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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</li> </ul> |
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## **March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - Year A    Gospel reading: John 11:1 - 45**

In this week's Gospel we see Jesus in the village of Bethany where Lazarus, brother of Martha and Mary lived and he was very ill. Jesus loved the sisters and their brother. He leads Martha and Mary to a new insight into the power of faith over death by his power of teaching and by commanding Martha to take away the stone. He tells them he was glad that he was not there when Lazarus died because now by seeing they will believe. He brings Lazarus out of the tomb – "unbind him and let him go free". Faced with bondage Jesus is armed with love, trust in the Father and deep compassion. Jesus returns to his place of death in perfect freedom, because of his own belief which is the inner light that keeps him going.

When are the times we were like Lazarus in the tomb, rejected, discouraged, in despair, feeling that life was not worth living? Sometimes we were overwhelmed by guilt and we just wanted to hide ourselves away from the world. Who was the special person that moved away the stone and released us from our heavy burden?

When are the times we have experienced this in our lives? Are there times in our lives when we become intolerant to those who do not see as we see?

### **Prayer:**

**Lord we thank you** for coming into our lives so that we who were without sight had our eyes opened and realised that we need to change how we relate to you and others in a way that is more compassionate and life giving.

**Forgive us Lord** for letting ourselves become like the Pharisees in that we hide from the evidence before us and take refuge in pious words. We can often at times get angry with those who challenge us because we feel that we are the only ones who have all the answers.

**Help us Lord** and be close to us so that we may bring your judgement to the world and lead the humble to the light showing those who think they see, that they have become blind.