

**THE WORD THIS WEEK**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A**

**26 March 2023**

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith that the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds - what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

**PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS**

**PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, help us never to abandon your ways. As you have loved and shown us your mercy, may we sincerely express our love for God by loving our neighbour and being merciful to them. Jesus, King of Divine Mercy, we trust in you.

**2. READINGS**

**First: Ezekiel 37: 12-14** - The Lord says ... I am going to open your graves and lead you back to Israel. I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

**Psalm: Psalm 129** - With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption / Out of the depths I cry to you / If you should mark our guilt / My soul is waiting for the Lord.

**Second: Romans 8:8-11** - The Spirit of God has made his home in you - your spirit is life itself because you have been justified.

**Gospel: John 11:1-45** - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

**3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**REFLECTION:** As our Lenten journey brings us closer to the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, our loving and merciful Lord, let us reflect on how we can show love and mercy to others. Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbour, especially our brothers and sisters living in poverty. We are all members of one global family - all equal in God's eyes - all entitled to a share of God's gift of creation. During Lent, we think about how we can put our faith in action and bring hope to those less fortunate than ourselves. Family Fast Day gave us the opportunity to support CAFOD and we are urged to support our own communities as best we can. Acts 20:35 teaches us 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. Let us remind ourselves of Stage 5 of our Hope in the Future Journey, 'Sharing the Hope' and seek ways to be a 'Beacon of Hope' in our parish community.

**4. LENTEN MASSES AND SERVICES**

**DEANERY LENTEN STATION MASSES/SERVICES**

(No Mass at Corpus Christi on Tuesday)

**28 March:** St Herbert's at 7.00 pm. Penitential Service (no Mass)

**5. EASTER LITURGY – 2023**

**Maundy Thursday:** St Herbert's at 7.00 pm

**Good Friday:** Corpus Christi at 3.00 pm

**Easter Vigil:** St Herbert's at 7.00 pm

**Easter Sunday:** Corpus Christi at 9.30 am  
St Herbert's at 11.00 am

**6. RESUMPTION OF COMMUNION UNDER BOTH**

**KINDS:** Bishop John, following the decision of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has established that the reception of communion under both kinds may resume in our Diocese, starting from the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday this year. These notes (copies are available at the back of each church) will help us reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives. The Church teaches that the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ are present in both the Sacred Host and Precious Blood, and so **there is no obligation to receive Holy Communion from the Chalice – in receiving either or both we always receive the "whole" Jesus.**

**7. CORPUS CHRISTI CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

Thank you Julie & assistants for the Mother's Day gifts and cards that the children made for their Mums last Sunday. Great to see so many children attending Church. A reminder that there are two more Sundays for Children's Liturgy before staff take a break over Easter. It should resume on 23rd April.

**8. GIFT AID ENVELOPES (Corpus Christi) :**

Thank you for your offerings in the yellow envelopes. New BLUE boxes of envelopes are available to collect at the back of the church. They start on Easter Sunday, 9th April. Thank you to the new members who have recently joined. The forms are simple to complete, just name and address needed. If you pay tax on wages or pension, you are welcome to sign up. See Ken Coop at Corpus Christi.

**9. GIFT AID AND NON-GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2023-24**

**(St Herbert's):** These are available for collection at the back of church. Thank you very much to those who have signed up this year. If anyone else wishes to join the Gift Aid scheme (you must be a UK taxpayer), please see Deborah Kearney or email [divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com](mailto:divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com). Thank you.

**10. BRITISH SUMMERTIME:**

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour this weekend.

**11. PARENT/TODDLER GROUP:**

takes place every Thursday in St Herbert's Parish Centre from 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm. £1.00. All welcome.

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 96; Offertory: 557, 443; Communion: 165, 133; Recessional: 731.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 182; Offertory: 122; Communion: 165, 194; Recessional: 672.

**12. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** Thank you to Starling and Woodpecker class led our Lenten mass. The children were an asset to us. They presented themselves in a reverent manner throughout. Thank you to our parish for sharing this mass with us once again. Next week, we welcome our final classes, Reception, Wren Class and Year 5. They will be leading a mass all about promises we make during Lent.

This week some of our classes did work on their class saint for their feast day. Our Reception children enjoyed learning about St Joseph and children in Hawk Class enjoyed learning more about Saint Oscar Romero. We have been discussing this week what we aspire to be when we grow up. Our children came dressed as what they want to be when they grow up. We know we can be anything we want to be if we believe in ourselves and always try our best.

We would like to welcome our parish family to our Easter production on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. If you would like to attend, we ask that you give your name to Tony Power after Mass.

**St Herbert's:** On Wednesday the whole school celebrated the Feast of St Herbert with Mass in Church. Then in the afternoon the children had a party in their classrooms.

Our Gifted and Talented dance group took part in the "Great Big Dance Off" and they came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 12. We are really proud of them!

On the 5<sup>th</sup> April at 3.15pm we would like to invite Parishioners to join us for our Easter Experience. It is a beautiful occasion and one you will truly enjoy. Please come and join us.

**14. SUNDAY SMILE**

***Bible Stories as told by Children***

The next important person was Noah. He was a really good guy. Noah built a big boat in his back yard and put his family and a lot of animals in it. He asked his neighbours to join them, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

Next were Abraham, his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. Esau was Jacob's brother, but Jacob was more famous because Esau sold him his birthmark for some pot roast. Jacob had a son, Joseph, who wore a really loud sports coat.

Moses was the next important man. His real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel lights out of Egypt because of the bad Pharaoh. God sent ten plagues on the Egyptians. Some of the plagues were mice, frogs, bugs, lice and no internet.

God gave the Israel lights His "Top Ten" commandments. They were things like: don't lie, don't cheat, don't dance, don't smoke, don't covet your neighbour's stuff (whatever that means). He also told them to humour their fathers and mothers.

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- MONDAY:** Both churches closed.
- TUESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Requiem Mass at 12.30 pm for Elsie Lawson (RIP)  
**Corpus Christi: NO MASS**
- WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Penitential Service at 7.00 pm (no Mass)
- THURSDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
- FRIDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am
- SATURDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Stations of the Cross at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
- SUNDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 5.00 pm; Mass at 5.30 pm  
**St Herbert's:** Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am  
**St Herbert's:** Private Prayer 10.30 am; Mass at 11.00 am

**CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE BEFORE OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST**

**MASS REQUESTS**

Missa pro populo

**Special Intentions:** Tony McDermott, Private Intention

**Lately Dead:** Elsie Lawson, Daniel Moore, Pat Healey, Irene Yates

**RIP:** Anne Hayes

**PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish: John McCarthy, Gerard Healey, Mary Gowran, Margaret Lawless, Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Agnes Conroy, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Jean Allen, Dorothy Buckley, Nora Hickey, Sheila Cavey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Jack Hulme, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mrs Lewandowski, Mary O'Connor.



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**ARE YOU...**

- New to the Parish?
- Know someone who is sick or in hospital?
- Can you help the parish or us you?
- Like a visit from the priest?

Please speak to Fr Lawrence after mass or at any convenient time.