

MASSES— 26th Mar to 2nd Apr 23

Sun 26	9.30am	Osato Osagie (B'day), Jim Dunleavy (B'day remembrance) Adaobi Clarire Obi (B'day), Anthonia A. (Spl int)
	11.30am	Cicile & Charlie Ekobe (RIP), Obina Ofili (Thanksgiving)
Mon 27	12.00noon	Jack McCrave (RIP)
Tues 28	9.30am	Joseph Anatuanya (Anni)
Wed 29	9.30am	Cath Muldoon (Anni), Fabian Mara (B'day) Jan & Emilia Misiuk (Spl int)
Thurs 30	6.00pm	Divine Mercy prayers
	7.00pm	Mary Flanagan (RIP), Anthonia A. (Spl int)
Fri 31	6.30pm	Stations of the Cross
	7.00pm	Deceased members of Reema D'Souza & family
Sat 01	9.30am	Vera Dunnion (Good health)
Sun 02	9.30am	Palm Sunday
	11.30am	Palm Sunday

Lectors

26/03/2023

9.30am	Demisha, Naomi (R)
11.30am	Children (R)
9.30am	Cath Slatter (E)
11.30am	Frank (E)

02/04/2023

Cosmos, Desma (R)
Emmanuel, Angela Ngozi (R)
Cath Slatter (E)
Serso, Lilian (E)

The sick of the Parish: Rose Hogan, Norah Griffith, Mary Mulrone, Gerard Griffith, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek, Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Andrea, Chinasa Okosisi, John, Mr. Tran, Damian Curristan, Owen Darroch.

Anniversaries during the week: Bernard Kelly, Mary O'Mara, Mary Whiting, Aloysius Patalong, Emma O'Brien, Marie Concepta Garner, Catherine Mary Muldoon, Walter roach, John Molloy, Michael Cox, Bob Brolly, James Herbert, Patrick McHugh, Eric Donnelly, Mary Ellen Allen, Mick Fitzgerald, Seamus Mulrooney, Phelena Seaman.

Holy Week Programme

Parish penitential service-	Monday 27th March at 7.00pm
Palm Sunday	2nd April 9.30am & 11.30am
Maundy Thursday -	6th April 7.00pm - The Lord's Supper
Good Friday	7th April 2.30pm - Stations of cross & Service
Easter vigil	8th April 8.30pm - Easter celebration
Easter Sunday	9th April 9.30am & 11.30am
Divine Mercy Sunday	16th April 2.00pm - Prayers 4.00pm - Mass

Let us come in time and receive the blessings from our Saviour Jesus Christ.



A.J. Missions St. Osburg Ss. Mary & Benedict St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter – Fifth Sunday of Lent—26h Mar to 2nd April 2023

WHEN WE ARE TOUCHED BY DEATH OUR FAITH MUST INCREASE:

I was travelling on a coach from Jerusalem through Bethany towards Tiberias. Our tour guide brought to our attention the story of Lazarus and how, when he was ill, his sisters Martha and Mary made a sick call to Jesus to come and heal him. The distance from Bethany to Judea is very long through valleys and Galilean wilderness. Canon Garry then Parish Priest of St. Osburgs, was seated beside me, he turned to me and said: Fr. Jimmy this was a very long sick call for Jesus". No wonder, as we have heard, Jesus stayed for two more days before he thought of responding to the sick call. The two sisters had tried every medication and called all doctors, but Lazarus did not get better. There was one doctor left, Jesus, but he did not turn up. It was four days after the burial that he turned up.

The disappointment of the two sisters Martha and Mary, is told: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died" Mary did not even go to welcome the Doctor Jesus when she heard that he had come. She stayed sitting in the house. It was too late she thought. This will echo with many of us who have lost a loved one. Grief triggers inner exhaustion, a near paralysis that turns us into the shadows of ourselves. Even rumours of eternal life seem to be too distant to spur us into action.

The gospel has spoken to us the feelings of a family touched by death and what a devastating loss it causes. "Lord if you had been here my brother would not have died". This tells us of the deep trust that the two sisters had in Jesus. Who do we put our trust into when we are faced with difficulties?

Jesus, interpreted the death of Lazarus as resting, and that it was him who had the power to wake him up. Following this teaching, and after the example of his own resurrection, Christianity has never interpreted physical death as the end of life, but as the beginning of it.

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel born 622 died 570BC spoke about Yahweh who was going to open the graves of those who lay in death, he prophesied the restoration of Israel when Yahweh will be their God.

The second reading has given us a roadmap of how we can hope to live a resurrected life. The human soul is endowed with the capacity to live a spiritual life. It can recognise spiritual realities and seek spiritual values. God has put within the human soul the capacity to believe, to hope and to love. St. Paul has reminded us in the second reading that when we do not develop these divine gifts in our life, we can never please God. Like Martha and Mary, God wants us to believe in him, to hope in him and to love him.

The coming Sunday will be palm Sunday. The mystery of the Cross, no matter in whichever form it comes to us, is one of those moments that throws us out of balance, just as like the death of Lazarus for the two Sisters Martha and Mary. But like them, let us cultivate deep faith in Jesus Christ. He is the life and the resurrection, who ever believes in him though he dies, he will live, and who ever lives and believes in him will never die.

