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## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | SUNDAY 22ND MARCH

This is the third of the great Johannine gospel readings on the Sundays of Lent which lead up to and prepare us for the baptisms of the new members of Christ at the Easter Vigil; today's gospel grips us with the story of Jesus' gift of life to his friend Lazarus. This is not the same thing as the gift of life to us by Jesus in the resurrection, for Lazarus returns to ordinary human life, and will die again, whereas the Christian resurrection transforms us into a new way of life, giving us

a life which is a participation in the divine life for ever. Rather, the resurrection of Lazarus is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs, his marvellous works which point towards and hint at this final gift of divine life. The first of the signs was the transformation of the water of the Law into the wine of the messianic wedding banquet at Cana. These signs show who Jesus really is. As well as showing the divine power of Jesus – for only God can give life – they also show the real, human love of Jesus for his friends. He is upset by Lazarus' death and weeps for him, sharing the human sorrow of his family as he shares our sorrows too.

**Is death something to fear?**

### ✧ THIS WEEK AT ST MATTHEW'S ✧

<b>Sunday 22nd March</b> FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	<b>10:00am</b> - Brian and Rebecca Parslow
<b>Monday 23rd March</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	<b>NO MASSES TODAY</b>
<b>Tuesday 24th March</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	<b>9:30am</b> - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10:00am MASS</b> - Sally Flynn
<b>Wednesday 25th March</b> <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	<b>9:30am</b> - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10:00am MASS</b> - Rebecca and Vincent Parslow
<b>Thursday 26th March</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	<b>9:30am</b> - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10:00am MASS</b> - Nellie and Joseph Musgrove (Special Intention)
<b>Friday 27th March</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	<b>9:30am</b> - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10:00am MASS</b> - For Priests
<b>Saturday 28th March</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	<b>NO MASSES TODAY</b>
<b>Sunday 29th March</b> PALM SUNDAY	<b>10:00am</b> - Boyd, McKieran and Coughlan Families

### ✧ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✧

#### A WARM WELCOME

to everyone who is joining us for Mass today.

#### DIARY FOR HOLY WEEK

**Passion Sunday (Palm)** is next Sunday with Mass at 10am as usual.

**Our Triduum Celebration's** begin with:

**Holy Thursday** Mass is at 7pm *watching for one hour after Mass*

**Good Friday** Celebration of the Passion is at 3pm

**Easter Sunday** Mass at 10am

#### LENTEN DEVOTIONS

We have Exposition or Stations of the Cross before Mass each weekday of Lent (Tues-Fri) Please join us for these Lenten Devotions. My thanks to those who are coming along to spend this precious time together with the Lord.

#### CONFIRMATION

We only had one applicant so we will not be having Confirmations this year.

#### BULLETIN ITEMS

Please ensure all items for the bulletin are with us by 5pm on a Wednesday.

Please email to **bulletin.stmatthew.ponteland@diocesehn.org.uk**



**POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH**



#### For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

*Lenne PP. XIV*