

## DAILY SCRIPTURE QUOTES

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Guard me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings. As for me, in my justice I shall see your face and be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory. (Psalm 16)

### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He and that I do nothing of myself: what the Father has taught me is what I preach; he who sent me is with me, and has not left me to myself, for I always do what pleases him.'  
(John 8: 30)

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Jesus said, 'If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free.'  
(John 8: 31)

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Jesus said, 'If I were to seek my own glory that would be no glory at all; my glory is conferred by the Father... I know him, and I faithfully keep his word.' (John 8: 51)

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. (Psalm 17)

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

'You don't seem to have grasped the situation at all; you fail to see that it is better for one man to die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed.' Caiaphas, did not speak in his own person. As high priest he made this prophecy, that Jesus was to die for the nation - and not for the nation only, but to gather together in unity the scattered children of God. (John 11: 45-56)

# Opening Ourselves to God 's word...

**Next Sunday's Readings:**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Yr. A**  
**29th March 2020**

*Coming Alive in Christ ~ Our Journey to Easter*



In Saint John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus starts the chain of events leading to Jesus' death and resurrection. John uses the story to remind the early converts of the life-and-death consequences of choosing to follow Jesus. In today's Gospel we see the tension mounting between Jesus and his enemies.

***Father of eternal life, you are a God, not of the dead, but of the living: you sent your Son to proclaim the good news of life, to rescue all from the kingdom of death and to lead them to resurrection. Free us from the power of the evil spirit who brings death. May we receive new life in Christ and bear witness to his resurrection.***

***Lord Jesus, by raising Lazarus from the dead you showed that you came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. By your life-giving sacraments, free us from the grasp of death and deliver us from the spirit of corruption. Through your Holy Spirit, who gives life, fill us with faith, hope, and charity, that we may live with you always in the glory of your resurrection, for you are Lord for ever and ever.***

**Ezekiel 37:12-14**

The Lord said 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 God who speaks.

As I settle to pray, I ask the Lord to be open to his word today.

**The First Reading** Ezekiel 37:12-14 God is the Life of His People. To His disheartened people in exile in a foreign land, God tells them through the prophet Ezekiel: I want you to live. I will bring you back to the land of promise and will give you my spirit and strength

**Psalm 129** *With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption*

**The Second Reading** (Romans 8: 8-11) The Holy Spirit Gives Us God's Life

As Christians we do not escape the reality of our human nature, evil and suffering. The reality of death to sin is always with us. Through the Holy Spirit living in us, we are being continually called to share in God's unending love.

- How am I responding to this call to share in God's unending love this Lent?
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is being offered to me this Lent. How am I responding to this offering of forgiveness and reconciliation?

***Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf of springtime.***

Martin Luther

**John 11: 1-45** (extract)

'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' '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.'

I come to my place of prayer. I gently become aware of God's presence.

When I am ready, I slowly read and re-read the Gospel.

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection.

We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life John 12:24. Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Jesus is the Resurrection and the life. As He Lazarus from the dead, so He gives us a share in His risen life now and will raise us up on the day of judgement.

- *How do you show and share this fullness of life with all whom you meet in your daily life?*