

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 22 MARCH 2026

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 7b-8

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

Gospel

John 11:1-45

EXPLORING THE WORD

Today's gospel is a powerful reflection on both human grief and divine purpose. Jesus doesn't rush to prevent suffering—He allows it to unfold, which can feel confusing or even painful. Yet in the middle of it, we see something deeply personal: "Jesus wept." He is not distant from sorrow; He enters into it.

At the same time, this passage points beyond grief to hope. Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life," showing that death is not the final word. What seems like an ending becomes a place where God's glory is revealed.

The story invites trust—even when timing doesn't make sense—and reminds us that faith often grows in the tension between loss and hope.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

29.03. 2026

First Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Responsorial Psalms

Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

PASSION

Matthew 26:14-27:66

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

loan balance is

\$845,503.00

Thank you for supporting our 2nd Collection.

CASH COLLECTIONS

15 March 2026

1st Collection:

4,202.30

2nd Collection:

1,076.20

**PARISHIONER
REGISTRATION**
New to the area?
**Want to join the
Parish.**



Check it out on our Parish website or scanning this QR Code.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MASS INTENTIONS



Recent Death: Haydee Sto. Tomas
Paulo Siasoco, Jun Riofrio

Repose of Soul/Anniversaries

of Death: Dass Naidoo,
Irudayam Francis (1st), Helen (1st),
Pablito & Priscilla Santos

Intentions: Gerald Tan & Family,
Roderick Paxton, - (special intention),
Blake Wong Ling (healing)

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

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For more information email:
marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz
Gerry M: 021 0224 7442 /
gerrys@cda.org.nz

INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR MARCH

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.

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION

**Wednesday, 25 March 2026
7:00PM**

LIGHTS ON LENTEN RECONCILIATION

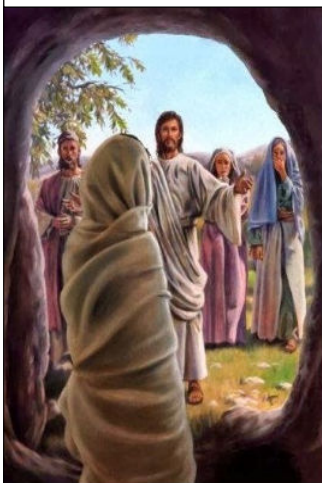
Friday, 5:45PM –6:45PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7:00PM, On Fridays in Lent followed by Holy Mass

Note: There will be a collection during the Mass to support the Lenten Appeal by Caritas New Zealand.

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PARISH APP



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Previously called "Passion Sunday," this Fifth Sunday of Lent **marks the beginning of Passiontide, a deeper time of Lent.** This is the third Sunday of the scrutinies for the preparation of adult converts, and the final Sunday of Lent before the beginning of Holy Week. The Liturgy of the Word of this day speaks of re-creation, resurrection, and new life.

The Lord Jesus, inexplicably, waited a further two days before heading for Lazarus' home. Even then, He only left with His disciples when he divinely knew

of His friend's death. This particular detail from the Gospel tells us that the Word of God was made Man for the love of all of us. Also that His look of love is always upon us waiting for that meeting of immense joy that will happen in eternity.

In this last sign, worked by the Lord before His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, everything seems to flow to that 'new reality' inaugurated by Emmanuel, God with us. Sharing our existence, Jesus had loved us with a supreme passion, with that virginal love that doesn't seek to possess the heart of the other, but to love it in truth with delicate insistence right up to sacrificing Himself for us. In this infinite delicacy and

attention to everyone, He was able to be moved by those who were linked to Him by ties of the most profound friendship who understood that it could not be anything but God's presence amongst them. 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.' (Jn 11:25-27)

Christ then performed the great miracle of Lazarus' resurrection. He announced, through the work of the Father, that He, Himself, God made man, is the Resurrection and the Life. He is also the Lord of biological life. His voice can reach those who, like Lazarus, have exceeded the threshold of four days from their death and arrived at the point where bodily corruption commences. Faced with this sign, the words with which He foretold His Resurrection become clearer: **'I lay down my life, that I may take it again' (Jn 10:17).** He really can 'take up [His life] again' as He is the Word of Life. If Lazarus' resurrection didn't stop the Lord's beloved friend from embracing 'our sister death'—to use St Francis' expression—when God finally called him again from this life, then how much greater is the Life that the Lord has earned for Lazarus and everyone of us in the Paschal Mystery that we are preparing to celebrate a few days from now.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of his only son. The feast is celebrated on March 25, nine months before Christmas.

The Annunciation is a celebration of the Incarnation and of the important role that Mary plays in our salvation. "In celebrating the Incarnation of the Son," Pope Benedict XVI said, "we cannot fail to honor His mother. The Angel's proclamation was addressed to her; she accepted it, and when she responded from the depths of her heart: 'Here I am... let it be done to me according to your word' (Lk 1: 38), at that moment the eternal Word began to exist as a human being in time."

Though not a holy day of obligation, we are continually reminded of the importance of this feast to our salvation in various devotional prayers. Two examples that highlight the importance of the Annunciation are the joyous mysteries of the Rosary and the Angelus.




Hail Mary

Full of Grace

The LORD is

with you.

 **MEN'S BREAKFAST**
SATURDAY
28 March 2026, 7:30AM

 Sequel,
16 J Bishop Dunn Place, Flat Bush,
Auckland, 2013

HOLY WEEK 2026

MARCH 29

PALM SUNDAY

HOLY MASS, usual time
(Procession at all Masses.
Palms are provided)

APRIL 03

GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross
10AM

Celebration of the
Passion of Christ
3PM

THERE WILL BE NO 9AM MASS
ON HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 02

HOLY THURSDAY

HOLY MASS
7PM

APRIL 04


HOLY SATURDAY


EASTER VIGIL
7PM
(Candles are provided)

APRIL 05

EASTER SUNDAY

8:30AM
10:30AM



BE TRANSFORMED  *Romans 12:2*

17-19 APRIL 2026
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Thursday nights
St. Luke's
parish lounge
23 APRIL
to
4 JUNE