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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Year A

21st/22nd March 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to The Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Living life to the full.

It seems a bit strange to have this gospel on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. It seems to be clearly about the resurrection and yet we are still plodding through Lent and have to get through Good Friday before we get to Easter. What's going on; have the Church's liturgical engineers got it all wrong? Can I suggest that this text is more about death than resurrection? After all, Lazarus isn't walking around today; he had to undergo another death. This text is more about our life and death here and now rather than about the resurrection. We will have time enough to consider the resurrection when we get to Easter Sunday and the weeks of celebration afterwards.

In his Spiritual Exercises St Ignatius Loyola suggests that when reading a particular Gospel passage we should put ourselves in the place of each character in turn and use our imagination to see how we would feel in those circumstances. This can be a most revealing exercise. How about putting myself in the place of Lazarus? I am dead to everything and then I hear a voice: 'Come out, Lazarus.' There I am, lying in a tomb swathed in bandages and surrounded by darkness. If we wonder how we would feel in this situation, the answer would be different for everyone but I think many might say: Thanks Lord, but I'd prefer to stay where I am.

While attempting to put ourselves imaginatively in Lazarus's place we might become aware of how tomb-like our present way of life is, and rekindle a longing for freedom which has perhaps been buried for years. Putting ourselves into the place of a character from scripture can awake all kinds of

thoughts within us and lead us to turn to God in prayer with new words on our lips. Yet it is something so simple that we are surprised that we never thought about it ourselves. This Gospel features here in Lent to help us come to live life to the full; for often it is only in the face of death that we are shocked into this realisation. This can happen to us in all sorts of ways on the occasion of a loss or bereavement. It is amazing how often it takes overcoming a negative experience to make us realise afresh how much there is that is truly positive and makes life worth living.

Taken from Association of Catholic Priests

ST PAT'S NANANGO –Prue Clarke, APRE

This week was a joyful one at St Patrick's School as we celebrated St Patrick's Day, a special occasion for our school community. We were delighted to welcome Father Stanley for our St Patrick's Day liturgy, marking his first service with us for the year. We are very excited to have him back.

We also hosted students from St Joseph's, Murgon for our Year 5 and 6 Leadership Day, providing a valuable opportunity for our students to grow as leaders and connect with peers.

Our Harmony Day celebrations saw students wearing orange in support of inclusion and belonging, while generously donating to Project Compassion. The day concluded with our school disco and our first Parent Connect information session, strengthening our partnership with families.

It was a busy week, but a wonderful week of celebration and meaningful connection across our school community.

Blessings, Father Stanley.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 21st March	Blackbutt	5pm	Vigil
Sunday 22nd March	Kumbia	8am	Liturgy
	Nanango	8am	Mass
	Kingaroy	10am	Mass

First Reading:	Ezekiel 37:12-14
Responsorial Psalm	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Second Reading:	Romans 8:8-11
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



WEEKDAY MASS - FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Thursday 26th March	Blackbutt	9am	Liturgy
	Kumbia	5:30pm	Liturgy
Friday 27th March	Kingaroy	9am	Mass
	Nanango	12pm	Mass
	Nanango	Reconciliation (12:30)	

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Friday 27th March	Cooyar	6pm	Vigil
Saturday 28th March	Blackbutt	5pm	Liturgy
	Kumbia	6pm	Vigil
Sunday 22nd March	Nanango	8am	Mass
	Kingaroy	10am	Mass

ST MARY'S EASTER ROSTER

The Easter Roster for Volunteers is at the entrance of the church. If you can assist please add your name to the list.
All help, very much appreciated.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held at St Mary's Church Kingaroy at 8:30am and OLHC Nanango at 11:45am each Friday during Lent.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

The 2nd rite of Reconciliation will be held in St Mary's Church Kingaroy on Monday 23rd March at 6pm.

PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

If anyone would like to bring their own palm leaves for Palm Sunday they are welcome to do so, however there will be palm leaves available at the church.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sadie Grace Barron who will be baptised on 21st March 2026. Please keep parents and godparents in your prayers.

PARISH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Recently Deceased: Julie Geritz, Mark Betts.

Death Anniversaries: Keith Burow, Alex Pollock, Donald Kay, Paul Douillard, Stanley Elmer, Mick Mangan, William (Bill) Alexander Snr.

Prayers for the sick:

OLHC Parish - Amelia Cole, Greg Knaggs, Damian Wyvill, Kyle Sutherland (Perrett), Chris Stevens, Shirley Warner, Bruce McCarthy, Wendy Smith, Luke Colahan.

St Mary's Parish - Denise Mann, Liz Mamczur, Ellie Spicer, Joe Smoothy, Judy Stanton, Jo Saunders, Michael Carroll, Therese Hanley, Teresa O'Sullivan, Juliette McCorley, Bruce McCarthy, Rikie Brinkman, Bernice Mahoney, Julianne Cross.

PROJECT COMPASSION



Fifth Sunday of Lent
21-22 March 2026



Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

There will be a practice for those involved in the Sacrament of Penance on Saturday 21st March 2026 at 9:30am in St Mary's Church.

Sacrament of Penance - Sunday 22nd March 2026 in St Mary's Church after Mass.

SOUTH BURNETT ALLIANCE MEAL

The Parish will be providing the meals through the South Burnett Support Alliance on Wednesday 22 April. We are seeking a co-ordinator and need to confirm who will do this before Easter. Please let the office, Paul Veivers or Carrie know if you are able to help.

LENTEN RETREAT

A Lenten Retreat is being offered on Saturday 28 March at the Parish. The theme is "A day in the desert, with St Francis of Assisi". The day will include exploring desert spirituality, learning various contemplative prayer practices, and quiet time for prayer and reflection. Please contact Carrie Lock for more information: carrielocktd@gmail.com