



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 MARCH 2026

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

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.**

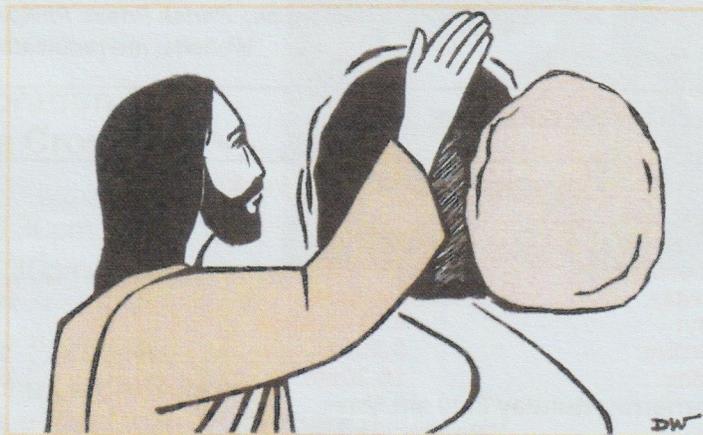
SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters 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.'



The Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

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Website: merredincatholicparish.org

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

A/2

22 MARCH 2026

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday:	No Mass
Tuesday:	No Mass
Wednesday:	No Mass
Thursday:	No Mass
Friday:	9.00 am Mass
Saturday:	6.30pm
Sunday:	10.30am

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

****Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request****

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

**Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary
6:00 to 6:30 pm**

Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday

CHURCH ROSTER: 21/22 MARCH 2026

28/29 MARCH 2026

	Saturday 6.30 pm	Sunday 10.30 am	Saturday 6:30 pm	Sunday 10:30 am
Readers:	Y. Gray	Year 6 Class	P. Riethmuller	P. Jackson
Offertory:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Church Cleaners:				
Sacristy	Y. Gray		G. Alvaro	
Altar Servers:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers

Special Ministers: T. Cutri; T. Glass, Y. Gray; P. Jackson; J. Jefferys; L. D. Pettit; P. Riethmuller.



Photos for the Centenary Celebrations

We are looking for photos reflecting of past life of the parish and school. If you have any, please email them to our email merredin@perthcatholic.org.au Thank you

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

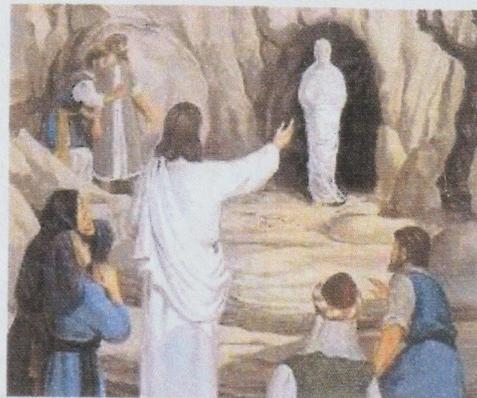
Feast days for the week

Mon 23 St Turibius of Mongrovejo
Tue 24 St Macartan
Wed 25 The Anunciation of the Lord
Fri 27 St John of Egypt



Eucharistic Adoration & Stations of the Cross

Every Friday of Lent:
Eucharistic Adoration 5.30pm
Stations of the Cross 6.30pm



Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday ²~~17th~~ April
Good Friday ¹~~18th~~ April
Holy Saturday ³~~19th~~ April
Easter Sunday ⁴~~20th~~ April
⁵

6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
10.00am Stations of the Cross (Kellerberrin)
3.00pm The Passion of the Lord
6.30pm Easter Vigil Mass
8.00am Kellerberrin
10.30am Mass Merredin

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after Good Friday Services of the Stations of the Cross & The Passion of the Lord

Please invite your relatives, neighbours and friends to our Easter celebrations. Lets share the joy of Easter with others.

Readers Needed for Holy Week and Easter Triduum

We are looking for readers for Palm Sunday and Good Friday Passion Reading and For Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Saturday Easter Vigil. Please register in the foyer.

Easter Baptism

Please pray for Adam Dewar who will be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

Project Compassion

Please give generously to Project Compassion: Envelopes and boxes are available in the foyer. Thank you

Parish Notice Board

**Invitation to the Annual Chrism Mass from the Archbishop
Tuesday 31 March 7.00pm St Mary's Cathedral**

Blessing of the Roads (Merredin) Thursday 2 April at 10.00am in Pioneer Park

**Sonrise Prayer and Praise (Merredin) on Easter Morning 5th April 6.00am
at the Reflection Pond in Roy Little Park**

Please Note: Planned Giving Direct Debit - CDF/NAB Parish Account details for anyone wanting to support the parish through Direct Debit are as follows;

1st Collection (Fr Philip) – BSB 086 006 Acc. 73115 8848 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth
2nd Collection Merredin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 84040 9343 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Mary's Parish
2nd Collection Kellerberrin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 75189 3225 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Joseph's Parish

(Please include your name on direct debit deposits—eg 2nd Coll-Smith) Thank you for your generosity and support.

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, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews 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.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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Breaking Open the Word

OUR SOURCE OF LIFE

As we come to the last Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the central meaning of Jesus' life—his gift of life. The story involves Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary. These are Jesus' friends who are from the village of Bethany. When Jesus gets the message about Lazarus' dire illness, strangely, he does not go immediately to be with them but only after two days have passed.

The evangelist's words at this point link to the story from last Sunday: One 'can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by.' It is this Light, Jesus, that then goes to Bethany, to bring the dead Lazarus to life. The interchange that Jesus has with Martha before he comes to Lazarus' tomb summarises a theology which John wants readers to transcend. Rather than wait for the general resurrection at the end time, Jesus is 'the resurrection and the life' now. Faith in him will bring people to life.

Space prevents a detailed examination of the narrative dynamic at play and the depths of the Gospel's symbolism behind the dialogues, Jesus' weeping, the various reactions to Jesus, Jesus' command to Lazarus to come from the tomb and the order to unbind Lazarus. On this final Sunday in Lent our gaze is squarely on Jesus. He is our source of life, now and into eternity. Today's Gospel invites us into a deeper communion with Jesus, who is 'the resurrection and the life'.

Fr Michael Trainor