



Diocese
of Dunedin

Alexandra Catholic Pastoral Area

Omakau (1870) Alexandra (1924) Roxburgh (1950)

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Fifth Sunday of Lent—29 March 2020

PLEASE NOTE THAT DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD, ALL CHURCHES ARE TO BE KEPT CLOSED. THANK YOU.

Online masses and reflections—There are a few options listed at the back of this newsletter. Please feel free to access these.

Sunday readings:

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

HAVE CONFIDENCE

The gospel reading on the fifth Sunday of Lent is the story of Lazarus' resurrection. If I recall correctly, the raising of Lazarus from the dead is one of the third instances where Jesus brought someone back to life. The first instance is the daughter of Jairus and the second, the son of the widow of Maim. These three instances clearly demonstrate the power of God over death.

The resurrection of Lazarus stands out for me. Jesus loves Lazarus, his beloved friend. He knows Lazarus' family quite well and he used to stay at their house in Bethany. So when the two sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary sent a message to Jesus that his beloved friend was ill, Jesus seemed to take it lightly as shown by the delay of his journey for two days. But why did he delay it? Perhaps Jesus wanted to do something extraordinary so that people would see the glory of God. The two sisters were deeply disappointed by such delay. However, they put their trust in Jesus and believed in Him. More profoundly they believed in Him as the resurrection and the life.

Moreover, the resurrection of Lazarus foreshadows Jesus' resurrection from the dead after three days. As we enter into the fifth Sunday of Lent, let us journey with Jesus until we celebrate the joy of Easter. Unfortunately, the crisis of the Coronavirus that is affecting the world, challenges our faith and poses threat to humanity. During this difficult time of uncertainty, anxiety and despair, let us stand together in spirit and carry on living. After all God has a better plan for us like what he did to Lazarus. Let us be like Mary and Martha by placing our trust and confidence in Jesus.

Have confidence....

To find daily readings and Sunday readings, Gospel and reflections, you could go on:

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/parish/resources.htm> (These get updated every Thursday)

OTHER RESOURCES:

<https://www.facebook.com/catholic.diocese.dunedin.newzealand/>

Bishop Michael's Pastoral Video **Message of Encouragement** for our Lockdown period:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCpo6Yi7NWU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3xVF1yMXXe7dOI0eFI9Wb7FqRinDSyHK2puYo6Jdvoms7TIDosEEFVdQk)

[v=qCpo6Yi7NWU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3xVF1yMXXe7dOI0eFI9Wb7FqRinDSyHK2puYo6Jdvoms7TIDosEEFVdQk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCpo6Yi7NWU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3xVF1yMXXe7dOI0eFI9Wb7FqRinDSyHK2puYo6Jdvoms7TIDosEEFVdQk)

Bishop Michael's **Sunday Mass Video for the Fifth Sunday of Lent**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfSsp4vBbml&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0TulsDP_vMuLDyL5v7pi53cObeIaPd-Nqmbwl0KIvbWixnjqQcKHgTyao)

[v=UfSsp4vBbml&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0TulsDP_vMuLDyL5v7pi53cObeIaPd-Nqmbwl0KIvbWixnjqQcKHgTyao](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfSsp4vBbml&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0TulsDP_vMuLDyL5v7pi53cObeIaPd-Nqmbwl0KIvbWixnjqQcKHgTyao)

Latest issue of the **Tablet for March 2020**. It is only available electronically. Here is the PDF and the link to it on our Website:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/51dbe649e4b09506a9c7266f/](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/51dbe649e4b09506a9c7266f/t/5e7c29311fa3014a5adc46b3/1585195348640/Tablet+March+20.pdf)

[t/5e7c29311fa3014a5adc46b3/1585195348640/Tablet+March+20.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/51dbe649e4b09506a9c7266f/t/5e7c29311fa3014a5adc46b3/1585195348640/Tablet+March+20.pdf)

Daily Mass online resources:

Tony Harrison is doing daily Mass online in Invercargill. You can find it on their Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Sacred-Heart-Church-Invercargill-](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Sacred-Heart-Church-Invercargill-558080001033584/about/?ref=page_internal)

[558080001033584/about/?ref=page_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Sacred-Heart-Church-Invercargill-558080001033584/about/?ref=page_internal)

Several other parishes will be doing online Sunday Masses. Best to check their Facebook pages as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/holynameparishdunedin/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mercyparish.whanauaroha/>

Christchurch Diocese:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChchCatholic/>