

THE GOSPELS ON DEATH & NEW LIFE  
32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time Year C, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019

LAST WEEKEND - WE REMEMBERED & WE PRAYED

Last weekend we remembered people we have known who have met Jesus in eternal life.

We lit *three* candles for *three* special intentions.

And a request for prayers for a journey I was taking during the week.



GOSPEL OF LUKE 20:27-38

Luke's Gospel today finds Jesus with the Sadducees, who lay a trap for him.

The Pharisees also believe in the resurrection.



James Tissot – Brooklyn Museum – public domain

We are not told if the Sadducees ever lay this trap for the Pharisees at other times.

But today Jesus is the intended victim. Jesus doesn't fall for it.

Instead, as a teacher, he reveals the understanding of a living God.

For God, all are, in fact, alive.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ON DEATH AND NEW LIFE

1. JESUS REACHES OUR TO US

We reflect on our attitude to dying and to new life.

Below are some passages to reflect on over this week.

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes (Matthew Chapter 5:1-12a) include,

***"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted".***

Later in the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 11:28 Jesus says,

***"Come to me, all you that are weary, and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."***

## 2. FORGIVENESS AND TRUST

As we approach death, the issues of forgiveness and trust can be critical.

Let us turn to the example of Jesus. In Luke's Gospel we note that Jesus

- I. Forgives those who have crucified him.  
*"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing"* (Luke 23:34)
- II. Forgives and welcomes the repentant sinner on the cross.  
*"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise".* (Luke 23:43)
- III. Entrusts his spirit to the Father  
*"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit".* (Luke 23:46)

## 3. PROMISES OF JESUS

John's Gospel contains *promises* to those who believe.

In John 11:25-26 Jesus says to Martha,

*"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?"*

In John Chapter 14:2-4 come the promises of dwelling places for us and that Jesus will prepare a place for us and return to take us home.

*"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.  
If it were not, would have I told you that I go to prepare a place for you?  
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again  
and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.  
And you know the way to the place where I am going".*

And in John 14:6 Jesus says,

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

## 4. THE RISEN JESUS INVITES DAILY

In the Gospels, we see accounts of the Risen Jesus appearing in Jerusalem, in Galilee and those who on a journey.

The Risen Jesus gave urban and rural and travelling appearances.

In Luke's Gospel chapter 24, Jesus walks with two grieving disciples *On the Road to Emmaus*. He gives them time to ask their questions.

Jesus walks with us in our grieving too.

He gives us time to ask our questions. We are not alone.

When they invited Jesus to stay with them, they recognised him.

*"When he was at the table with them,  
He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them".*

And we remember Jesus offering the wonderful gift of Eucharist (Luke 22:13-20) the night before he died. And we touch the depth of Jesus' love offered in Eucharist.

In John chapter 20 in Jerusalem, the Risen Jesus speaks to a distressed and grieving Mary of Magdala,

***'Woman why are you weeping?'***  
***'Whom do you seek?'***

Jesus talks to Mary with two basic questions,

- 1. what is going on in our lives at this very moment?*
- 2. who are we seeking at this moment in our lives – are we seeking Jesus?*

Mary finally recognises Jesus when he calls her name.

Jesus sends her to share the good news.

Later in John chapter 20, the Risen Jesus appears to the disciples in a closed room in Jerusalem, closed because of their fear, and offers them, ***"peace to you"***.

He shows them his hands and side, and the disciples, seeing this proof, rejoiced.

Jesus once again says, ***"peace to you"***.

Jesus brings peace to their fears, and later peace to their joy as he commissions them.

In John Chapter 21, by the Sea of Galilee,

the Risen Jesus asks Simon Peter, ***"do you love me?"***

After inviting Peter into dialogue, Jesus says, ***"follow me"***.

Even in our grieving Jesus offers us peace and concern and compassion.

Like Mary of Magdala and the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are invited to recognise Jesus as he comforts us.

These are only a few examples of the many New Testament passages guiding us as we ponder dying, forgiveness, trust, letting go, death, grieving, loving, hope, faith, resurrection and eternal life, and as we open our hearts to accept the promises that Jesus offers.

#### **RECENT VISIT TO CHURCH FRIENDS IN PNG**

During the Masses this weekend I share about the recent Church Delegation to Port Moresby. We witnessed the ongoing ministry of several local church members and parishes to those in need.

Two major issues were

- 1. The remaining Manus Island detainees now in Port Moresby**

Talking with them and hearing about the cruel and unjust ways they were treated in detention, hearing why they tried originally to get to Australia and hearing the stories of local church people who try to support them as best they can.

Hearing why some of their friends in detention suicided.

And the Bomana Detention Centre today and its horrors.

And the fear and dread of people if Australia dismisses the Medevac law later this month.

## 2. Maybe 13,000 – 14,000 West Papuans are exiled in PNG

Some are now PNG citizens but most of them are 'stateless'.

*What does it mean to be stateless with no rights?*

One of shanty camps has about 50 families, and only one toilet and one shower in the camp.

Some have been evicted from their camp more than once by government.

Some named four or five times they have been evicted; their shanties destroyed.

And having to start again from scratch.

A few examples are shared of what the church delegation saw and heard.

(Shared verbally at weekend Masses)

Delegation Press Release:

[PNG visit affirms need for safe, secure pathways for refugees and people seeking asylum](#)

Catholic Outlook, Parramatta Diocese, 8 November 2019

### REFLECTION THIS WEEK

We are invited as Christians to sit with a passage from Scripture in the homily, and to ask Jesus to show us its depth.

*How do we open our hearts to the life of Jesus around us?*

*How do we truly love our neighbour in need?*

In the Holy Spirit we will be moved.

Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/111019.cfm>]

**THE GOSPELS ON DEATH & NEW LIFE**

**How do we open our hearts to the life of Jesus around us?  
How do we truly love our neighbour in need?**

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW  
GOSPEL OF LUKE  
GOSPEL OF JOHN  
GOSPEL OF MARK

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in the homily and to ask Jesus to show us its depth.**  
Fr Gerry