

# Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 29th March 2020

5th Sunday of Lent (A) Psalter Week 1

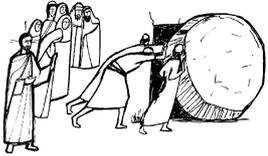
The Parish of the Holy Trinity,  
Stroud Green



with  
Holy Innocents, Hornsey

*Seeking to know and serve God and our local community*

## Called to Trust



It might feel odd to have a gospel reading about the raising of Lazarus two Sundays before Easter, and especially at a time when many people are anxious about the coronavirus emergency. This story is of course linked to the resurrection but, very appropriately, it is more about our mortal condition here and now.

In his Spiritual Exercises, the great Spanish saint Ignatius of Loyola suggests that for each Gospel story we should try to put ourselves in the place of each character in turn and imagine how we would feel in those circumstances. Imagining ourselves in the place of a Gospel character can bring us fresh insights which can be enlightening and challenging.

Putting ourselves in Lazarus's place can show up imperfections in our lifestyle, our mortality, and make us long for a new spiritual freedom. This story features here in Lent to help us live life to the full. A loss or bereavement shows what makes life worth living. Perhaps even the oppressive nearness of the coronavirus has made us re-assess our priorities, and is an opportunity to renew our trust in divine providence.

Human beings have an insatiable will to live. Like the two sisters of Lazarus, we also wonder why life isn't happier, longer, more secure, more fulfilled? Most of the time we opt to just forget that question and "get on with living." However, as Christians we are called to trust in the goodness of God, demonstrated in the life and words of Jesus. He is the Lord whom we love, and whom we trust with our very lives. He once explained his life's work in these words: "I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10)

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### Fr. Patrick writes.....

Despite having to close the church building for public worship there are a number of recently produced resources we can use for prayer. It may well be you have your own favourite and well-tried books of prayers and / or Bible reading notes that you use and find helpful. One book which is an absolute treasury of prayer, and which many parishioners have found helpful, is *The Heart in Pilgrimage* by Eamon Duffy published by Bloomsbury and costing £18 - £20. If you are looking for material on the internet, our Diocese of London has several pointers at [www.london.anglican.org/articles/worship-and-prayer-resources/](http://www.london.anglican.org/articles/worship-and-prayer-resources/)

The Rosary is also a good way of praying alone or with a small group and Bishop Jonathan talks about how to do it, and the importance of this in these times, at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6AmaVaY8-I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6AmaVaY8-I)

Each day a number of us commit to pray the *Angelus* prayer at noon and you may like to do the same, knowing we are all praying together. The prayer comes from the life-changing encounter between the angel Gabriel and Mary which was celebrated last Wednesday. The words are:

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with Thee;

Blessed art thou among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

### LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.