

## NEWSLETTER

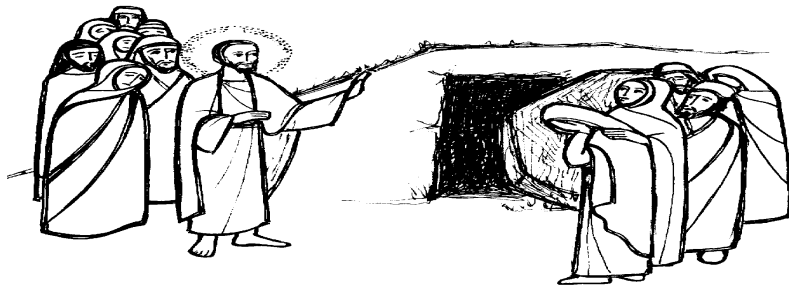
### Gospel Reflection

This story of the raising of Lazarus is one of the most popular in Christian art—just search online for images of it, and you will be amazed.

You start to notice this focus on Lazarus in the earliest centuries of Christianity through the art. In the Roman catacombs alone there are over 55 paintings of Lazarus's resurrection. Roughly an equal number exist of Roman sarcophagi, the marble caskets in which nobility were buried, depicting this life-affirming story relayed only in John's Gospel. And then there are the dozens more depictions of Jesus' friend rising from his grave—on ivory, glass and metal objects that didn't have anything to do with funerals.

Perhaps all these artistic renderings of Lazarus' emergence from his tomb three days after his burial are the reason behind historians' belief that the raising of Jesus' good friend, made a deeper impression on early Christians than almost any other New Testament text...

John 11 and the following chapter of John 12 act like a literary bridge between Jesus' ministry with others and his own final demonstration that God indeed provides eternal life. The Lazarus story lays down a bridge of faith and understanding that we can walk across to understand more the Master's own death and resurrection.



### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 10am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

**St Joseph's RC Church**  
**Woodford Lane**  
**Winsford**  
**CW7 2JS**

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor

Tel: 01606 543877

Website; [www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk)

email: [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)

General Queries – contact Rebecca Vickers

Tel: 07939 294442

email: [rebeccaфинegan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rebeccaфинegan@hotmail.co.uk)

Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united  
in love, with a common purpose  
and a common mind"  
Philippians 2:2

### 26th MARCH 2023 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 25th March	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 26th March	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 27th March		<b>No Mass</b>
Tuesday 28th March		<b>No Mass</b>
Wednesday 29th March	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 30th March	10:00am	Mass
Friday 31st March		<b>No Mass</b>
Saturday 1st April	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

**200 CLUB DRAW**

Winner: £40 Prize  
This week – Mr Derek Pearce

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB  
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

*"Preach the Gospel  
always, if necessary  
use words"*  
St Francis of Assisi

**Offertory Envelopes:** The new Boxes of Envelopes are in the Porch for you to collect. Please look for your name on the Boxes. If you can't find a Box for you – or if you would like to start using Envelopes – please take one of the spare Boxes and complete the slip in the Box and hand it in the next time you are at Mass.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to make your Offertory Donations on a monthly basis by Bank Standing Order there are forms available in the porch. Similarly, if you are an Income Tax Payer you can join the Gift Aid Scheme by taking a form from the porch.

Please hand in any Standing Order forms and Gift Aid forms to the Parish. Please don't send them to your Bank or the Diocese.

**Coffee morning:** The next coffee morning will be Tuesday 18th April, everyone is welcome.

**PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES**

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

**Prayer for our Parish:**

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish  
and grant us a new vision of your glory,  
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word  
and a new consecration to your service,  
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,  
through Christ our Lord.

.....  
St Joseph pray for us

**Gospel** John 11



A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and Martha. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Master, the one you love so very much is sick." When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son."

After two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea.". When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead.

Martha heard Jesus was coming and went out to meet him. Mary remained in the house. Martha said, "Master, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you." Jesus said, "Your brother will be raised up." Martha replied, "I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time."

"You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world."

When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, "Where did you put him?" Master, come and see," they said. Now Jesus wept. The Jews said, "Look how deeply he loved him." Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man." Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

The sister of the dead man, Martha, said, "Master, by this time there's a stench. He's been dead four days!" Jesus looked her in the eye. "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone."

They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me."

Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him loose."