



## Raising Lazarus

A piece of Bible trivia. Which is the shortest verse in the whole Bible? The answer is in today's Gospel: *"Jesus wept"*. (John 11: 35).

I always liked this miracle (John 11: 11-44). This miracle shows Jesus as a friend. Jesus was someone who loved deeply, and was greatly distressed to hear that his friend had died. How lucky were Lazarus, and his two sisters, who can count Jesus as their friend. They could send a message to Jesus and he responded. Can I also say that Jesus is my friend? Do I open my heart and my life so that he can stop by, and have a meal and we spend the time talking and sharing? Or, is Jesus still a distant miracle-worker? Maybe, if I pray earnestly, he may answer my prayer?

Another surprise about this miracle is that Jesus took his time. When *"the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill'"*, he stayed 2 further days at the place he was." You would have thought that Jesus would have jumped up and immediately rushed to Bethany to heal his good friend and save him from certain death. But Jesus moved only after the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, and when he reached Bethany, he was told that Lazarus was already dead for four days! So why did Jesus wait so long?

Everyone expected to Jesus to heal because Jesus had healed so many. As Martha said to Jesus, *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."* But Jesus needed to show that he is also the Master of Life

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and Death. So it was not enough to just save someone from dying. Jesus had to show that he can raise a person from the dead, and one dead for many days. Jesus, who was going to die very soon, had to move his disciples' faith to the next level. They had to believe in the Resurrection of the dead, because Jesus said that he himself would be raised from the dead. The disciples had to believe that Jesus had the power over death and resurrection of life:

*"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"* She said to him, *"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."*

I do believe that Jesus will raise me up on the last day. But another invaluable lesson is that, like the pleas of Martha and Mary, my prayers may not always be answered the way I want them answered or when I want them answered (usually, 'now'). Jesus, my friend and Saviour, I have to trust in you. Let your will be done and for your glory, only!

*"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'"*

### Reflection by Ros

# Novena notes



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
 Year A  
 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 29 March	Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Mon, 30 March	Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11 If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
Tue, 31 March	Num 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30 O Lord, listen to my prayer and let my cry for help reach you.
Wed, 1 April	Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42 To you glory and praise forever more.
Thu, 2 April	Gen 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59 The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.
Fri, 3 April	Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42 In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard my voice.
Sat, 4 April	Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56 The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.

All other services, including novenas and weekday masses remain suspended. The church will also remain closed during the week.