

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat	21 Mar	5.30 pm	Deceased members of the Geelan family
Sun	22 Mar	9.30 am	Geraldine Maughan RIP, 9th anniversary
Mon	23 Mar	9.30 am	Josie Clifford RIP, 16 th anniversary
Tues	24 Mar	9.30 am	For Michael RIP, Jimmy's son
Wed	25 Mar	9.30 am	For peace in the world
Thu	26 Mar	9.30 am	James O'Riordan RIP, anniversary
Fri	27 Mar	9.30 am	Peter Kavanagh RIP
Sat	28 Mar	9.30 am	Deceased members of the Burbidge family
		5.30 pm	The recently deceased of the parish
Sun	29 Mar	9.30 am	People of the parish

PALM SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The miracle of Lazarus was of resuscitation not resurrection. He was rescued from the clutches of physical death and brought back to life. This is not the same as resurrection, which in Scripture means a person being brought back to 'new' life, eternal life!

Lazarus went through death again at some later stage. His resuscitation is a revelation of the power of Jesus over life and death, and is an intimation of the resurrection life that will be ours once the death and resurrection of Jesus himself has occurred.

A few things stand out in John's account of the raising of Lazarus. In the first place, after hearing of the sickness of Lazarus, Jesus delayed his visit by a few days – was he waiting for Lazarus to die, precisely so that he could reveal his authority, even over death?

This appears to have been Jesus' intention, and the conversation with Lazarus' sisters (Martha and Mary) would seem to confirm this. Jesus wanted to encourage them to look toward him as the source of life and resurrection.

The second thing that stands out is the profound concern and even distress of Jesus. There is mention also of a deep sigh that came straight from the heart' (v.33). On the one hand, we are seeing here the profound concern of Jesus over the state of the human race. It was through the Fall of Man, and Adam's sin, that the human race fell under the power of death. However, this does not simply mean physical death. The human race also became spiritually dead, cut off from God and held in some sort of Bondage to the Evil One. It was precisely from this condition that Jesus came into our world to deliver and redeem us.

Jesus claimed Lazarus back from the hold the enemy had over him. This was an anticipation of Jesus' own death and resurrection. By dying Jesus broke the enemy's hold over the human race, and by rising he established a new life and existence for us all

Lord, we have been raised to new life with you through baptism!

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
on Saturday 10.15-10.45 am.**

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Wed 25th March: The Annunciation of the Lord

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

For Disarmament and Peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fridays before the 9.30 am Mass. Starts at 8.45 am. To be led by parishioners.

The Experience of Grieving

And Jesus wept. JOHN 11:35

Some theologians say these three words are among the most important words on grief in the entire Gospel. Why? Because they show Jesus' total immersion in the human experience of grieving. We love. We lose the one we love. We grieve. Jesus' tears here are genuine. He is "perturbed" and "deeply troubled" by the death of his friend Lazarus (v.3) and the impact of his death on his family, friends and local community. Jesus' weeping is so real and profound the bystanders whisper in awe, "See how he loved him" (v.36).

Where is Jesus when we are grieving the loss of our loved ones – and we wonder how we can go on living without them? Jesus is with us. He knows first-hand the pain we are experiencing. And he is loving us.

As for Jesus' enemies, the raising of Lazarus is the last straw. Jesus must be stopped. Permanently. But paradoxically, it is precisely through his own death that Jesus will win for us everlasting life and reunion with our loved ones forever.

PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS

Mother's Prayers meets every Monday in church after Mass. All welcome.

On Thursdays from 2.45 pm a prayer group prays the Divine Mercy, the Rosary and prayers for peace. All are welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 24th May at St George's 9.30 am.

Classes at English Martyrs start Saturday 25th April at 10.30 am.