



St John the Divine

Eucharist & Farewell to Fr John

5th Sunday of Lent

26th March 2023

WELCOME!

Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine, and to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: www.stjohndivine.org.au

Hymn: TIS141 Praise to the Holiest in the height
John Henry Newman (1801-90) alt. - tune: Richmond (TIS425)
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CCL No 632290

- 1. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways!**
- 2. O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.**
- 3. O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive, and should prevail;**
- 4. and that the highest gift of grace
should flesh and blood refine:
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine;**
- 5. and in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.**
- 6. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways!**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Sentence

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord;
'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

John 11.25-26

Let us pray

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the commandments which God gave his people Israel.

- 1 I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods but me.
- 2 You shall not make an idol of anything and worship it.
- 3 You shall not make wrong use of the name of the Lord your God.
- 4 Remember the Lord's day and keep it holy.
- 5 Honour your father and mother.
- 6 You shall not commit murder.
- 7 You shall not commit adultery.
- 8 You shall not steal.
- 9 You shall not give false evidence.
- 10 You shall not covet the possessions of others.

**Lord, have mercy on us: and
write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.**

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God,
your Son came into the world
to free us all from sin and death:
breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and

our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear my voice;

² **O let your ears consider well:
the voice of my supplication.**

³ If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong:
who then, O Lord, could stand?

⁴ **But there is forgiveness with you:
so that you shall be feared.**

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him:
and in his word is my hope.

⁶ **My soul looks for the Lord:
more than watchmen for the morning,
more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel,
trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:
and with him is ample redemption.

⁸ **He will redeem Israel:
from the multitude of their sins.**

A reading from Paul’s letter to the church in Rome 8.6–11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn: TiS407 Breathe on me, breath of God
Edwin Hatch (1835-89) alt. - tune: Carlisle (TiS234)
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**1. Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love all that you love
and do what you would do.**

**2. Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**3. Breathe on me, breath of God,
and all my life refine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with your fire divine.**

**4. Breathe on me, breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St John 11.1–45

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ But when Jesus heard it, he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?’ Jesus answered, ‘Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.’ After saying this, he told them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.’ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ 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.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your heavenly Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11.25

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Pause to bring to mind times where we have separated ourselves

*from God,
from others,
from creation, and
from our inner selves.*

Let us now ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECONCILIATION WITH EACH OTHER

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory hymn: TiS347 We sing the praise of him who died - Thomas Kelly (1769-1855) alt. - tune: Fulda (TiS245)
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CCL No 632290

1. **We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinners' hope though all deride:
for this we count the world but loss.**
2. **Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, 'God is love';
he bears our sins upon the tree;
he brings us mercy from above.**
3. **The cross - it takes our guilt away,
it holds the fainting spirit up,
it cheers with hope the gloomy day
and sweetens every bitter cup:**
4. **it makes the coward spirit brave
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes its terror from the grave
and gilds the bed of death with light;**
5. **the balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angel's theme in heaven above.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

By his grace we are able
to triumph over every evil,
and to walk in the way of his love.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the
crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and
blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and
feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

FR JOHN'S FAREWELL

Farewell speech on behalf of the parish

Fr John's response

FR JOHN RELINQUISHES HIS MINISTRY AT ST JOHN'S

The ministry of Christ has many dimensions, to be
shared among bishop, clergy and people.

At my induction as priest of this parish, I committed
myself to the ministry of the Word of God. I strove to fulfil
this ministry, with the help of God.

John hands over a Bible

I now lay it aside here, ready to take it up again where
God wills it.

**We will continue to seek to be obedient to the
Word of God.**

At my induction, I committed myself to ordering the
worship of God's people and being a person of prayer. I
strove to fulfil this ministry, with the help of God.

John hands over a prayer book

I now lay it aside here, ready to take it up again where
God wills it.

**We will continue to give ourselves to God in prayer
and praise.**

At my induction, I committed myself to bringing people
to holy baptism and new life in Christ. I strove to fulfil this
ministry, with the help of God.

John hands over a jug of water

I now lay it aside here, ready to take it up again where
God wills it.

We will continue to celebrate our life in the Spirit.

At my induction, I committed myself to presiding at the
Lord's table for God's people to feed on Christ. I strove
to fulfil this ministry, with the help of God.

John hands over a chalice and patten

I now lay it aside here, ready to take it up again where
God wills it.

**We will continue to offer ourselves as a living
sacrifice in the power of God's Spirit.**

When the bishop set me in my place among God's
people in this parish, I was asked to receive the cure of
souls - which is both his and mine. I strove to enact this,
with the help of God, not only for individuals but also for
this faith community as a whole.

John hands over the service registers and church keys

I now lay this aside here, ready to take it up again where
God wills it.

**As you journey onward,
we ask forgiveness where we have failed you;
we give thanks for all you have given us;
we assure you of our love and prayers.**

As I leave, I ask forgiveness where I have failed you;
I give thanks for all that you have given to me;
I assure you of my love and prayers.

**As you experience the pain of change, and the
insecurity of moving on,
we pray that you may also experience the blessing of
inner growth.**

I know that God goes with me.

**As you meet the poor, the pained, and the stranger
on the Way,
we pray that you may see in each one the face of
Christ.**

I know that God goes with me.

**As you walk through the good times and the bad,
we pray that you may never lose sight of the shelter
of God's loving arms.**

I know that God goes with me.

**As you ponder your decisions and wonder over the
fruits of your choice,
we pray that the peace of Christ may reign in your
heart.**

I know that God goes with me.

Fr John is blessed, on behalf of the parish

The congregation is blessed:

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
give honour to all;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the
Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and those whom you love and pray for.
Amen.

Hymn: TIS351 Lift high the cross

George William Kitchin (1827-1912) rev. Michael Robert

Newbolt (1874-1956) - tune: Crucifer

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***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

- 1. Come, people, follow where our captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***
- 2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of him who died:
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***
- 3. From north and south,
from east and west they raise
in growing unison their song of praise:**

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

4. **O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
draw all to you, let all the nations see:
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***
5. **From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on the cross adore their Saviour King:
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 26 th Mar	<u>5th Sunday of Lent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist 8pm AA meeting
Mon 27 th Mar	10.30am <i>Al Anon meeting</i>
Tue 28 th Mar	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm <i>community meal: TDRM</i>
Wed 29 th Mar	9am palm cross making in Kilsyth 10am Eucharist 5.30pm <i>community meal: Winter Shelter</i> 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 30 th Mar	10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 31 st Mar	-
Sat 1 st Apr	7am AA meeting 10.30am <i>Focus on Faith & Friendship</i> 7pm <i>Lai Christian Church</i>
Sun 2 nd Apr	<u>Palm Sunday</u> 8am Eucharist - <i>starting in foyer</i> 10am Sung Eucharist - <i>starting at the cnr of Wicklow & Toorak Ave.s</i> 8pm AA meeting

Lent course: ***Christ's Costly Gift of Reconciliation***

The recommended Lent course for this year has been prepared by CTBI - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It is sent as a weekly email on Wednesdays, starting on Ash Wednesday. The course can be subscribed to here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2023/>

Parishioners are encouraged to undertake this individually or to contact Joan Sweet if you would like to join the Saturday morning study group. A small number of study booklets have been printed for those of you who do not have the internet or are having trouble accessing the emails. Please speak to one of the Wardens if you need one of these.

Making Palm Crosses

St John's people are invited to join with St James & St Peter Anglican Church Kilsyth-Montrose to make Palm Crosses for both parishes on Wednesday 29th March. This will be at St James & St Peter's, at 686 Mt Dandenong Road, Kilsyth.

The cross making is planned to start at 9am, stop for the usual 10am service (to which all are welcome) then resume at about 11am.

My Fair Lady – next Saturday 1st April at 2pm

A group of 14 parishioners will be attending the matinee of My Fair Lady at 2pm on 1st April.

There are still a very limited number of tickets available through the ticketing office if you would like to join us for that performance. We will be car pooling so transport is available for everyone who needs it. Please contact the office or see Cathy if you would like more information.

Tickets to all the sessions are available from: <https://www.monash.edu/performing-arts-centres/event/my-fair-lady/>

Jams & Sauces for Sale

Roger & Jenny Heath have been busy making delicious jams and sauces which can be purchased after the services. All profits go towards the parish.