

The readings and psalms set for Morning Prayer this week – for those who would like to join with us at home:

**Monday:** Psalm 73; Exodus 8:1-19; Hebrews 11:17-31

**Tuesday:** Psalm 35; Exodus 8:20-end; Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2

**Wednesday:** Psalms 55; Exodus 9:1-12; Hebrews 12:3-13

**Thursday:** Psalm 40; Exodus 9:13-end; Hebrews 12:14-end

**Friday:** Psalm 22; Exodus 10; Hebrews 13:1-16

**Saturday:** Psalm 23; Exodus 11; Hebrews 13:17-end

**Sunday:** Psalm 61, 62; Zechariah 9:9-12; Luke 16:19-end

**Swindon Food Collective**, our local foodbank, is still working hard to feed the vulnerable of RWB. So if you can please do carry on buying extra provisions for it and dropping them off at St Bart's Church porch. Thank you.

**Find out what we're up to at:**

Website: [www.stbartholomews-wb.com](http://www.stbartholomews-wb.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StBartholomewsChurchRWB](https://www.facebook.com/StBartholomewsChurchRWB)

Instagram: @st\_barts\_rwb

**Keep in touch, or let us know if any help is needed at:**

Telephone: 01793 853272

Email: [churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com](mailto:churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com)

**Join our email list for updates and information:**

Email: [churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com](mailto:churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com)

***We seek to grow through prayer and  
share Christ's love through engagement with all.***

Other communications to the Parish Office:  
Tel 853272 or email [churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com](mailto:churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com)



## Weekly News

### 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Today, the **fifth Sunday of Lent**, is also known as **Passion Sunday**. Holy Week is still seven days away, but already we seem to have shifted a gear. The church turns from its Lenten observance, its prayer and reflection, fasting and penitence, towards Passiontide and the events that befell Jesus in Jerusalem - his arrest, trial and crucifixion. The mood therefore turns even more sombre. But as Ollie has written '*Appropriately today we consider the raising of Lazarus in the Gospel according to St. John, and Jesus' beckoning of all humanity from the darkness symbolised by the tomb towards the light which is the Way of Christ.*'

This week in the **#LiveLent 40-Day Challenge** we are thinking about creatures of sea and sky. '*Look at the birds of the air,*' suggests Jesus in Matthew's Gospel (5:26). This week in our booklets we are asked to consider the birds, as well as the fish and other sea creatures described on the fifth day in the Genesis 1 narrative. So why not open the window and have a listen!

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell,  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.*

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

And we continue to pray for **the Church in Sudan and South Sudan**: Pray for the Province of Sudan and for Archbishop Ezekiel as he and other faith leaders work with the government to bring about a fair and caring society.

# Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent and the beginning of Passiontide)

### COLLECT

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 37:1-14

### GOSPEL: John 11.1-45

<sup>1</sup>A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' <sup>4</sup>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.' <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

<sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' <sup>27</sup>She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

<sup>28</sup>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.' <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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.' <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>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 four days.' <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>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.' <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' <sup>44</sup>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.'

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.