

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent 28/29 March 2020**

“I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; who ever believes in me will never die.”

John 11, 25. 26

## THE SEASON OF LENT

Unfortunately, the Lent course has had to be cancelled.

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

All public Masses have been suspended as of the evening of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

- ❖ Fr Patrick will video a Sunday homily for each weekend which will be available on the parish website.
- ❖ A limited newsletter will continue to appear on the website with Fr Patrick's thought and the Mass intentions. Fr Patrick will offer Mass privately each day for the intentions that have been requested.
- ❖ As we are no longer able to gather for Mass, there are many opportunities to access live-streamed Masses online if you wish to do so.
- ❖ CTS are establishing a [daily blog](#) with suggestions of resources that may help.
- ❖ A leaflet with suggestions about what to do when you can't get to Mass is available on the parish website.
- ❖ Please let the office know if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or are self-isolating so that we can keep in touch by phone.

## CONFIRMATION MASS

Reluctantly, Bishop Kenney has had to defer the Confirmation Mass that was due to happen on 1<sup>st</sup> April. A new date will be publicised as soon as it is known.

## POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH

**Catholics in China** We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

## GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission to Royal Berkshire Hospital all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to receive Communion or see a Priest.



The diocesan Privacy Policy is available at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>  
or by request from the parish office.

Our Lady & St Anne Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Charity No. 234216

**Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A – Matthew):** The extraordinary events through which we are living and the as yet uncertain impact that Covid - 19 will have on our lives invite many of us to think about death in a way that would have been unthinkable just a few weeks ago. Those of us who embarked on our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday and kept company with Jesus through the scripture readings at Sunday and weekday Mass as the penitential season moved forward know that Jesus was consciously undertaking a journey to Jerusalem which would lead to his death. And yet we saw when, in company with Peter, James and John, we were witnesses to his transfiguration that Jesus looked beyond the immediate horizon of his death to the risen life. And it is that promise of eternal life that is offered to all who believe in Jesus and in which we express our belief in the Creed every Sunday that is the *leitmotif* of today's readings. That belief in life after death, albeit in muted tones, was present in the latter days of the Old Testament. From the lips of Martha, sister of Mary (first witness of Jesus' resurrection) and Lazarus, we hear the most articulate expression of OT faith in resurrection that the pages of the NT contain. We know that, in rising from the dead, Jesus dealt death its final defeat. That promise of resurrection is our faith and hope. Moreover, we know that for us, baptised into the Lord's death, the Christian life we live is already a foretaste of the life of heaven.

**First Reading (OT): Ezekiel 37, 12 - 14:** The Israelites in exile in Babylon felt themselves to be as good as dead. And yet God wants them to live, he pulls them out of the grave, he sets the prisoners free and leads them back to their own country. This text of Ezekiel, inspired by the experience of return from Babylonian captivity, is a reference to the resurrection of the dead. The vision of the bones is as much about the re-birth of the Israelites as a people as it is about re-birth after death into resurrected life. It is about a return to a place where God's spirit breathes new life into his people. God breathed over the earth at the dawn of creation, God's spirit is breath (*ruach* Heb.) and it is life-giving.

**Second Reading (NT): Romans 8, 8 - 11:** The person who relies totally on himself in good times and bad is living according to the *flesh*. He cannot please God. But through Baptism that Spirit which woke Jesus from the sleep of death to new life inhabits all of us. Our conversion is not yet complete, we live and operate in the shadow of death, we are possessed of weakness and are still mortal. We live in hope of all that the eternal life to which, belonging to Jesus, we are heirs promises.

**Gospel: John 11, 1 - 45:** The raising of Lazarus is the seventh of the messianic "signs" John presents in his gospel. Martha, Mary and Lazarus believed in resurrection from the dead but for them it was something of the end times. What makes this gospel extract so popular at Catholic funerals is less the spectacular re-awakening of Lazarus than the remarkable profession of faith in resurrection that falls from the lips of Mary and the affirmation that it is Jesus himself who is *resurrection and life*.

## Masses and Intentions Fifth week of Lent

Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00	Paul & Angèle Doncarli
<i>Lent feria</i>			

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Year A

Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	17.30	Eilish Hiliard
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00	People of the parish
		18.30	Repose of Holy Souls
Monday	30 <sup>th</sup> March	09.15	Mrs Kath Houghton
<i>Lent feria</i>			
Tuesday	31 <sup>st</sup> March	09.15	Marion Jones RIP
<i>Lent feria</i>			
Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> April	09.15	Eilish Hiliard
<i>Lent feria</i>			
Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	08.00	Peter Lennon RIP
<i>St Francis of Paola</i>			
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	12.30	Walter Taylor RIP
<i>Lent feria</i>			
Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00	Tony Faherty RIP
<i>St Isidore</i>			

### Passion (Palm) Sunday

### Year A

Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00	Brendan O'Rourke RIP
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