

Diocesan Commission for Liturgy, Vasai

(Prayer service for those who cannot attend Eucharist due to Corona Virus threat)

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 29th March 2020

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit

Hail Mary

Behold the handmaid of the Lord

Be it done unto me according to your word

Hail Mary

And the Word was made Flesh

And dwelt among us

Hail Mary

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Mercy, Lord (272)

Head of the family: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

All : Amen

Penitential Act

Head: My dear family members, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves for this prayer service:

Head: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart, Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy

Head: You came to call sinners, Christ have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy.

Head: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us, Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray: By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Reader; A Reading from the book of 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

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 129(130)

Response: 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.

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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.)

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Reader : A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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 **Jn11:25, 26**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;

whoever believes in me will never die.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel : John 11:1-45

Reader : A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All : Glory to you, O Lord.

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

All : Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: The gospel passage of today revolves around a family in Bethany whose members are the friends of Jesus. The family consists of a brother and two sisters: Lazarus, Martha and Mary. News reaches Jesus who is stationed at some distance from Bethany that Lazarus, Jesus' friend, is ill. This illness has a special purpose: it is to make the "glory of God" manifest so that the Son will be glorified. Jesus does not immediately go to Bethany but stays longer in the place where he was, and the outcome is that Lazarus dies. Jesus delays his going to Bethany by two days not because he does not care for the family, but he intends that the raising of Lazarus should bring glory to God and serve as an experience of faith for the disciples. It is almost as if Jesus is concentrating more specifically on the training of the disciples than on the needs of the two sisters of Lazarus. His mission is bound up with the bringing up of the disciples in faith.

After having prayed to the Father, Jesus cries out, "Lazarus, come out." Lazarus comes out and the episode ends with the evangelist telling us that those of the Jews who had come to console Martha and Mary believe in Jesus seeing that he has raised Lazarus from the dead.

The Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the Faithful

Head: Jesus brought Lazarus back to life when everyone around him thought that it would be impossible to bring the dead man back to life. But Jesus after having earnestly prayed to his Father commanded Lazarus to come out of the tomb and he did so. Firmly placing our trust in the risen Lord Jesus, let us now place our petitions before him saying:

Response: Lord, be our resurrection and life

1. For the Pope, the bishops, the clergy and the religious that the Holy Week which is close at hand may be a time of spiritual renewal and interior purification for all the Church, we pray... **Response**
2. That all Christians may consider the remaining days of Lent and the imminent arrival of the Holy Week as a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of Easter, we pray .. **Response**
3. For Catholics all over the world who have been observing the period of Lent as a favourable time of repentance and conversion may experience the loving presence of the Father who is ever merciful to sinners, we pray .. **Response**
4. For Catholic preachers, teachers and authors that they may expound the mysteries of the kingdom of God in a manner that is intelligible to the people so that they may become aware of every discipline concerning our belief, we pray .. **Response**
5. For all of us present in this prayer service that enlightened by the Word of God we may firmly put our trust in the Lord Jesus whose resurrection and return to his Father are the hallmarks of our faith, we pray .. **Response**

Let us pause for a while and pray for our personal intentions

Head: God, our Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ who brought Lazarus out of the tomb alive. It was such an astounding sign of his trust in you that many of those who came to console the relatives of Lazarus believed in him. Give us the grace that we too may place firmly our faith in the Lord Jesus, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us pray: Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this prayer service. Through Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Head: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All : Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Head : Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all
distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Head : Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; peace I leave to you, my peace I
give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her
peace and unity in accordance with your will, who live and reign forever and ever.

All : Amen.

Head : The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The concluding rites

Let us pray: Bless, O Lord, your people, who long for the gift of your mercy, and grant
that what, at your prompting, they desire they may receive by your generous gift.
Through Christ our Lord.

All : Amen

Head : May almighty God bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All : Amen

Head : Let us go in the peace of the Lord,

All : Amen

Hymn: God of mercy (144)

Prayer for those infected by the Corona Virus

(To be said before the recessional hymn)

Almighty and ever merciful God,
You show your love to the entire universe.

Hear our prayers as we lift up
all the people infected by Corona virus
in different parts of the world.

We beg you to touch the victims and
their families with your healing touch.

We thank you for the persistent efforts
put in by the doctors to research
an effective solution to this virus.
May you bring success to their
tireless efforts in this field

We pray for the people working
through the governmental and health
organizations that they may be guided by you to
take appropriate measures to overcome this difficult situation
and work towards the safety of the people.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.