Parish Directory:

Parish Priest:
Fr Mark Reynolds
Phone 9890 2510
(Our Holy Redeemer Presbytery)
Priest in Residence:
Fr Kevin Lenehan
Parish Contact:
Phone: 9857 6395
Email: greythorn@cam.org.au
news@stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au
Web: www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au
Parish Address:
48 Sweyn Street
Balwyn North 3104
Parish Secretary:
Mario Landini
Office Hours Thursday and Friday
9.00am – 3.30pm
Parish Hall Hire:
Enquiries – Parish Office 9857 6395
Sacramental Program:
Contact: Edgar D'Souza
0412 183 141
Parish Pastoral Council:
President: Ric Canale
Contact via parish office
Child Safety Co-ordinator:
Anne Credlin (Contact via Parish Office)
Refugee Action Group:
Chair: Robert Stewart
Contact via Parish Office
St Vincent De Paul Society
President: Vyn Tozer
Help Line 1800 305 330
Parish School:
Principal: Robyn Thomson
Contact : 9857 6394
NOTE: Baptisms and Weddings by appointment only. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Mass and Prayer times this week:

Please note that until further notice there are no weekday or Sunday Mass and Liturgies.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). You are encouraged to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online - (http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand or https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

If any parishioners feels the need for spiritual or pastoral guidance, please contact the presbytery on 9857 6395 or 9890 2510.

Parish Update and Information: Our parish website is updated regularly with the latest information regarding the Parish and Archdiocese, it also has links to the Archdiocese website for information regarding the Coronavirus and Church requirements. Parishioners are encouraged to visit the parish website regularly for updates on matters affecting the Church and the Parish. Our website is www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au

The Archdiocese website is (www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19)

Both websites have useful links for on-line Masses and liturgies.

Refugee Action Group. A student desk is required by one of the families, if you can assist please contact the parish office on greythorn@cam.org.au

Prayer Requests: We remember in our prayers those recently deceased, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time; may they rejoice forever in our Risen Lord. We also pray for the sick and house bound; may they come to know the healing power of God's love.

Lent 2020 - Project Compassion: Project Compassion this year asks us to consider how we can go further with our global neighbours in love and compassion. One way we can help is through the Project Compassion. Lenten donation boxes or envelopes are available in the narthex. In the absence of Sunday Mass, instructions on when and how to return the boxes and envelopes will issue shortly.

Stewardship Giving: Parishioners who contribute to the Stewardship Giving by envelope (cash), may be concerned that their giving will fall behind over the next few months when the churches are closed for liturgical celebrations. During this time you are under no obligations to make up the arrears, particularly if you are experiencing hardship or cannot get to the Church. However, if you are in a position to continue your contributions these are gratefully appreciated.

- You can drop off your envelope at the Parish Office (put it in the mail slot next to the office door); or
- You can change your method of giving to set and forget Direct Debit or Credit Card facility. Please contact the Parish Office during office hours to discuss your options.

In addition many of you generously support the Presbytery Collection on Sundays. As this is traditionally cash only, contributions will be impacted. But if you wish, you can continue to support the Presbytery Collection which provides for the parish priest, you may do so through Direct Debit or Credit Card. Please Contact the Parish Office to arrange and or discuss your options.

The Finance Committee encourages you to consider changing your method of giving to decrease the amount of cash being handled by our team of volunteer collectors, counters and bankers and reduce the possibility of spreading germs etc amongst the team.

Next Week's Readings: Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, and traditionally the readings are from the Passion of the Lord. Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but proved fickle in their support.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21;
Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11;
Gospel: Matthew 27: 11-54

Traditionally, we gather on Palm Sunday to read and contemplate the Passion of the Lord, and take home a Blessed Palm/Olive Branch. Government restrictions prevent us for doing this this year. A separate liturgy sheet and homily reflection by Fr Mark is attached for you to read and reflect on next Sunday. As far as Blessed Palms, we will advise parishioners as soon as suitable and safe arrangements are in place.

An Inspirational Prayer:
Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day.
Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace, then. Put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually:
"The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart has trusted in Him and I am helped.
He is not only with me but in me, and I in Him."
St. Francis de Sales

Our Prayer for Lent:
God of all peoples and nations, as you accompany us on our Lenten journey,
may our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity,
our almsgiving be an act of justice, and
our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.
Awaken our hearts and minds that we may be one human family as we all go further together. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

'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.

Reflection *by Fr Michael Tate*

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.*

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

St Bridget's Greythorn is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Fifth Sunday of Lent A, Year A *29 March 2020*

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

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.

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

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.

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 or longer form Jn 11:1-45

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 receiv-ing 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.' Mar-tha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resur-rection on the last day.' Jesus said: