



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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Office hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Thu 9am-3pm on Friday

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St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1555)
St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal peoples.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A

Saturday 28 March/Sunday 29 March 2020

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 [I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live]

Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. [Psalm 129]

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11 [The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead will live in you.]

Gospel Acclamation: 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: John 11:1-45 [I am the resurrection and the life]

Lenten Reflections

On the front page of the bulletin during lent this year will be a number of guest writers.

They have been invited to reflect on the question "Where do I find Christ?"

This week's reflection is given by "a regular Mass attendee giving a "view from the pew".

I found Christ at St Patrick's!

It was 12th July 1998, when I arrived into Toowoomba on a cold gloomy morning. My first encounter was with the coach driver, who asked me "How are ya going, mate?" and I replied innocently "By bus sir" (It still puts a smile when I think about it!)

During the bus ride I looked out of the window and questions were running through my mind. **Why did my parents send me to Toowoomba? Why did they separate me from my brothers? Why did they deprive me of the carefree life I enjoyed? Why did Jesus let this happen?** I was emotionally wrapped in resentment hatred anger and frustration and disappointment. I felt that The Jesus I trusted had let me down. During this time, I was like a "lost Sheep" I lost my total trust n faith in Jesus. I was buried in my own tomb with emptiness inside me and darkness around me. I settled in slowly to university life but still carried the resentment anger and frustration and was homesick. I didn't attend mass neither did I make any attempt to find out where was the nearest church. Especially coming from a staunch catholic upbringing and never missing Sunday masses. I saw my university colleagues who never went to church and decided to join them on weekends. Slowly I was drifting away not only from my Faith and Jesus but also from my family and loved ones. I was very bitter about my coming to Toowoomba which was chosen by my parents. Most days I was like Lazarus "Dead Man" just walking around pretending to be happy. There was a "big emptiness" in me despite residing on a Catholic residential college I still did not find a sense of belonging. Something was missing in my life. What was it I kept pondering? It was the "Eucharist". I realised I had strayed away from Jesus.

Then just before Advent, a friend that lived not far from my residential college drove me to St Patrick Cathedral and for the first time entering the cathedral a I felt the reverence and God presence embrace me. I felt my bandaged wounds of hatred resentment anger and frustration slowly unwrapping. I was filled with joy and felt like I had just woken up from a deep slumber like Lazarus a sick man who was dead for 4 days and Jesus resurrected him. I was spiritually dead for 6mths.

The miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead (*John 11*) is the last miracle recorded by Jesus. Lazarus personifies the person wounded by sin who is in the process of dying unless Christ calls him to life. So too, was I dying slowly in my faith. Until I stepped into St Patrick Cathedral. This resurrection does not just prolong our life but transforms our entire being. The resurrection is spiritual. It begins when faith moves a person to give up wrong ways of living and become open to receiving God's life. I am always thankful and glorify God for this experience and the power of prayers. Despite the many trials and challenges that have come my way Jesus is always in my midst but being as human as I tend to sometimes become impatient. God sometimes allows trials and tribulations, but those are for a purpose. They are for God's Glory and our good. I have put Jesus in the centre of everything I do. I remind myself I do it for the "Glory of God" I hope and pray you will too. With God everything is impossible if you only put your Faith, Hope and Trust. He is the only mediator between God and man, has suffered for us and knows our sufferings. In today's Gospel reading we experience that we are to see ourselves in Lazarus and see the miracle of his restoration of physical life as the beginning of our entry into eternal life that begins the moment, we accept Jesus' offer of relationship with us. As we come close to Easter and like Jesus called in a loud voice, "*Lazarus, come out!*" May we too come out of our earthly tombs, renew our faith and experience our inner resurrection on Easter Sunday with The Risen Christ.

God Bless & Blessed Easter

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Clifford Pobar and those who have died from Covid 19 in Australia and beyond. *May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.*

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Fr Patrick Brady.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Fr. Don Murray, Christine [Faus] Barron, Hughie Boyce, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Jean Denison, Jo Tuite, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Rita Berry, Juanita Umipig, Maria Brown, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, George Pardon, Tina Hobson, Bev Boundy, Roslyn Pardon [nee Kearney], Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Morgan O'Brien, Teresita Pamulaklakin, and all those suffering the effects of Covid-19.



HOMILY by Richard Leonard

The plunging of an adult or an infant into the baptismal font three times is the most important moment in the ceremony and meant to be the most moving one as well. Most of us think that this action is associated with the Trinity. It is. But the more ancient association is with the three days Jesus lay in the tomb. This is one reason why the Church now encourages candidates for baptism to be fully immersed wherever practicable. The sprinkling of water over a catechumen's head just doesn't capture the drama which the ritual intends. But when we see a person take a breath, plunge under the water and come up for air three times, we can powerfully see the identification between Jesus' time in the tomb and the person rising to new life in Christ.

The season of Lent has its origins in third century Egypt where there was a commemoration of Jesus' forty days in the desert. In the fourth century these forty days are moved to their present location in the Church's calendar as the final preparation time for baptismal candidates at Easter and by the fifth century these penitential and baptismal focuses came together as one season for all believers to observe. Even the word Lent, from the old English word *Lencten* meaning Spring, alerted Christians in the northern hemisphere that this season was linked to the waking of nature after the long sleep of winter. Lent is about waking up to see that light and life have come in Christ.

Over the centuries the Church has tended to place more emphasis on penance than baptism. The Second Vatican Council, however, went back to the most ancient sources of this season, re-established the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and encouraged us to see the link between our acts of penance and our ongoing conversion to Christ expressed in the baptismal promises made for us many years before.

On this last Sunday in Lent Lazarus is given to us to help us think about the tombs in which we lie hidden and the life to which we are called. The bad spirit seduces most of us into having some form of secretive life. It might be a secret we can't tell, a sin we can't confess or a memory we want to bury. At its worst it can be a lifestyle or a pattern of unethical behaviour we have divorced from the rest of our lives. We may even con ourselves into believing that all of this is normal and 'not so bad'.

These tombs often look similar. They seem small on the surface, but as we get away with our secrets we bury ourselves in them more deeply. We jealously guard the entrance, displacing energy to defend our tombs and we're ashamed if anyone rolls away the stone and sees the mess inside.

But this Sunday Jesus stands at the entrance of our tombs and calls us out of them. We're asked to face down the bad spirits that keep us locked in secrecy, to move away from shame, embrace repentance, recognise the price to be paid for being true to what's best in ourselves and we're invited to know the light and life of Christ's healing and forgiveness.

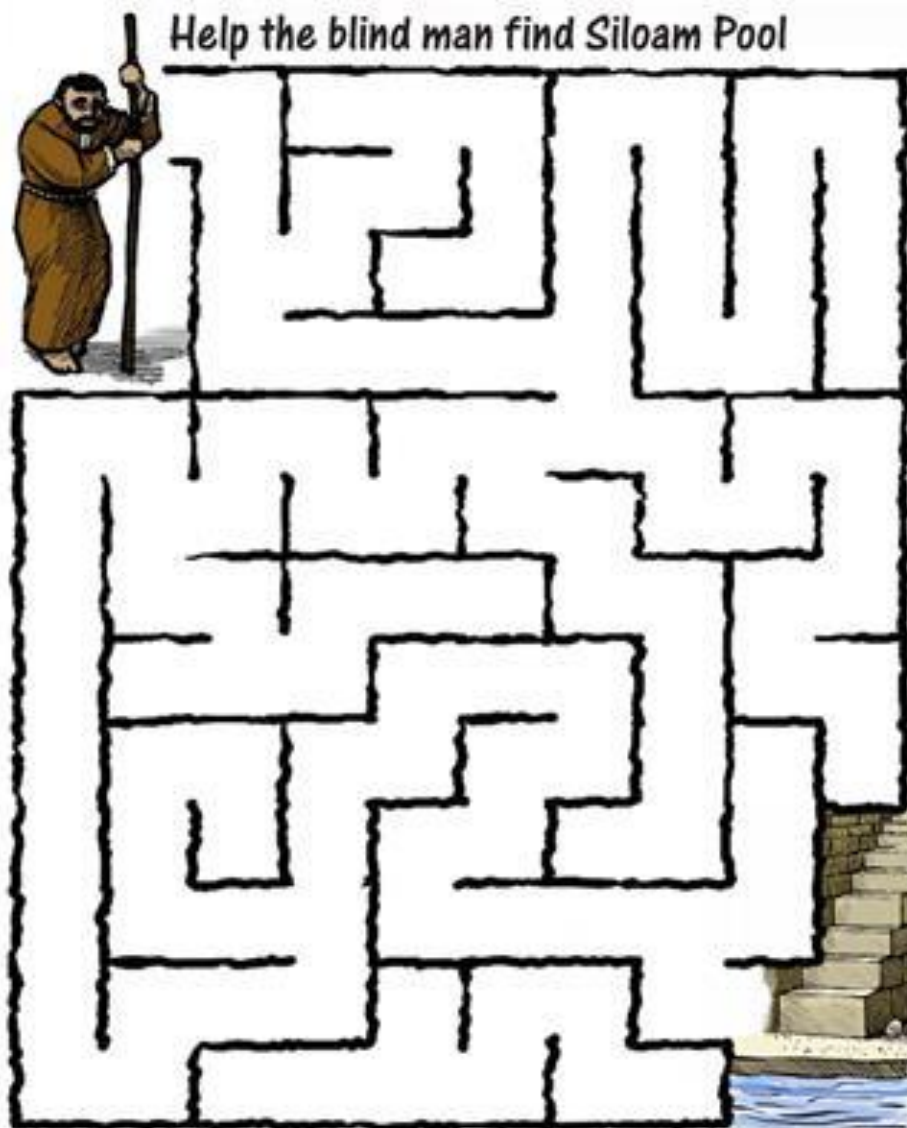
No one can pretend that this journey is easy, but it's what Lent is all about: the journey from the tomb of our own particular deaths, through penance to the new life of Easter. May this Eucharist allow us to see the Lord stand at our tomb and gently call us by name, 'Come forth'. And at His word may we be unbound and let go free.



C W A S H E L A S D L J V B
 Q Z H S X I R V I E M A F E
 W C H S Q Y B M L C O D B Y
 Z B L I N D J Y O M U D Q E
 F F D F V Z O L A Y Z U G S
 W P X A C R M T M S O N V A
 L Q G N R Z J S M D P W V S
 Y A F B G F U P O O L M V E
 T G R O U N D N Z S O U Y E
 Y Y P H S N G X Z V T J K T
 O N E J I E F L D D R X V J
 V I A J G J B E G G A R Y L
 X I M A N S C K G G U F S F

FIND THESE WORDS:

beggar
 blind
 eyes
 ground
 man
 mud
 one
 pool
 see
 Siloam
 son
 wash





Feast of the Annunciation 25 March 2020
Pastoral Letter to the Pastors in the Diocese of Toowoomba
Latest restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Last night the Prime Minister enacted Stage 2 Restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weddings will be restricted to five people – the Cleric Celebrant, the couple and two witnesses, observing the rules around social distancing of 4 square metres.

Funerals will be restricted to no more than 10 people observing the social distancing requirements.

Further to my previous notices on 4 March, 19 March and 23 March, I now advise:

Baptisms should be postponed for at least six months. If a child is in danger of death, the child should be baptised and confirmed by a Priest. If a Cleric is not available the child may be baptised by a layperson.

Churches are closed even for private prayer. If a Church is used for a funeral or wedding, pews, door knobs and obvious contact points should be sanitised afterwards.

Priests should continue to celebrate Mass on a daily basis on behalf of their people. They should ensure that parishioners can contact them in emergencies. As advised Julie See is available to be contacted regarding your own health. Do not hesitate to put your hand up for help.

The **Faithful** can keep Sunday holy by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion.

The following **Resources** are available and should be advertised to parishioners.

"Mass for You at home" is broadcast on Channel 10 each Sunday from 6am. There are several live-streaming and on-demand services for daily Mass both locally and from around the English-speaking world.

Our diocesan website, <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/>, has links to Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert and other resources from the Liturgical Commission.

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin

Bishop of Toowoomba

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