

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

9th March 2008

THEME: John 11: 1-45

Today we hear one of the most loved stories in scripture. It begins as the story of a friendship and ends with a miracle. Let us ask God for the grace of open minds and open hearts so that we may listen to this familiar story as if we are hearing it for the first time, as if there is a message for our own lives.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Friday 14th March

St Patrick, bishop (Transferred from Holy Week)

Saturday 15th March

Joseph, Husband of Mary

AWAKENINGS

At the end of today's Gospel, Martha tells Jesus that she has come to believe that he is the Son of God. Despite being a close personal friend of Jesus, it has taken Martha a long time to make this connection. Perhaps it's also taking us a long time to understand this truth.

It may get more difficult as we age. A study undertaken last year at Washington University suggests that older adults have a harder time understanding jokes. The researchers say seniors can have trouble with creative thinking, abstract reasoning and short-term memory. Older adults who no longer "get" the punch line of a joke may have a closing window of opportunity to believe. Maybe we had all better hurry to make the connections that lead us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

In another Gospel story Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" Today's Gospel asks us to answer that question for ourselves - before it's too late.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Cameron Thompson, Joe Mullavey, Br Pat Keogh, Gerri Boldrini, Mary Egan, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Kathy Hendry, Allanah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Glica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Brenden Aldridge, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook and Luke Westaway.

Grant eternal life to:

Bruce Stanton, Ian Read, Sr Cecilia Everard (Ireland), Mary Byrne, Jocelyn Fisher, Harold Phibbs, Mollie Higgins, Pauline Blissett and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Frank Kelly, Damian Byrne and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Bert Scammell, Anthony Kell and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

NICHOLAS ESCOTT ALICE MCINTOSH
JAZMINE PEIPER CHARLOTTE MATHEWSON
ALEXANDRA RATCLIFFE

FOR YOUR DIARY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday evening during Lent at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION

We are challenged to be instruments of life; to restore wholeness and social well being to the poor and oppressed in our world. Project Compassion invites you to give generously this Lent in supporting Caritas' life-giving programs. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes which are at the back of the church.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the CWL will be held this Monday 10th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

PALM SUNDAY COMMISSIONING MASS

A commissioning of WYD08 pilgrimage and group leaders will take place at the 10.30am Palm Sunday Mass at St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga. Everybody is invited to attend. A BBQ lunch will be provided. A free bus may also be provided depending on numbers. If you are interested in coming, please indicate by adding your name to the list at the back of the church.

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Shrine of Divine Mercy at 'Marian Hills' celebrates its 10th anniversary on the Feast of Divine Mercy, Sunday 30th March with Bishop Hanna as the principal celebrant. 11.15am - confessions and rosary, 12.30pm - Mass followed by BYO lunch, 2.15pm - Eucharistic procession, 3.00pm - Chaplet and Benediction. For more information please see the brochures in the porch of the church or call (02) 6927 6438.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for Easter will continue next Saturday 15th March at 12.00noon at St Patrick's Church. All welcome. Please contact John Harrold on 6021 4079.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

* Reaction to Cross and Icon 'a huge rejuvenation'

SACRED HEART PRESBYTERY TRIVIA NIGHT

To be held on 29th March at Sacred Heart Hall at 7.00pm. BYO nibbles and drinks. Supper provided. \$10.00 per person. Proceeds to support CARITAS Australia's work in East Timor. Enquiries: Leanne Michaels 6025 5912.

REGISTER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

Please pick up a '**Step by Step Guide to Registering**' or an '**Expression of Interest**' form from the back of the Church. Registrations with the Diocese close 31st March.

BILLETING FOR WYD DAYS IN THE DIOCESE

If you are able to provide accommodation for young people coming from Europe in July 2008 for the days in the diocese, please fill in a billeting form from the back of the church. For more information on this and activities for World Youth Day see the noticeboard or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email mizmim@gmail.com

ST PATRICK'S PRAYER GROUP

St Patrick's Prayer Goup will meet on Tuesday evenings at 8.00pm. For details contact Kath: 6021 3821 or Maree: 6021 4533. All welcome.

ST PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP

First Sunday of every month after 5.30pm Mass in St Patrick's Hall. For ages 12+. Dinner provided. For more information please see the poster at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email: mizmim@gmail.com

SNIPPET

When you come to us, you come as an apostle, you come ready to share your faith with us not just to receive from the great events of the World Youth Day. (Bishop Anthony Fisher)