

Homily for 5th Sunday of Lent, 29 March 2020 (Fr Stuart)

I have just celebrated the 5pm Te Puke Vigil Mass in my temporary chapel here is my Short Homily for Sunday:

This Sunday's gospel reading is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. It reminds me that some seek miracles and only by these will they believe, while others harden their hearts in the face such a challenge to their sense of reality. They do not want to see, they are blind to reality; they cannot believe that if Jesus is from God, then God will look after them as God has done so often in the past. Their refusal to believe in Jesus makes them refuse to believe in God's love for the Jewish people. It is no different in our days, many are blind to God, and refuse to believe. We are currently facing a pandemic and the last thing we need to be doing is blaming God or be weak in our faith, at times like this we need to take comfort in God's love and of the gift Jesus gave us of life eternal. We too can refuse to look at and listen humbly to reality, to read the signs of the Holy Spirit in what is going on in the world and in the church around us. We can refuse to trust the power of God within us and in others. We can let the light of Jesus penetrate all the darkness within us. As we find greater unity inside us as we let Jesus light shine, we bring greater unity around us. During these times let that light in, let it shine out. The story of Lazarus is the story of each one of us. It is the revelation that Jesus came to call us to rise up and to become fully alive in order to give life. This resurrection is a process that begins every morning, every night, every day. We are called to a journey of resurrection to do the work of God, to bring love into our families, our communities and the world. Let us during this covid-19 lockdown be such people, we may not encounter others every day but as we do buy our groceries, skype or ring our families, chat to the neighbour 3 metres away may we be a light of Christ and a people of the resurrection.

Fr Stuart

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