



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

Acknowledges the Darug and Gundungurra people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our churches are built and we pay respect to elders past, present and emerging

CLERGY

Fr. John McSweeney PP VF
Fr. Peter Lamont (AP)
Fr. Jessie Balorio (AP)
Rev. Alan Skofic (Deacon)

SUNDAY MASSES

Sat: 5pm Leura
Sat: 5pm Lawson
Sat: 6pm Mt Victoria
Sun: 8am Wentworth Falls
Sun: 8.30am Lawson
Sun: 9.30am Blackheath
Sun: 10am Katoomba
Sun: 5pm Leura

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon: 9am Katoomba
Tue: 9am Leura
Wed: 9am Blackheath
Thu: 9am Wentworth Falls
Fri: 9am Lawson
Fri: 12pm Katoomba
Fri: 4pm Megalong Valley
(3rd Fri of the month)
Sat: 9am Katoomba

CONFESSION

Fri: After 12pm Mass Katoomba
Sat: 9:30-9:50am Katoomba
Sat: 4:30-4:50pm Leura
NOTE: Confessions are always available upon request.

Weddings: Inquire @the Office

Baptisms:

2nd Sunday @ Katoomba 11:00am
4th Sunday @ OLN Lawson 10:30am
Inquiries: 47822804
Email: bluemountains@parracatholic.org

ADORATION CHAPEL

St. Canice's, Katoomba
Mon 9.30am to Fri 6pm
closed at other times.

Christian Meditation

Tuesdays-10am
@Sacred Heart



Please mute your mobile at Mass. Let's turn off the technology and turn on to God!

FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE MIST

5th Sunday of Lent Year A 22 March 2026

Reflection of the Readings

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
The Raising of Lazarus (the seventh and final Sign in the Book of Signs, the first half of John's Gospel) brings to a climax the gradual understanding of who Jesus really is.

From the first Sign when Jesus turned water into wine at Cana in Galilee to the Raising of his friend in Bethany, we are witnesses to the gradual revelation of Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Having declared the He is the Light of the World (last Sunday's Gospel Reading), Jesus now declared that He is the Resurrection and the Life.

And, as with all the Signs, they support the Words of the Lord as He teaches His disciples to understand the new Revelation from the Father that He is tasked to bring to the world.

As we move closer to Holy week it is worth us reflecting on the question: 'Who is Jesus to Me?'

Indeed, using the : "I am" sayings in the Fourth Gospel is something that can aid us in answering this important question (cf John 6:35,8:12; 10:7,9; 10:11; 11:25; and 14:6).

Let's take the necessary 'time out' from the busyness of our contemporary lives and use these Scriptural texts to help us come to the Lord, who will lead us through the difficulties that can often afflict us to the New Life that is ours as children of the Father.

God bless
Fr John

ATTENTION

CHANGE OF OUR LADY OF NATIVITY LAWSON BENEDICTION AND ADORATION

Benediction at Lawson will be on Friday the 27th of March. There will be no Benediction on Friday the 3rd of April 2026.

Deacon Alan Skofic

Parish
Churches

LAWSON: Our Lady of The Nativity, Somers St; **WENTWORTH FALLS:** St. Francis Xavier's, 3 Day St. **LEURA:** St. Bonaventure's, Railway Pde. **KATOOMBA:** St Canice's, 158 Katoomba St. **BLACKHEATH:** Sacred Heart, 165 Wentworth St. **MEGALONG VALLEY:** St Joseph's, Megalong Rd. **MOUNT VICTORIA:** St Paul, 65 Great Western Highway. * Pictures on this bulletin are taken from the website. Copyright infringement is unintended. Acknowledgment is due.

CONTACT US

Parish Office: 158 Katoomba St, Katoomba 2780.
Postal Address: PO Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780.
Phone: (02) 4782 2804.
Office Hours: 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.
After Hours Emergency Number: 0490814284.
Calls only; no texts please.

Parish email address:
upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org

Parish websites:
bluemountainscatholic.org.au
sacredheartblackheath.org.au
lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Facebook: [facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)
Lawson Facebook: [facebook.com/olncclawson](https://www.facebook.com/olncclawson)
Blackheath Facebook: [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076756208721](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076756208721)
Parish YouTube:
[youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic](https://www.youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic)

SUNDAY MASS: Live streaming of the 10am Sunday Mass at St Canice's this week. The live feed will be via our parish YouTube page as per usual.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ>



PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

If you would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill in list, please contact Catherine on 0420 337 033 to register your details or scan the QR code.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Canice's Catholic Primary School
Katoomba Street, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney.
Phone: (02) 4780 6800.
Email: stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Primary School
Somers Street, Lawson.
Principal: Mr. Matthew Bond.
Phone: (02) 4753 2200.
Email: oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS

If you or your loved ones are sick and would like a visit, please contact the parish office or Barbara Davidson (0417 490 103)

Notice for Parish Bulletin

If you wish to receive electronically or via email our parish bulletin, please email us on bluemountains@parracatholic.org
If you also want to include any items for the weeks' parish bulletin, email us on or before Wednesday afternoon

Weddings & Church Bookings

For Inquiries and Church Bookings of your choice, please call the office.

Parish Registration/Survey Card

If you are a new parishioner or visitor and if you haven't completed one of our New Parishioner Card, we encourage you to register with us and be part of our Parish Community. Our Parishioner cards are available in the foyer.

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Dec Alan

John Tweedie (Chair)
Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)
John Grant
Tom Boyd

Maylin Corros
Marilyn Rowe

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson Meeting Room Rebuild

Some years ago the meeting room at Our Lady of Nativity Lawson was severely damaged by fire. It has been unusable since then. Further, last year the Good Sams left Lawson and the Santa Maria Hall became unavailable. So members of the Lawson Church Community now have nowhere to meet, other than in the Church. Restoring the meeting room is therefore seen a priority issue for our new Upper Blue Mountains Parish. Whilst there has been an insurance payout for the damage to the meeting room and office, the funds available are now not sufficient for the rebuild. So we are calling on parishioners to assist in raising funds for this project. We are considering a parish wide fundraiser, such as a Trivia night. But in the meantime, you may wish to consider making a direct donation towards the project. We need to raise \$20,000 and some donations have already been made or committed.

All Upper Blue Mountains parishioners are asked to please consider helping our fellow parishioners in the Lawson church community. To make a donation for the rebuild by Bank transfer, please use the following Bank account details for Our Lady of Nativity Lawson. It is important that to ensure your donation is allocated to the rebuild, you include in the reference section **Donation Rebuild Meeting Room**

Account name: Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity

BSB: 067-950

Account Number: 00000164

Reference: Donation Rebuild Meeting Room

--- Fr John McSweeney PP
John Tweedie

USUAL ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS

Sat and Sun: 4:20pm, Leura.

Mon 8.30am before Mass, Katoomba.

Tue: 8.30am before mass, Leura.

Wed: 8.30am before Mass, Blackheath

Thu: 8.30am before Mass, Wentworth Falls

Fri: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.

Fri: 5.00pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.

First Fri: 7.00pm Benediction Lawson

Sat: 8:30am before Mass and Cenacle Rosary after, Katoomba.

RCIA For all enquiries regarding joining or coming back to the Church please contact Deacon Alan via the Parish office.

THE LEGION OF MARY

The Church's largest lay apostolate. We meet every FRIDAY at 6:15 pm in the old adoration chapel at Katoomba. You are most welcome to attend and see what the Legion is all about.

REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH. every 4th Sunday of the month 11:30am @ St Canice's Hall, Katoomba, until November. Come along, bring a friend, and take part in a welcoming conversation grounded in **Catholic tradition, shared faith, and community.**

Next meeting **26th April.**

ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNDAY DAWN EVENT. On **Easter Sunday, 5th April 2026.** We are inviting support from our parish communities with the following: **Musicians** with portable instruments to support the event (note there is no power at the site). Please contact Merril (Leura Uniting Church) on 0423 067 442 by the 15th March. **Donations** (financial and/or quality raffle items) to contribute towards costs of printing, and advertising and other event costs. Please contact Barbara Davidson (St Bonaventure, Leura) on 0417 490 103.

Morning Prayer of Landscapes @Blackheath.

Join us for this special spirituality session guided by Merylyn Hancock, Parramatta Diocesan Consultant on the powerful symbols in Christian spirituality– mountains are places of encounter, revelation, silence and transformation. **Sunday 19th April 2026– 11:30 am– 1:30 am, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Hall.** **RSVP on 12th April. Call Julie O'Keefe 0413119649 or Brian Bright 0401768688.**



PROPAGATION OF FAITH APPEAL. The Universal Church and Catholic Mission's appeal this year primarily focus to build a school for children in the Diocese of Chikwawa, Malawi.

This World Mission Sunday, we would like to appeal to you, help us build this school.

Tel 02 9919 7841 Email dcarson@catholicmission.org.au

PO Box 1668, North Sydney NSW 2059

Free call: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



Recently Deceased: Kevin Gordon, Maria Christina Vera de Penna, Rebecca Etccl, Stephen Mount

Deceased and Anniversary: Paul Nyssen, Bridget Collits, Stephanie Jean Murphy, Dulcie Elizabeth Nyssen, Lenna & Elizabeth, and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Maureen O'Reilly, George and Laura Boffa, Sarah-Jane Hallett, Les Hayward, Chloe Newton, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergent, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella & George Commens, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Kevin Medlin, Lan Franco Matteucci. Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennet and All Private Intentions. **NB: Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the**

permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK / SAFEGUARDING

We are asking those involved to please update or obtain a Working With Children Check and once obtained send details to the Parish Office Email: upperblue-mountains@parracatholic.org so that we may notify the Diocese. Thank you to all those who give their time and talent for the benefit of our Parish here in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding at The Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains

We are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults, in line with the "Parramatta Way."

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to... Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person; Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.





CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies 2026

ST CANICE
KATOOMBA

ST BONAVENTURE
LEURA

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
WENTWORTH FALLS

OUR LADY OF NATIVITY
LAWSON

SACRED HEART
BLACKHEATH



Mass of the
Lord's Supper

Maundy Thursday 2 April, 2026

Combined Parish Celebration @ St Canice Katoomba @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday 3 April, 2026



Stations of
the Cross

10:00 am

9:30 am

9:00 am

10:00 am

10:00 am

Lord's
Passion

3:00 pm

NONE

NONE

3:00 pm

3:00 pm



Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 4 April, 2026

7:00 pm

NONE

NONE

7:00 pm

7:00 pm

Easter Sunday 5 April, 2026



10:00 am

8:30 am

8:00 am

8:30 am

9:30 am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON



7.00 pm | 27 March 2026

254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783
- Deacon Alan Skofic

SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY
BLACKHEATH

Landscapes of Prayer

WITH MERILYN HANCOCK,
PARRAMATTA DIOCESAN CONSULTANT

*Mountains in Christian
Spirituality*

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026 11:00 AM MORNING TEA
11:30 AM- 1:30 PM

RSVP 12 APRIL '26
JULIE O'KEEFFE - 0413119649
BRIAN BRIGHT - 0401768688

Sacred Heart Catholic
Church Hall, Blackheath
167 Wentworth Street
Blackheath



WHOLE PARISH ACTIVITIES



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 20th of March at 4:00 pm. Address: 1270 Megalong Rd, Megalong Valley NSW 27



ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

Summer Vigil Masses for Sunday occurs every Saturdays at 6:00 pm. Address– 65 Great Western Highway, Mount Victoria NSW 2786.

Jesus – Christ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Sat 21st March 2026

9:30 am - 12:30 pm AEST Mary Elliot Room

Donations welcomed

Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference Centre

1315 Mulgoa Rd, Mulgoa NSW 2745 02 4773 5555

info@winbourne.org

Event description

Our next presentation, *Jesus - Christ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, will be held within the Mary Elliott Room by Brother Barry Donaghue (Christian Brother). Building on the first incarnation—the universe itself and all it reveals—the second incarnation, Jesus of Nazareth, brings God's self-disclosure into intimate human form, as 1 John 1 reminds us. His life offers a blueprint for our own. Yet we must still discern how to live that pattern within our own experience, in our cultures and present moment, using the languages, symbols, and modes of consciousness available to us today

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE LENTEN FOODBANK

APPEAL Our Sacred Heart Community has been a long time and very generous supporter of the JRS Lenten Foodbank Appeal. **These struggling families desperately need our support! Item below is being sought this week. If you would prefer to support JRS by donating a Gift Card, please check out the Gift Card Flyer or speak with David Buckley (47875105 or 0400208707).**

JRS AUSTRALIA
FOODBANK

**A SMALL GIFT MAKES
A BIG DIFFERENCE**

Supermarket Gift Cards also enable families to choose the items they need most

Email foodbank@jrs.org.au for more information

Week 5

**Dried Red
Lentils**
375g or 1kg



SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY BLACKHEATH

“Yanama Budyari Gumada– Walk with Good Spirit”

DONATIONS

Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow the link below and make your choice of option. You will be asked to show your name and mobile phone number:

https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay_CATHOLICPARISHOF-SACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH

As an alternative to following the link, please use the attach QR Code.



Blackheath Vinnies Support phone number:
0490 709 547

Sacred Heart Care Group Helping parishioners in need:
Monica Bright 0420 937 690

WEDNESDAY CUPPA'S TOGETHER IN SACRED HEART HALL! Cuppas”

has resumed on Wednesdays. Come for coffee, home made cakes and a catchup with other locals. All members of the community are welcome to come along. Time:

9:30am - 12:00pm each Wednesday. Location: Sacred Heart Church Hall - Wentworth St, Blackheath.



EASTER CAKE STALL AND PLUM JAM NOTICE. Our community is having an Easter Cake Stall as well as if anyone has a plum tree with fruit can they please contact Frances Huckstepp as she will make some plum jam.

A QUIET DAY OF REFLECTION. Parishioners and friends are invited to a Quiet Reflection Day to be held at Sacred Heart Hall, Blackheath, on Saturday May 2 from 10am-3pm. The meditation is based on Father John Main and Father Laurence Freeman's practice, both Benedictine priests. This will be a time for spiritual nourishment, growth, and renewal. BYO lunch. Morning tea provided. Entry by donation. All are welcome to this day. RSVP to Marilyn Jones: 0401637 759 or marilyn.jones5@bigpond.com for more details.





OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH LAWSON

DONATIONS: Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow. Donations can be made to Our Lady of Nativity via direct deposit to the bank account below.

Account name: Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity
BSB: 067-950 Account Number: 00000164

USED STAMPS: Thank you to those who have left their used stamps in the STAMP BOX in the church foyer. These stamps are forwarded to **MacKillop International Foundation** in North Sydney during the year contributing to their fundraising. Used stamps are worth \$\$ so definitely worth recycling for the benefit of the needy. Paula Currie

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED Calling anyone who is willing to help take care of the OLN Church grounds - mainly mowing, occasionally trimming hedges, weeding, etc We are hoping to create a roster of volunteers to keep our Church grounds tidy and presentable. All helpers welcome. Please contact **PAUL GANNON on 0409592055**

EASTER SERVICES ROSTER: So that we are prepared for each of the Easter services, you are invited to participate in whatever way you feel comfortable with. There are some very small parts, all of which can be found on the volunteer roster sheets in the Church foyer. Practice for all services will be an hour before the Celebration. Thank you for your consideration and support.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH WENTWORTH FALLS

DONATIONS: Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow the link from St Canice's Katoomba. Please follow this link.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains>

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY @ ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH Inviting those music enthusiasts and musically incline to form a choir for St Francis Xavier Church Community Mass every Sunday at 8:30 am. Please call the office or let the sacristan know. Practice will be announced as soon as we have you.



ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH LEURA

DONATIONS: Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow the link from St Canice's Katoomba. Please follow this link.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains>

MUSIC MINISTRY IN LEURA If you are able to sing at 5:00 pm Sunday Mass in St Bonaventure Church, we would like to invite you to be part of the Choir with **Sarah Nyssen (0488203267)**, or call the parish office. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR. Children who are able to come to the 8.30am Easter Sunday Mass at St Bonaventure's Church, Leura, are invited to be part of a children's choir. Please contact Colleen Bourke, 0415329048, or cbourke5@parra.catholic.edu.au

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. Devotion will start at 3:00 pm with Confessions and Benediction from 4:00pm to 4:20 pm followed by Mass at 5:00 pm.
-Pam

With Courage and Quiet Strength

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

 **Sat. 21 March**
9:00am

 **Mary MacKillop**
Spirituality Centre
33Barina DownsRd
Norwest NSW 2153

 **\$20 per person**
RSVP by 17 March

02 9634 2317

In honour of the Feast of St Joseph and the legacy of Mary MacKillop, we invite women of all walks of life to gather for a morning of reflection, nourishment and connection.

Come share breakfast, hear from Sr Virginia Bourke rsj, and rediscover the strength that flows from faith, community and courageous love.

 **REGISTER NOW**

To register:
scan QR code

or head to
<https://tinyurl.com/4pcjv9ef>



BE A PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

If you are year 12 student, a university student or a young professional, male, single and interested to become a priest involved in the Diocese of Parramatta, we invite you to journey with us.

Contact the Vocation Director
Rev Fr Galbert Albino

Galbert.Albino@parracatholic.org

(02) 477 34 321

†
ST. CANICE'S CHURCH
KATOOMBA

PARISH B. POINT: We have introduced a new and easy way of contribution for both 1st and 2nd collections. When choosing 2nd collection please note name and envelop No. Please follow this link.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains>

Our parish finances need a consistent income. If you could consider using Direct/credit card Debit, we would be grateful. There is also the opportunity to use Bpoint.

FINANCES: If you would like to contribute to the 2nd Collection for the parish: **Bank Transfer: BSB 067 950**

Account 000 00594 Name: Mary MacKillop Parish Reference: Sur-name and envelope number or Parish Donation (with or without sur-name if preferred).



If parishioners would like to contribute to the **First Collection for the clergy**

of the diocese: BSB 067 950 Account No 00004265 Account Name Diocesan Clergy Reference either the Parish Name or the parish code 6038

LENTEN GROUPS There are two groups: Afternoon 2pm and evenings 7pm **Location:** 3 Easter St, Leura **Group facilitator:** Barbara Davidson **Start date:** Thursday 12 February 2026 **Contact:** Barbara on 0417 490 103 Lenten programme participant books are available for purchase \$7 each.

SAINT THIS WEEK

Mon 23 Saint Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop
Wed 25 The Annunciation of the Lord Solemnity
NEXT SUNDAY: Palm Sunday

Launch of Fr Joe's new book: 26 March



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www.abaxkf.com.au

CATALYST for Renewal Reflection Morning

"Reading the Bible for Contemplation"

Presented by: Dr. Laurie Woods

Dr Laurie is a specialist in biblical studies having taught in that field for 30 years at Australian Catholic University.

Date: April 18, 2026.

Time and Place: 9:30am-12:30pm at Uniting Church Hall. Cnr Gt. Western Highway & Rosedale Ave, Hazelbrook

Parking: Hazelbrook Shopping Centre.

Tea/Coffee Provided: Entry by donation

Enquiries: carol.len.thankyou@icloud.com

Program also on Catalyst for Renewal website
www.catalystforrenewal.org.au

This is a discussion about reading the Bible for spiritual insight and deeper engagement.

.....are you put off by some of the ways the messages of Scripture are delivered these days?

The Bible is not about dogma and certainty. It is about the drama and poetry of relationship.

Take a dive into the poetry and imagination of the biblical texts and immerse yourself in this mystical masterpiece.

'This is the word of the Lord' – really!

You have heard it or read it...but have you felt it? Have you experienced it? How did it speak to your spiritual imagination?

Put aside what you know and call on your inner creativity and spiritual imagination to actually experience the word. Let's tap into the 'underground river,' as Eckhart puts it, of Divine Wisdom.

How does a biblical spirituality transcend creeds and boundaries?

'Creativity wakes people up, and energy flows from that.' Matthew Fox (*Meister Eckhart*).

'We must keep our own amazement, our own eagerness alive.' Abraham Joshua Heschel.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests and religious. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly and religious life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for their work of redemption.

Mother Mary, pray for your priests...

St Therese, pray for all the religious men and women,

Padre Pio, pray for your brother priests and religious,

All the Angels and Saints in Heaven, pray for holy priests of the Lord. Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause
against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

The Lord says this: I am 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

With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

SECOND READING (Romans 8:8-11)

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

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 (John 11:1-45)

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. 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.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? One can walk in the daytime without stumbling because one has the light of this world to see by; but if one walks at night one stumbles, because there is no light to guide one.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used

referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. 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 they die they 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.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, 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., and angels appeared and looked after him.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.