



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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The Gospel.

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Cycle A): John tells the Lazarus story in such a way that, along with disciples and Martha and Mary, we are led to a deeper understanding of Lazarus' death.

Facing our own final test. After the struggle of initial faith (the Samaritan woman), and a faith made mature through testing (the man born blind), facing death often constitutes a unique challenge to belief. Whether the death of a loved one or one's own death, it is the moment one realizes that all depends on God. No human support goes with one to the grave; credit cards, health insurance, retirement programs, and human companionship stop at the tomb. One enters alone.

If there is no God, there is nothing; if Christ has not conquered death, there is no future. The brutality of that realization causes trembling even among those who have spent their lives professing Christ. We need to hear and embrace the bold message that Jesus proclaims in John's Gospel; *"I am the life"*. Despite all human appearances, *"Everyone who believes in me shall never die at all"*.

Support For Trócaire.

During Lent, we are joining all churches in Ireland in supporting Trócaire. Our Trócaire contribution to date amounts to €4,270.

The method of support is for each family to take a Trócaire envelope which contains a Trócaire money box. People are asked to encourage family members and friends, or even take the Trócaire boxes to your place of work, and encourage workmates to support the cause of Trócaire. As we come to the end of Lent we ask that these boxes be returned. In addition to this, we will also be happy to receive donations in the regular charity boxes at the front of the church.

CONFESSION FOR LENT.

Priests in the community have offered to be available for confession during Lent.

There will be confession on:

MONDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY

4 TO 5 pm: Confession will be heard in the room opposite the Sacristy.

The Lenten confessions for the Family of Parishes will be in the Sacred Heart Parish on **Sun March 29th at 5 pm.**

"Gratitude isn't about pretending life is perfect. It's about recognizing that even imperfect days can still hold something meaningful."



St. Joseph's SMA Parish Blackrock Roof Fundraising.

"Playing the Music you Love".

Featuring the **Cork Light Orchestra:**

Free admission. Donation on the day for the Church Roof and Ceiling Renovation.

**Sunday 19th April 2026, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm,
St Michael's Church, Blackrock.**

Easter Dues.

Around the church are Easter Dues envelopes containing our Easter card with a list of the Easter ceremonies in our church. Please take one, and at your convenience, return your Easter Dues envelopes.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday.

Once again trying to make meaning of our rituals, we urge people to bring their own palm branch to church. Many people are concerned that the palms are blessed, it is just as important that people should be able to identify with the ritual by bringing their own personal palm branch. Remember that it is fresh palm branches we use for the ritual, after the Mass we are invited to take a piece of our fresh palms home and place it in a visible location in your home, knowing that we will be asked to return it for burning next Ash Wednesday. The annual ritual of the Palm and the Ash is a lovely reminder that God is patient with us. It's good to personally reflect on how meaningful this Lenten journey was for you, perhaps next year will be better!

Supporting Cork Lions Club.

Cork Lions Club are asking people to donate any reading glasses that are no longer needed. They will recycle them for use in Third World countries. If you have glasses which you no longer need, drop them at the Parish Centre, or put them in the basket at the back of the church. **This is the last week that we make this appeal.**



*"There are times
When in order to keep ourselves
In existence at all,
We simply have to sit back for a while
And do nothing".*

- THOMAS MERTON



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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

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,

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ezekiel 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)
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,



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

22nd March 2026

The gospel of Jesus is one of hope. In raising someone from death he promises companionship, hope and eternal presence to all his people. This is the message of Christian hope.

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 Romans 8: 8 - 11

A reading from the letter of St. 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. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; who ever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL John 11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45 (Shorter Form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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 Judea'.

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. 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.' 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.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,



Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:

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 of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF EUCHARIST

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.