



*Celebrating the Year of the Word
with The Wednesday Word.
Lectio Divina - prayerfully
preparing for the Sunday Mass.*



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 29th March 2020 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 29th March 2020 - The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end 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 learned that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. 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 he dies he 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.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They 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.

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

This is the third of the great Johannine gospel readings on the Sundays of Lent which lead up to and prepare us for the baptisms of the new members of Christ at the Easter Vigil; today's gospel grips us with the story of Jesus' gift of life to his friend Lazarus. This is not the same thing as the gift of life to us by Jesus in the resurrection, for Lazarus returns to ordinary human life, and will die again, whereas the Christian resurrection transforms us into a new way of life, giving us a life which is a participation in the divine life for ever. Rather, the resurrection of Lazarus is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs, his marvellous works which point towards and hint at this final gift of divine life. The first of the signs was the transformation of the water of the Law into the wine of the messianic wedding banquet at Cana. These signs show who Jesus really is. As well as showing the divine power of Jesus—for only God can give life—they also show the real, human love of Jesus for his friends. He is upset by Lazarus' death and weeps for him, sharing the human sorrow of his family as he shares our sorrows too.

Is death something to fear?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady & St. Robert

Robert Street, Harrogate, HG1 1HP (Diocese of Leeds) Registered Charity No: 249404

Clergy: Canon Jim Callaghan –Parish Priest

Fr. Ben Hilton -Assistant Priest

Parish Office (St. Robert's Presbytery) Staffed Monday to Friday 9.30am-4.30pm

Tel: (01423)504988 e-mail: office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

web:strobertsharrogate.co.uk St Robert's Centre (Office Staffed Monday to Friday 7-12noon)

Tel: 01423 529771 e-mail: info@strobertscentre.co.uk web: strobertscentre.co.uk



Fourth Sunday of Lent—Year A (Laetare Sunday)

Sunday 22nd March

Monday 23rd March Weekday of Lent

Tuesday 24th March Weekday of Lent

Wed 25th March The Annunciation of the Lord

Thursday 26th March Weekday of Lent

Friday 27th March Weekday of Lent

Sat 28th March Weekday of Lent

Sunday 29th March Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sat 28th March

Please pray for all the sick of the Parish.

Anniversaries at this time:

Recently deceased:

Reflection for use on Radio. Sunday 22nd March. 2020 (4th Sunday of Lent)

Canon Jim Callaghan, Dean of Harrogate.

Two weeks from now the Church throughout the world begins the celebration of Holy Week; the days in which we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), the Lord's Supper (Maundy Thursday), Jesus' Passion and Death (Good Friday) and the joy and glory of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

On an average weekend, the Catholic churches in Harrogate and Knaresborough have an attendance of about 1,300 at Sunday Mass. That number easily doubles at Easter, with our young people returning from Universities and Colleges to be with family for the Easter Celebrations, not to mention tourists and other visitors to the town.

In the past few days our Bishops, in common with all other major faith groups, heeding advice from H.M. Government, have suspended all public worship until further notice.

This temporary suspension of the public celebration of the Mass is for the Catholic community "unprecedented and disturbing" in the words of our own Bishop. Other religious believers and the wider community will share our sense of dislocation; a feeling of being displaced from where we ought to be.

In these challenging days and weeks however, we remain in communion with Christ and with each other. Our Priests will continue to celebrate the Eucharist privately each day, praying for the whole community and we would encourage all our people to unite with us spiritually.

We hold in prayer especially those who are already sick and housebound and all who care for them, those in Harrogate District Hospital and all our Doctors, Nurses and related staff who are at the fore front of the NHS. Indeed, our prayer for them is one of solidarity and thanksgiving for all that they are doing.

Our churches remain open each day as places for private prayer and reflection, though without any formal services in our churches. In our houses this Sunday we will pray for each other and for the whole nation.

- May the Lord Bless us, protect us from all harm and bring us safely home to Him.

Bishop Marcus will celebrate Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) which will be live-streamed from Leeds Cathedral at 11 am on Sunday 22.03.2020.

To participate online, please access the following new YouTube channel which, all being well, will be live from Sunday:

www.leedscathedrallive.org.uk is the direct link, which is available on the home page of our diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/> and also the Cathedral's own website and may also be accessed via a link from the Cathedral's home page: <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/cathedral>

The live-streaming of the 11 am Sunday Mass has been facilitated by the team at Diocese of Leeds Music and by videographer Matt Shears of Shears Media: special thanks to them all for their hard work and creativity!

The broadcasts will continue each week whilst the celebration of public Masses is suspended.

During this coming Sunday's Mass, Bishop Marcus will give a special Pastoral Message of encouragement and support during this difficult period, which will be available to view via the Diocesan Website shortly afterwards.

The Parish Administrator is in isolation now, as for health reasons is in a vulnerable group, so is working from home.

Canon Jim and Fr Ben do not have any administration support in the parish office.

OFFERTORY

14/15th March 2020

Loose Cash	£514.86
Gift Aided Envelopes	£472.80
Planned Giving	£ 55.00
<u>Avg weekly Standing Orders</u>	<u>£1000.96</u>
TOTAL	£2043.62

Lent Project 2020 Week 3

Total Amount received to date £2587.84

Many thanks for your Generosity

SVP are unable to collect any items from donors for the time being as a result of the Coronavirus crisis. The Clothesbank is now out of action, and will not be emptied. PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ANY ITEMS IN OR AROUND THE CONTAINER.

200 Club. The winning numbers for February 200 Draw:
1st prize 129, 2nd prize 574, 3rd prize 108 and
4th prize 63

A significant amount of cash was found in the Car Park on Ash Wednesday at 12.50pm—and not yet been claimed. Please contact Parish Office 504988 if this is yours!

The Church will be open 8.30am to 6.30pm each day for prayer. Please respect the social distancing guidelines and stay at least 2 meters apart from the next person. Wash hands before entering church please.