



# The Catholic Community of HOLY TRINITY PARISH BLACKBUTT NORTH



**St John the Evangelist Church**  
Dickson Street Lambton Est. 1873



**Corpus Christi Church**  
Platt Street Waratah Est. 1917



**St Therese's Church**  
Royal Street New Lambton Est. 1954

## ◆ FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT ◆ YEAR A ◆ 29 MARCH 2020 ◆

### PARISH OFFICE

**Street Address:** 58 Victoria Street  
NEW LAMBTON NSW 2305  
**Phone:** 02 4979 1365  
**Email:** triparish@mn.catholic.org.au  
**Website:** www.holytrinityparishblackbutt.com.au  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/holytrinityblackbuttnorth

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday:** 9:00AM to 3:30PM  
**Tuesday:** 9:00AM to 3:30PM  
**Thursday:** 9:00AM to 3:30PM

We recommend contacting the office via phone or email with your enquiries.

### PARISH STAFF

**Parish Administrator:** Fr Sabu Adimakiyil  
**Lambton Presbytery:** 02 4956 1953  
**Email:** sabu.adimakiyil@mn.catholic.org.au

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Camillus Nwahia  
**Shortland Presbytery:** 02 4955 9575  
0469 829 125  
**Email:** camillus.nwahia@mn.catholic.org.au

**Parish Secretaries:** Mrs Liza Ruitenbach  
Ms Justine Atkinson

### SCHOOLS

#### ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL LAMBTON

**Principal:** Ms Annie Duggan  
**Street Address:** Dickson Street LAMBTON NSW 2299  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 8 LAMBTON NSW 2299  
**Phone:** 02 4952 1423  
**Email:** admin@lambton.catholic.edu.au  
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#### CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL WARATAH

**Principal:** Ms Julie Mulhearn  
**Street Address:** Platt Street WARATAH 2298  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 63 WARATAH 2298  
**Phone / Fax:** 02 4968 3220 / 02 4968 3833  
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**Website:** www.waratah.catholic.edu.au

#### ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEW LAMBTON

**Principal:** Mr Duilio Rufo  
**Street Address:** Burke Street NEW LAMBTON 2305  
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**Website:** www.newlambton.catholic.edu.au

### NOTICES

**LiturgyHelp. Personal and Family Prayer.** For help, ideas and updates, follow us: facebook.com/LiturgyHelp In this time of crisis, we are providing Catholics with access to a range of resources for personal and family prayer. In particular, we hope that Catholics in social isolation can gain a sense of prayerful solidarity with their local faith communities and the whole Body of Christ. Feel free to print resources and give them to your friends, family and community, particularly those who do not have access to the internet.

**DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE** To access these free resources, go to: [liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess](http://liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess) or [liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray](http://liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray)

**Sharing our story - Everyone has a story.** No matter how ordinary yours may seem, we've all got a story to tell and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it.

As we enter a fallow period, we have been given the gift of time. A time to reflect on our life, a life of being faithful people. We invite you to share your story.

You could use the following questions as a guide.

- Who are the people who guided your faith journey? How did they do that?
- Describe some defining moments of your faith journey? What made them significant?
- How has your faith been reflected in your work, your hobbies, your values, your choices, and your priorities at various times in your life?
- In what ways has your faith guided and supported you over your lifetime? How has your church/faith community guided and supported you?

We hope to use the stories as part of a Diocesan Formation and Education project. Please send your story to: [shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au)

**Special Note:** Some people have asked how they can continue to financially support our Parish. If you wish to contribute via Direct Debit or Credit Card please feel free to contact the Parish Secretary on 02 4979 1365 or Catholic Development Fund on 02 4979 1160. Our grateful thanks to everyone.

**Diocesan Website** <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au>

**Register as a new user**  
Complete your details (name & email address), confirm the user agreement, and click 'Register and Login'.

**Registered already?**  
Just enter your email address and click 'Login'.



For help, ideas and updates, follow us: [facebook.com/LiturgyHelp](https://www.facebook.com/LiturgyHelp)



## 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.

## 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.

## 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 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

The sisters Martha and Mary 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.'

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, '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.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA



As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.  
© Dianne Bergant CSA

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

*Rage against Death*

This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.

But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God.

You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death.

We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be the Resurrection and the Life. © Fr Michael Tate

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school. You can donate through Parish boxes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or P 1800 024 413.

## 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. © Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

## PRAYERS

### Prayer of the Faithful

**Priest:** With the Lord there is mercy and redemption. Let us turn to God who hears our every prayer.

**Reader:** That the Church, by the power of the Spirit, will call people back to life. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Reader:** For an end to the pandemic, restored health to the sick, and for the safety of all. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Reader:** That those who grieve will be comforted by Christ who wept at the tomb of Lazarus. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Reader:** We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are denied their basic human rights. May we stand in solidarity as a global community, working courageously to promote justice and uphold the dignity of all people. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Reader:** That nations will put right their failings of the past. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Reader:** That those who are preparing for the Easter sacraments will meet Christ face to face and be set free. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Reader:** That the Spirit of God will dwell in this community as Easter draws near. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Reader:** That those who have died will rise with Christ on the last day. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Priest:** God of compassion, your Spirit calls all back to life in Christ. Hear our prayers and set us free from the darkness of sin. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### For Those Seeking A Cure For The Virus

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope.

### For Peace Of Soul

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you.  
All things are passing:  
God alone is changeless.  
Patience gains all things,  
Who has God wants nothing.  
God alone suffices.

*St Teresa of Avila*



### FEAST DAYS

5 Apr:	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
9 Apr:	Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper
10 Apr:	Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
25 Apr:	ANZAC Day
3 May:	Saints Philip and James, Apostles
14 May:	Saint Matthias, Apostle
31 May:	Pentecost Sunday

### WE REMEMBER

#### Please Pray for:

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Michael Payne, Gerard Harvey, Fred Stanwell, Sheila Bell, Robert Watson, Paul Mowbray, Maureen Ashlett, Gary Herschel, Shelley Smith.

Recently Deceased: John Buchhorn, Jozefa Crnagoj.

Anniversaries: Bishop Patrick Dwyer, Fr Edward Quinn, Fr John McEneaney, Mgr Paul Simms.

*Mass Intention Envelopes: Envelopes for intentions are available from the churches and can be placed on the collection plates. Notifications for publication need to be in to the office early Tuesday morning.*

## Know that I am God

Ez 37:12-14  
Ps 130:1-2, 5 & 7bcd  
Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 31-45

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

Try to find these words:

breath  
Ezekiel  
home  
Lazarus  
Martha  
Mary  
promise  
sea  
sick  
Spirit  
stone  
tomb