



## Sacred Heart Parish (Canonically Erected 1868) Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

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Holy Trinity School Ph 6722 4066

Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A - 22 MARCH 2026



“It is not the Human Nature that raises up Lazarus, nor is it the power that cannot suffer that weeps for him when he lies in the grave: the tear proceeds from the Man, the life from the true Life.”

- St Gregory of Nyssa

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for You, O God, are my strength.

**First Reading** Ezekiel 37:12-14

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, My people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, My people. And I shall put My spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord Who speaks.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 129

**R: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

2. If You, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with You is found forgiveness: for this we revere You.

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on His word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.)

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed He will redeem from all its iniquity.

**Second Reading** Romans 8:8-11

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made His home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to Him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then He Who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through His Spirit living in you.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** John 11:25, 26

**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 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 (*Longer form 11:1-45*)

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

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 end not 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 heard 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.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon:** Everyone who lives and believes in Me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible**

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Mon, 23 March & Thurs, 26 March - 8am to 1pm

Tues, 24 March - 8am to 12pm

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**We pray for:** Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time, especially John Damien Gaukroger and Robert Mason; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

### the Recently Deceased:

**the sick:** Bernice Murray, Jennifer Wheeler, Christina O'Brien, Chris Perceval, Julie Daley, Christopher Pay, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish. **Please contact the Parish Office to add/remove names to/from the Sick List and if you know a sick parishioner who would appreciate a visit from the priest.**

## LITURGY THIS WEEK

Mon 23rd: No Mass — Church open 8am to 1pm  
Tues 24th: 8.30am Rosary, 9.00am Holy Mass, Confessions at HTS: 11am Yr 5, 11.40am Yr 10  
Wed 25th: 4.30pm Rosary, 5pm Holy Mass, 5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Thurs 26th: 10am McLean Mass, 11.30am Rosary, 12 Noon Holy Mass, 12.30pm Holy Hour, 12.45pm-1.30pm Confession  
Fri 27th: 9.30am HTS Yr 2M Liturgy at SH, 4pm Holy Hour, 4.30pm Confession, 5pm Stations of the Cross, 5.30pm Holy Mass  
Sat 28th: 3.30pm Holy Mass - Tingha  
5.15pm-5.45pm Confession, 5.30pm Rosary, 6pm Holy Mass - **Kindly bring fresh palms to be blessed during the Mass**  
Sun 29th: 8am Confession, 8.30am Rosary, 9am Holy Mass - **Kindly bring fresh palms to be blessed during the Mass**

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

### 1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

### 2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

## PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

**Men's Breakfast:** Wed 8 April 2026, 8.30am The Haven Café, 140 Byron Street (across the alley from the Telstra shop)

**Sunday Morning Tea:** Sun 12 April 2026, after Mass

**Liturgy Committee:** Sat TBA 2026, 9.00am

**Finance Committee:** Wed TBA 2026, 4.00pm

**Pastoral Council:** Wed TBA 2026, 5.00pm

**Altar Society Roster For March:** Holy Trinity Team

**Reflection:** This Sunday's reflection may be read on the parish website (Resources>Parish News) or on the parish Facebook page on Sunday morning.

### Choir Practice for Holy Week and Easter

This week choir practice will be at 5.30pm on **Tuesday 24 March** in the Church. All are welcome to join.



### Palms for Palm Sunday

We are in need of palm branches for Palm Sunday. Branches up to 2ft in length are preferred, such as the one in the picture. Could you deliver the branches to the church by **Fri 27 March**.

### Safeguarding Workshop—Tuesday 24 March

The second safeguarding workshop will be held this coming Tuesday. There will be Holy Mass at 9am followed by morning tea with the workshop to commence afterwards and to conclude at approx. 12 Noon. All parishioners involved in any ministry role are required to attend if they have not previously attended the workshop on 15 March.

### Annunciation of the Lord - 25 March

The Annunciation of the Lord is the great moment in history when Almighty God became man. There will be Rosary at 4.30pm followed by Holy Mass at 5.00pm and the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 5.30pm. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Holy Mass on this important Solemnity.

### Volunteers for Washing of the Feet

On Holy Thursday we will commemorate the Lord's Last Supper with Holy Mass at 6pm. As part of this liturgy, we will celebrate the Washing of the Feet, following the example of Jesus Who humbled Himself in service to His disciples. This ritual reminds us of our call to love and serve one another with humility and compassion. Parishioners are invited to take part by volunteering to have their feet washed. We currently have two volunteers and need ten more. The sign-up form is at the main entrance of the Church.

### Ministry Volunteers for Palm Sunday and Holy Week

There are still many spots to be filled for our Masses, particularly readers. If you can help please add your name to the sign-up form at the main entrance of the Church.

### Church Cleaning for Easter

Join us on Saturday 4 April at 9am to help prepare our church for Easter. Please bring your own cleaning supplies (e.g. rags, wipes, duster). Let's make our parish shine for the Resurrection!

### PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Everyone is invited to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on Wednesday 25 March at 5.30pm. There will be three priests available for individual confession. Let us receive this sacrament to prepare for the Holy Week.

### Sunday Missal (Red Missal) for Sunday Mass:

\* Proper of Mass, Pg 214

\* Preface of the Fifth Sunday of Lent Pg 34

\* Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Pg 61 or No. 3 Pg 72

### Weekday Missal (Blue Missal) for Weekday Masses: