



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.

*Longer form, 11:1-45*

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### ETERNAL LIFE

In today's Gospel, Jesus leaves what is for him safe country across the Jordan to go to Judea. He puts his own life at mortal risk in order to give life to his mortally ill friend.

Strangely, of course, Jesus, on hearing the news of Lazarus' grave illness, delays a few days before acting on the sisters' message. In effect, he allows Lazarus to die. This means that he can enter into and address the grief of Martha and Mary, and of all those who subsequently mourn the death of loved ones.

Martha takes comfort in her conventional belief in the resurrection of the dead on the last day. But Jesus majestically proclaims, 'I am the resurrection and the life'. For those who believe, 'eternal life' begins now; it transcends the barrier of death.

Jesus in the end restores Lazarus to this present life. But, beyond a kindness to Lazarus and his sisters, this miracle is more importantly a sign and symbol that, in the sense mentioned above, Jesus is 'the resurrection and the life' for all believe.

What Jesus does for Lazarus in fact plays out in miniature the whole pattern of his life and mission. As incarnate Son of God, he leaves the 'safe country' of his eternal dwelling with the Father (Jn 1:1-2) to enter our world and, at the cost of his own life, give eternal life to us all. Each one of us, confronted with the prospect of death, is Lazarus, the friend for whom Jesus will give his own life. We should hear the Passion with this in mind.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

### FIRST READING

Ezek 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

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 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,

**Catholic Parishes of  
St. Andrew's Malabar & St. Agnes' Matraville**

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**SUNDAY MASSES**

**Malabar**

Vigil Sat. 5pm Sunday 9am

Weekday Masses: 9am Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat

RECONCILIATION:

Sat 4pm - 4.30pm

Also available by appointment.

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Office hours: Mon & Wed 9.30 - 4.30pm

Parish Secretary: Yvonne Larssen

**SUNDAY MASSES**

**Matraville**

Vigil Sat. 5.30pm Sunday 10am

Weekday Masses: 7.30am Tues, Wed, Fri

9am Thurs & Sat

RECONCILIATION:

Sat. immediately after 9am Mass until 9.45am

School: 9311 1995

**5th SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Jesus believes a sinner has a future not just a past.*



**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently deceased:** Mary Stuanton, Marie Doran, Betty Johnson

**Anniversary:** Nola Ward, Lourdes Escand, Concetta Farrugia, Morgan Hill, Connie Silvio, Xavier & Louise Micallef, Santiago Geremia Senior, John Francis Patino, Jenny Moy, Robert and Yolande Aquilina, Moyah Buckley, Lydia & Zuzu Buteya

**Be a Vinnies' Volunteer**

The Malabar Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society is urgently seeking new members to help with our core work of making emergency home visits. These are mainly to provide food, clothing, bedding and furniture assistance. You won't make home visits alone; you will be trained by veteran members and you will bring fresh hope to many who feel they have been forgotten. Please leave details at parish office and Vinnies member Bob Cameron will contact you.

**A DIFFICULT TIME FOR ALL Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

Due to Government regulations we have to close our churches.

Sadly, that means no Masses nor other devotions.

At present we are not allowed to leave our churches open for private prayer.

**In the mean time we can all pray in our own homes.**

As our Archbishop has encouraged us:

*Let us entrust our Archdiocese and our nation to the intercession of  
Our Lay Help of Christians, of Lourdes, and of Good Health.*

\*We have a parish website: [www.stagnesmatraville.org.au](http://www.stagnesmatraville.org.au)

(It is a very basic one for the time being, but hopefully we will improve it as time goes on.) Please keep an eye on it for any updates.

**\*You might like to watch Mass on:**

TV Channel 10 Sundays at 6am

or online <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>.

**Financial Support of the Parish**

The cost of running the parish continues even when we are unable to open our

doors. It will be a great help if those in the Planned Giving through

**Direct Debit** or the **Envelope system** continue to give generously.

This would be an **ideal time for others to join** one of the above.

All you need to do is phone the parish office:

Malabar 93112062 Matraville 93111909

Others might consider making a donation to the parish  
to help us in this difficult time.

**PROJECT COMPASSION**

Please support Caritas Australia, this season themed "Let's Go Further, Together".

You are empowering communities.

*Please let us all make an effort to minimise risk of spreading infection and during this Lent continue to deepen our Faith and concern for others.*