

**FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2020**

*Friday of the 5th Week of Lent*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in distress. Deliver me from the hands of my enemies and those who pursue me. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 20:10-13

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 17:2-7

*R. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.*

I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **R**

The waves of death rose about me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the snares of the grave entangled me; the traps of death confronted me. **R**

In my anguish I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears. **R**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL:** John 10:31-42

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the cross, so that dead to sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds we have been healed.

**SATURDAY 4 APRIL 2020**

*Saturday of the 5th Week of Lent*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

O Lord, do not stay afar off; my strength, make haste to help me! For I am a worm and no man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 37:21-28

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Jeremiah 31:10-13

*R. The Lord will guard us, like a shepherd guarding his flock.*

O nations, hear the word of the Lord, proclaim it to the far-off coasts. Say: 'He who scattered Israel will gather him and guard him as a shepherd guards his flock.' **R**

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, has saved him from an overpowering hand. They will come and shout for joy on Mount Zion, they will stream to the blessings of the Lord. **R**

Then the young girls will rejoice and will dance, the men, young and old, will be glad. I will turn their mourning into joy. I will console them, give gladness for grief. **R**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
Rid yourselves of all your sins and make a new heart and a new spirit.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**GOSPEL:** John 11:45-56

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Christ was handed over, to gather into one the scattered children of God.



THE CATHEDRAL OF  
**ST. STEPHEN**  
*Embracing Villa Maria and  
St Patrick's Fortitude Valley*

# WEEKDAY PRAYER SHEET

**30 MARCH – 4 APRIL 2020**  
**5TH WEEK OF LENT**  
**YEAR A**

*The community of the Cathedral of St. Stephen acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish stands.*

*Dear friends,*

As the worldwide fatalities from the Coronavirus climb beyond 22,000 people in just a few months, the whiff of death and the fear of sickness is everywhere we look this Sunday. As you know, all public worship has been suspended and the doors of churches are closed which heightens our sense of isolation and anxiety. We are shut-in and shut-out all at the same time. Even the Liturgy of the Word for this Fifth Sunday of Lent is fixated with graves.

Lazarus finds himself in the same predicament. Who knows what Lazarus died from but his death happened relatively quickly, over the course of a few days. Jesus' delay was no act of self-isolation or social distancing. Nor was Lazarus' death inconsequential to Jesus: he wept. Something greater than death is afoot in the person of Jesus. He is more a wise teacher or random healer; he truly is the one who reigns over life and death.

Lazarus' return is no resurrection. He finds new life but he will face death again at another time. Lazarus has the potential to be a transformed human being if Jesus' words find a home in him:

"Unbind him and let him go free". These words weren't only addressed to the by-standers; this was Jesus speaking to "death" itself. From the moment we are born, "death" has its clutches into us all. In a million ways, consciously and subconsciously, death stalks us and this knowledge of our finitude and mortality makes us fearful, rebellious and defiant. This rebellion and defiance is called sin and, at its root, is our conscious awareness of death, and this awareness makes us do strange and senseless things indeed. This fear of death is why we panic buy, why we listen to illogical and unreasoned opinions, and why we turn away from our fellow human beings in need and serve ourselves. We can also fall prey to death's greatest deceit: that we are invincible. In truth, we are vulnerable and we are acutely aware of this at this present moment. Let us allow Jesus to speak directly to "death" this Sunday on our behalf: "Unbind them and let them go free".

*Fr. Anthony*



**ALL MASSES ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED**

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**MONDAY 30 MARCH 2020***Monday of the 5th Week of Lent***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Have mercy on me, O God, for people assault me; they fight me all day long and oppress me.

**FIRST READING:**

Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 22

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord, but to turn to me and live.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL:** John 8:1-11**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

**TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2020***Tuesday of the 5th Week of Lent***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

**FIRST READING:** Numbers 21:4-9**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 101:2-3, 16-21

O Lord, listen to my prayer and let my cry for help reach you. Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Turn your ear towards me and answer me quickly when I call.

The nations shall fear the name of the Lord and all the earth's kings your glory, when the Lord shall build up Zion again and appear in all his glory. Then he will turn to the prayers of the helpless; he will not despise their prayers.

Let this be written for ages to come that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord; for the Lord leaned down from his sanctuary on high. He looked down from heaven to the earth that he might hear the groans of the prisoners and free those condemned to die.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**GOSPEL:** John 8:21-30**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to myself, says the Lord.

**WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2020***Wednesday of the 5th Week of Lent***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

My deliverer from angry nations, you set me above my assailants; you saved me from the violent man, O Lord.

**FIRST READING:**

Daniel 3:14-20, 24-25, 28

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Daniel 3:52-56

Your are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

Blest your glorious holy name.

You are blest in the temple of your glory.

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.

You are blest who gaze into the depths.

You are blest in the firmament of heaven.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL:** John 8:31-42**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

God has brought us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption through his Blood, the forgiveness of sins.

**THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2020***Thursday of the 5th Week of Lent***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Christ is mediator of a New Covenant, so that by means of his death, those who are called may receive the promise of an eternal inheritance.

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 17:3-9**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 104:4-9

Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke.

O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. He, the Lord, is our God: his judgements prevail in all the earth.

He remembers his covenants for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**GOSPEL:** John 8:51-59**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

God did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all; with him, he has given us all things.