



St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 13

Fifth Sunday of Lent

29 March 2020

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Office hours

8:30 am - 1:30pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

MASS TIMES:

All Masses & Reconciliation are
suspended until further notice

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest
Fr Christopher Obi
obic@bne.catholic.net.au

Children's Ministry Coordinator
Sr Analissa Balderama
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Parish Secretary
Ms Lisa Moroney
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SCHOOL:

St Thomas' School (P-6)
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Principal Mike Armstrong
APRE Paula McConnon

Fr Christopher's Gospel Reflection

This fifth Sunday of Lent, the responsorial psalm is a cry of hope: "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" [Ps. 130:1-2]. Until recently, I wasn't aware of this song, *Hello God*, by Dolly Parton, an American country singer, which, in a sense, shares the same sentiment. It is a beautiful song. It is our supplication to God from the depth of our heart now that we face a common enemy, the virus pandemic.

The story of the raising of Lazarus from death is an interesting one for two reasons. First of which is that it sheds light into one of the greatest gifts of Jesus Christ, the gift of life. Not any wishy-washy kind of life, No! Jesus gives us the grace to have abundant life fulfilled in the vocation of being human. When Lazarus fell ill and died. His two sisters hoped in patience that Jesus would set aside everything and come over immediately. Jesus came, four days later. We could feel the emotions: Martha reproached Jesus mildly for not coming over immediately and Mary's painful lament and belief despite all odds. These attitudes toward life, the "griefs and anxieties, joys and hopes" are real in this material world, especially now. All suffer together and we hope to pull through this together united with God in Christ through the Holy spirit.

The second part brings us to the very heart of Jesus' profound words, and mysterious too: *I am the Resurrection and the Life!* Who can ever interpret the full content of this statement? What kind of life does Jesus give? It is the kind that creates space and room for the salvation to become present in our world, and questions those human-made boundaries which carve in us varied hostilities. For one thing I'm sure is that, Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life because death has been conquered, and the gulf between our world and the world of God no longer exists. I know you believe as I do! We believe God even when it looks impossible that our cry from the depths of uncertainty and the unknown would be heard. Finally, the authoritative command from Jesus is heard: Come forth! And so it was.

Keep well and be assured I will continue to say mass for everyone.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

1st reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14 *I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8-11 *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.*

Gospel: John 11: 1-45 *I am the resurrection and the life.*

COVID-19 UPDATE

As you are aware, the situation continues to change rapidly. In response to the Government's latest controls, the following restrictions apply:

- All Masses - weekend and weekday - are suspended until further notice
- Our Church will be closed until further notice.
- Other celebrations such as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross are suspended.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation should not be celebrated until further notice.
- Baptisms should be postponed until further notice
- Funerals are now limited to a maximum of 10 people, which includes the celebrant, and should follow social distancing requirements

A full update can be found at <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/>. Please turn the page for ideas on Faith at Home.

We hope to stay connected with our wonderful parishioners during this difficult time and will aim to send a brief communication out each week with a gospel reflection and any other updates/resources that come to light.

Our website - camphillcatholicparish.org.au - will also be updated and we hope to offer an interactive prayer space in the near future.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Parish News & Notices

We remember in our prayers

The sick: Betty Bendel, Jim Paterson, Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Matilda Elisabeth Swain, Joan Burlew, Betty Smith, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Olive Kiely, Sue Douglas, Jim Clifford, Tom Grant and Lauren Balcombe, Fr Ted Houlihan, Lola Radford & Sonia Mendez, Fr Ron Mollison, Cletus Obi

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Beatrice Fox, Timothy Marrinan, Antonio Lunaticci, Theresa King, Antonio D'Alessandro, Daryll King, Eileen Heggie, Margaret Perry, Ross Evans, Raymond Mullen, Neil Harkiss, Mary Wheatley, George Coombes, Mark Pantarotto, James Croning, Gwendolyn Taylor, William O'Sullivan, John Graham, Jim Corbett, Vickie Robbins, Morgan Innes, Beverley McKewin, Margaret Hess, Ronald Ashton, Patricia O'Connor, Maureen Harding, William Bradbury, Ron Kelly, Ian Douglas, Herb Collie and Bob Bongiorno

We're here to help!

Our St Thomas' Friends & school community have generously donated non-perishable items and meals for our vulnerable parishioners to access. If you are need support with groceries, errands or social contact at this difficult time, or know of any vulnerable members of our parish who might need assistance, please contact the Parish Office on: **3398 1154 or stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au.**

For our sisters and brothers around the world, we pray ...

Let us pray together for doctors, hospital staff and volunteers who are giving their own lives to save others.

And for civil leaders, for those who have to make decisions at this time.

All these people are the pillars defending us in this crisis ...

The God of tenderness will heal us of all life's wounds and of all the bad things we have done.

Returning to God means returning to an embrace, the embrace of the Creator.

(Pope Francis, Homily, 20 March 2020)



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

In light of the Coronavirus, donations can no longer be accepted. St Vincent de Paul Donation Bins will be removed from our Carpark on **Friday 27th March**.

Thank you to all those who have provided many very useful items up until this time. At this stage Vinnies stores are still open for variable hours but not able to accept any donations.

Please do not leave any items in the carpark as they will not be collected.

Thank you for your understanding!

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities & support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

Let's Go Further, Together.

PROJECT COMPASSION
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Call 1800 024 413 or visit
www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion



CELEBRATE FAITH FROM HOME

Our faith will sustain us through challenging times. Here are some ways you can continue to celebrate your faith and connect with the Catholic community.

Read the Sunday readings and commentaries at home. This can be done via Liturgy Brisbane website:
<https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/sunday-readings-at-home.html/>

Read the Catholic Leader - the online edition of The Catholic Leader newspaper will be FREE to all parishioners during this time. Keep faith with the Leader at www.catholicleader.com.au.

Receive inspiration in your inbox - Sign up to receive emails including 2-minute homilies, daily readings and updates from the Archdiocese by visiting archbne.org/dwlc

Support your Parish - if you would like to continue your weekly offering which you might normally put on the plate at Mass, you are welcome to make your donation by direct debit. Please contact the Parish Office to find out how.

Reach out to your Parish - Contact us if you, or someone you know, needs support in this difficult time.

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR LENT 2020

Sun 29th March	Fifth Sunday of Lent <i>Be Opened to Believe</i> As a family, read John 11: 1-45
Mon 30th March	Drink water with your meal. Pray for those who don't have clean water.
Tues 31st March	Project Compassion asks us to pray for people of Malawi this week
Wed 1st April	Notice when someone does something kind. Praise them for it.
Thur 2nd April	St Francis of Paola Read the story of St Francis of Paola. What does God want you to do as you prepare for Easter?
Fri 3rd April	Fast from junk food
Sat 4th April	St Isidore of Seville Read the story of St Isidore. Why is he the patron saint of the internet?