jesus took four days to answer their request to come and see their brother, who at the time was still alive, although sick.

All of us have experienced death, and in those moments when death takes one who is close and intimate in our lives. We too can challenge Jesus as Martha does in today's Gospel: **'Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died...'**[John 11:22]. The experience of the death of a loved one may leave us also experiencing the absence of God. It is then that our faith in Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life is deepened and we too, if we place our faith in him, can also exclaim with Martha: **'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God.'**[John 11:27].

Emeritus Pope Benedict again captures the importance of this Sunday's liturgy. He states that **"when the resurrection of Lazarus is proclaimed, we are faced with the ultimate mystery of our existence: 'I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?'"** (Jn 11: 25-26). For the Christian community, it is the moment to place with sincerity – together with Martha – all of our hopes in Jesus of Nazareth: **"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world"** (Jn 11: 27).

**Communion with Christ in this life prepares us to overcome the barrier of death, so that we may live eternally with him. Faith in the resurrection of the dead and hope in eternal life opens our eyes to the ultimate meaning of our existence: God created men and women for resurrection and life, and this truth gives an authentic and definitive meaning to human history, to the personal and social lives of men and women, to culture, politics and the economy. Without the light of faith, the entire universe finishes shut within a tomb devoid of any future, any hope."**

May our faith in Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life continue to be strengthened as we journey through Lent to Easter.