

The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

*(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. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
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.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

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.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 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 Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 or shorter form Jn 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

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.

Reflection by *Dianne Bergant CSA*

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

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ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PARISH, KILMORE

Parish Administrator: Rev. Fr. Anh Nguyen
Pastoral Worker: Sr. Yen (Anne) Phung LHC

Phone: 03 5782 1084

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri | 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

(Emails or calls outside of office hours will be attended to when we are next in the office.)

Parish Secretary: Caterina Bosevski
Bookkeeper: Lorraine Nagle

Email: kilmore@cam.org.au

Website: www.melbcatholic.org/s/kilmore



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

22 MARCH 2026

Parish Sacramental Program 2026

First Reconciliation

Information day: Friday April 24th, 2026 at 4 pm.

Classes: will be held in the church from 4 pm to 5 pm on the Friday afternoon of the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th of May & 5th, 12th, 19th of June 2026.

Celebration: will be held at St. Patrick's church on Friday June 26th, 4:30 pm.

Confirmation:

Information day: Friday July 17th, 2026 at 4 pm

First Holy Communion:

Information day: Friday October 9th, 2026 at 4 pm

Please contact the parish office if you wish to enrol your child into our sacramental program in 2026, by emailing: kilmore@cam.org.au

PLEASE NOTE: The next edition of our Parish Magazine "The Shamrock", is available for collection—a gold coin donation would be appreciated.

THANK YOU: As a parish community, we would like to thank all the priests who have helped us, while we await the announcement of our new parish priest. In particular, just to name a few, thank you to Fr. Anh, our Parish Administrator, thank you to Fr. Isaac, who will be our priest in residence until the end of April. Thank you Fr. Jossy, who has been with us most Sundays and Fr. George who is helping with Baptisms. Finally thank you to Fr. Anthony Girolami, who is helping with Sunday Masses this weekend.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the church in Kilmore and Wallan at 7 pm, each Friday in Lent.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fifth Sunday of Lent
21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS: Pauline Duff, Brian O'Dwyer, Ben Boyd, and Laura Garland (Northern Region, Safeguarding Unit).
kilmore@cam.org.au or Laura.Garland@cam.org.au

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH OPEN DAYS: Please note that St Patrick's Church will be open from 9.30am to 2.30pm on Monday, Wednesday & Friday, for private prayer.

CHURCHES

St. Patrick's, Kilmore

Our Lady Help of Christians, Broadford

Our Lady of the Way, Wallan

St. Michael's, Wandong

SUNDAY MASSES

Sat (Vigil)	5 pm, Broadford 6.30 pm, Kilmore
Sun	8.45 am, Wallan 10.45 am, Kilmore

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue, Thu-Sat	9 am, Kilmore
Wed	9 am, Wallan

(Please note: out of school terms, Wednesday Mass will be at Kilmore)

CONFESSION

8.15am, Tuesday to Saturday before 9am morning Mass

DEVOTIONS

Adoration & Benediction

Thu 9.30 am, Kilmore

Divine Mercy Chaplet

15 minutes prior to each weekday Mass, Kilmore

Rosary

after each weekday Mass, and Sunday 8.20 am (Wallan) & 10.20 am (Kilmore)

DONATE

To support our Parish and Priests, scan the QR code with your phone camera to donate.



First Collection (Presbytery Support)

Presbytery Account
BSB 083 347 | ACC 684 632 382

Second Collection (Church Support)

Church Account
BSB 083 347 | ACC 672 646 971

St. Patrick's Parish is committed to safeguarding the safety, wellbeing, and dignity of children, young people, and adults.

PARISH DIARY:

Sat, 21 Mar : SATURDAY OF THE 4TH WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's
11 am Baptisms, Our Lady of the Way
1 pm Wedding of Alyssa & William, St Patrick's
5 pm Vigil Mass, Our Lady Help of Christians
6.30 pm Vigil Mass, St. Patrick's

Sun, 22 Mar: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8.45 am Mass, Our Lady of the Way
10.45 am Mass, St. Patrick's

Mon, 23 Mar: MONDAY OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT NO MASS

Tue, 24 Mar: TUESDAY OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's

Wed, 25 Mar: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

9 am Mass, Our Lady of the Way
7.30 pm RCIA Session 19, St. Patrick's Church

Thu, 26 Mar: THURSDAY OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's
First Reconciliation, (5pm & 6.30pm, St
Patrick's Primary School Students)

Fri, 27 Mar: FRIDAY OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's
7 pm Stations of the Cross (Kilmore & Wallan)

Sat, 28 Mar : SATURDAY OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT

9 am Mass, St. Patrick's
5 pm Vigil Mass, Our Lady Help of Christians
6.30 pm Vigil Mass, St. Patrick's

Sun 29 Mar: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8.45 am Mass, Our Lady of the Way
10.45 am Mass, St. Patrick's

Easter Service Times

PALM SUNDAY

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 5pm Broadford, 6.30pm Kilmore
SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 8.45am Wallan, 10.45am Kilmore

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 7pm - 8pm Wallan
WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 7pm- 8pm Kilmore

HOLY THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 7pm Kilmore, 7.30pm Wallan

GOOD FRIDAY 3RD APRIL

Stations of the Cross 9.30am Wallan, 11.30am Kilmore

Good Friday Service 3pm Kilmore 3pm Wallan

EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

4.30pm Broadford, 7pm Kilmore 7pm Wallan

EASTER SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

8.45 am Mass Wallan, 10.45pm Mass Kilmore

DIVINE MERCY SATURDAY 11TH APRIL

5pm Broadford, 6.30pm Kilmore

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 12TH APRIL

8.45am Mass Wallan, 10.45am Mass Kilmore, Confessions
10.50am -12.15pm, Benediction 12.15pm

VOLUNTEER ROSTERS:

	<u>21/22 Mar</u>	<u>28/29 Mar</u>
BROADFORD 5pm (Sat):	21 Mar	28 Mar
Reader	P. Kelly	B. O'Dwyer
EMHC	A. Donovan	C.. O'Dwyer
KILMORE 6.30pm (Sat):	21 Mar	28 Mar
Reader	M. Fleischmann	R. Emmanuel
EMHC	V. Barro	J. Jain
PowerPoint	P. Duff	P. Duff
WALLAN 8.45am (Sun):	22 Mar	29 Mar
Reader	C. Aguinaldo	G. Pannuzzo
EMHC	M. McGowan	P. Hutchinson
EMHC	V. Lawrence	S. Buckley
PowerPoint	F. Thompson	R. Quinn
KILMORE 10.45am (Sun):	22 Mar	29 Mar
Reader	C. Dodd	M. Bourne
EMHC	L. Dunlop	K. Archer
PowerPoint	K. Curry	W. Reece
FLOWERS:	P. Duff	C. Eid
HOME EUCHARIST:	TBA	TBA
	TBA	TBA
CLEANERS KILMORE:	M. Ramsay & Family	G. Pereira B. Collier

LET US PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Anniversaries

Juanita Rodriguez, Matthew Colliver, Frances O'Connor,
William Vincent Lingard, Tony D'Elia, Edith Ella Parsons,
Wilma Russell, Vincent Paul Scully, John Joseph Ryan, Daniel
Patrick Brown, Venerando Costanzo, Rosanna Cernes, i
Patrick Ambrose Ryan, Isaiah Koko Lee-Lo
Giuseppe (John) Brancatisano and all anniversaries which
occur at this time.

The Sick

Fr Prakash Cutinha, Pina D'Agostino, Theo Aitchison,
Julie Ahearn, Bernadette McWhinney, Pa'i Su'a, Daisy
Aguinaldo, Liam Heffernan, Nancy Ryan, Joan O'Brien,
Michelle Chatfield

and all people who are in need of our prayers.

PLEASE NOTE: Names in the sick list will remain there for 4 weeks.

If you wish for that person to continue to be prayed for, please advise the parish office again. If you are submitting the name of someone other than yourself and family, please obtain their permission.

CEMETERY WORKING BEE

Easter working bee at cemetery Saturday 28 March 9 till noon.
Plenty of whipper snipping and mowing. Morning tee provided.
Brian Clancy 0429186830.

WALLAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Anyone interested in joining the Children's Choir, please contact
Bernadette on 0411 353 600. The choir practices every
Tuesday at 5.30pm in the Our Lady of the Way Church.



Synod Corner: Where does the word "Synod" come from?

The word *Synod* comes from the Greek *syn-hodos*, meaning "walking together on the road." This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

St. Patrick's Parish is a Child Safe Environment. All children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.