

Sunday 29 March 2020  
The 5th Sunday in Lent

## IS IT TO BE DEATH OR LIFE?

A REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL READING



The raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11.1-45) can help us all to make better sense of both our current Covid 19 situation and the precarious situation of our Parish. We should try to think imaginatively as we read the story from St John's Gospel.

In this story we see both the humanity of Jesus and his divinity ... Jesus weeps in a human way over the death of Lazarus his friend and the grief of Lazarus's family and friends but shortly he calls on the power of God to call Lazarus from his grave and restore him to life. Jesus acts in a divine way. In another sense Jesus calls us from the death of despondency and despair about our Parish into hope and strength. 'Is there something we can do?' we begin to wonder?

The story also teaches us about death. For people of faith death holds little or no fear. To those with no faith death leads to corruption and decay then nothing. To those of us in between faith and no faith; but to those of us with faith the words of Jesus can ring in our ears: "Whoever believes in me shall live."

We are called to be positive about our situation in Australia and the Parish - to leave despair and negativity behind us. Can we? In Australia we are being asked or told to make sacrifices and do without many of our supports in life in the interests of the common good. In the Parish we are being asked to live frugally and to allow the Diocese a greater say in our business, in the interests of eventual self-sufficiency. It is not easy.

Please pray for the Parish Council and the churchwardens as they try to steer the Parish through very stormy seas. Pray, too for Australia's leaders as they try to lead our nation through Covid 19.

Fr Graeme Kaines  
Locum Priest

27 March 2020

### Music for Reflection:

*The Resurrection of Lazarus* by Joshua D. Carney (b.1985)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIzeiAXBq0g>