



Weekly Bulletin

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

St. Michael's Church, 58 Orwell Street, Blacktown & St. Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

22 MARCH 2026

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Mary Queen of the Family (MQOF) parish strives to grow as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, continuing to deepen in understanding the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church and to live as a faithful and committed Catholic community, evangelising and responding to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

LITURGY TIMES

Sunday Masses

5.30pm Sat Vigil (St Patrick's)
7.00am Sun (St Patrick's)
8.00am Sun (St Michael's)
9.30am Sun (St Michael's)
10.00am Sun (St Patrick's)
11.00am 4th Sun - Filo Mass (St Michael's)
2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)
1.00pm - Syro-Malabar Mass (St Michael's)
5.30pm Sun (St Patrick's)
6.00pm Sun (St Michael's)

Weekday Masses

St. Michael's:
8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri;
7.30pm Wed only

St. Patrick's:
9am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat;
7.30pm Fri only.

RECONCILIATION

St. Michael's: Wed 6.30pm—7.20pm
St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm -7:20pm &
Sat 9:30am -10:30am

HOLY HOUR

St. Michael's: Wed 6.30pm -7.30pm
St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm -7:30pm (except during Lent)

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Anointing of the Sick by appointment.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday-28th & 29th March 2026

Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Church - Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm
Sunday: 7am, 10am & 5:30pm
Holy Mass at St. Michael's Church - 8am, 9:30am & 6pm

Holy Thursday - 2nd April 2026

Lauds (Morning Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 9am
Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Patrick's Church - 7:30pm
Compline (Night Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 10pm

Good Friday - 3rd April 2026

Youth Passion Re-enactment at School Grounds - 10am
Passion of the Lord at St. Patrick's Church - 3pm
Passion of the Lord at St. Michael's Church - 3pm
Confessions will be held after each Liturgy

Holy Saturday - 4th April 2026

Lauds (Morning Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 9am
followed by Confessions - 9.30am-10.30am
Easter Vigil Mass at St. Patrick's Church - 7.30pm

Easter Sunday- 5th April 2026

Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Church - 7am, 10am & 5.30pm
Holy Mass at St. Michael's Church - 8am, 9:30am & 6pm

For more information including other confession times, be sure to check our website or contact the Parish Office www.mqofblacktown.org.au or (02) 9622 1125

Parish Directory

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown &
St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown.

Parish Office: At St. Patrick's Church. Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm
Telephone: 02 9622 1125 Emergencies only: 02 8705 0830.
Website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Wim Hoekstra
Assistant Priests: Fr Stephen Onyekwere, Fr Tom Green
Deacon: Rev. John Cinya
Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole Email: accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au
Parish Secretary: Jill Franco Email: jfranco@mqofblacktown.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team
Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au
Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chairperson: Vince Tabone; Deputy Chairperson: Daniel Mangabat; Secretary: Eva Cheetley. Members: Don DeMello, Erica Luiz, Helena Vea, Josh Carr, Marian Asiegbu, Mary Mondeddu, Savita Surendra, Trevor Brewty, Fr Wim Hoekstra, Fr Tom Green, Fr Stephen Onyekwere & Deacon John Cinya.

Parish Schools:

St Michael's Primary: Phone 8869 6200
St Patrick's Primary: Phone: 8869 6000
Nagle College: Phone: 8887 4500
Patrician Brothers College: Phone: 8811 0300
Ambrose Early Learning Centre (St Michael's): Phone 0458 508 444

Aged Care Facilities:

Opal Nursing Home (37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 9852 9600
Mullauna Retirement Village (61 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148)
P : 8822 2100
St Hedwig Village Blacktown (140 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown 2148)
P: 8822 9920

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"I will put my breath in them, bring them back to life and let them live in their own land."

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

"Jesus said: 'Take away the stone.' Martha said to him: 'Lord, by now he'll smell; this is the fourth day.' ...Then Jesus cried out loudly: 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' ...Jesus said to them: 'Unbind him, let him go free.'" John 11: 1-45

Success in getting our minds around John's Gospel is something that is not easily attained. Today's account of how Jesus came to raise Lazarus from the grave is more of an exploration of what it means to grow in discipleship of Jesus than it is about Jesus' bringing the dead Lazarus back to life. The level of discipleship Thomas had reached is his commitment to stand by Jesus in any circumstance that eventuated. When Jesus voiced his intention to return to Judea, a place where he had just been threatened with death by stoning, Thomas was courageous enough to say to Jesus: "Are you out of your mind?" He then turned to his companions, urging them to stick with Jesus, effectively saying: "If he's mad enough to venture back into hostile territory, we had better go with him for support! After all, he's our leader!" That prompted Jesus to respond with a riddle: "If you walk by the light of day, you won't take a tumble. However, if you get mixed up with bad things like cheating, violence and robbery, and if you don't recognise me and embrace me as 'the light of the world', you'll be living on the dark side of life". Thomas was also implying that, if they kept close to the one who had described himself as "the light of the world," they would be able to face death with him. However, it is still doubtful as to whether or not Thomas had fully grasped the meaning of Jesus' puzzling words.

John then turned his focus onto his friends Mary and her sister Martha, a budding theologian, who displayed her knowledge of and belief in resurrection to eternal life after the death that all humans will experience. It is worth our noting that Jesus was open to listening to women. He had been prompted into action before "his hour" by his mother, when she saw that the wine had run out at the wedding reception in Cana. And it was the Syrophenician who had pushed him to add gentiles to his list of people in need. In today's gospel-reading, both Mary and Martha let him know that their brother would still have been alive had he (Jesus) not delayed his arrival. However, Martha didn't stop there. She elaborated on her faith by adding: "I know that God will respond to whatever you ask!" However, even she did not grasp the full import of Jesus' response when he identified himself as "the resurrection and the life" and followed up with the question; "Do you believe this?" She was displaying her limited belief when Jesus gave directions for the tomb of Lazarus to be opened: "Lord, by now he'll smell; this is the fourth day..." But, without hesitating, Jesus went ahead and raised Lazarus back to life.

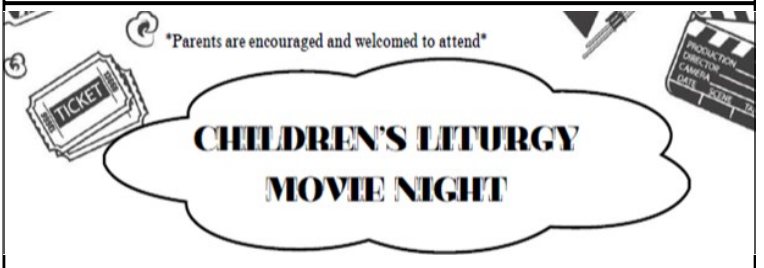
Yet, those who had witnessed that, together with those of us who have followed them, are still left trying to fathom Jesus' words about walking and living in the light, in the "light of life" that he identified (...) (...) himself as being. That's the very light that was fully revealed when God raised him from the tomb on Resurrection Day.

Jesus was inviting Martha to open herself to be lit up by the light that Jesus is. In today's gospel-reading, John has presented his community and us with the insight that growth into full discipleship is a staged process. Thomas had negotiated the first stage, committing himself and urging his companions to stick close to Jesus. Martha and Mary stated their belief that Jesus had power over death. Martha's theology was a little further advanced than her sister's. The fullness of discipleship comes when we can open ourselves to live with Jesus' life and life present and active in us. Getting there is a giant leap in faith that may only be attained after our earthly death.

We really need to see this gospel-reading as more than a theology lesson about growth into faith. We are reminded by John that human grief was part of human experience for Jesus, too. When Jesus told Martha that her brother would rise again, he was referring to life after death but certainly not telling here to stop grieving for Lazarus. After all, he was so upset by his friend's death that he, himself, broke down in tears. However, this was the prelude to the last of his seven signs (all recorded in John's Gospel), that he was the Messiah. That seventh sign was his raising of Lazarus and his declaration: "I am the resurrection and the life!"

We await another opportunity to contemplate that declaration from Jesus when we read and hear the account of how God raised Jesus to life on Easter Sunday. That's witness to the truth that over God and Jesus death has no power. Grief will not disappear from our lives. Grief is an essential part of human healing. Can we live in faith and hope that eventually we will grow into living in the light of Christ, who really is the resurrection and the life for every one of us?

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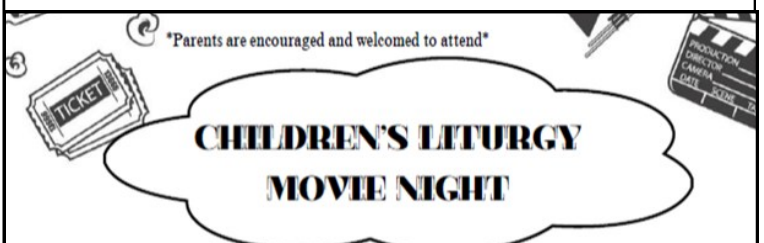
The animated musical movie— **DAVID**

Saturday 28 March 2026—4pm to 8pm
Sid Moseley Room, St Michael's Church

For children 7-12 yrs old (children aged 6 and younger are required to have a parent/older sibling present with them)

Snacks and Pizza will be provided. Any allergies or dietary requirements please contacts Grace 0410 501 647

RSVP by March 23rd by sending message to Grace 0410 501 647 with children's names and any allergies/dietary requirements.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 129. R. v.7

**R ~ With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied:

‘Are there not twelve hours in the day?
A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling
because he has the light of this world to see by;
but if he walks at night he stumbles,
because there is no light to guide him.’

He said that and then added, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.’ Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: John 11: 26

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

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Children’s Liturgy

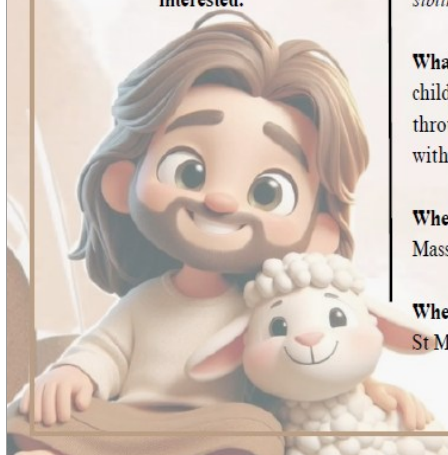
**The Children’s Liturgy group are looking
for parent volunteers to help aid
Children’s Liturgy on Sundays!
Contact Grace 0410 501 647 if you’re
interested.**

Who: Children aged 7-12 years old
are encouraged to join!
*(children aged 6 and under are
required to bring their parent or older
sibling)*

What is it: A session to help
children unpack the gospel reading
through open discussions paired
with child-friendly activities.

When: Sundays during 9:30am
Mass.

Where: Sid Mosley Room/Centre at
St Michael’s Parish, Blacktown.



THE SACRAMENTS / MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving of the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or after office hours number 02 8705 0830.

PARISH GROUPS

CHRIST'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GROUP



Contact: Jane Cauchi, 0433 173 177
Meeting Time and Venue: Fridays, 9.30am
Sid Moseley Centre, St. Michael's Church
All are welcome!



Love arts and crafts? Join us on every Tuesday, 10am-1pm in the Sid Mosely Room, St. Michael's and Fridays from 10am-12pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St. Patrick's Church. Activities include embroidery, crocheting, knitting, painting and sewing.
Contact Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS



Contact: Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 am at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S

Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533 (for statue bookings) President: Steve Attard.
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Thursday, 9am-10.30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

LEGION OF MARY ST PATRICK'S



Contact: Doris Zammit, 0419 274 002 (for statue bookings)
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, 6:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS—CENACLE



Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533
Meeting Time and Venue: Monday 9:30am-10:30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.
All are welcome!

MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP—MARY'S PANTRY

Contact: Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877

ROSARY GROUP

Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday after the 8am Mass, at St Michael's church.

CATECHIST MINISTRY

Contact: Sandra Baker
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
For more information, please contact the parish office.

TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando, 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday (during school term only), 2pm - 4pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St Patrick's Church.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 3.00pm at Sid Mosley Centre St Michael's Church

YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Parish Office
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
For more Information please contact our Youth Minister through the parish office.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

If you wish your child to be baptised here at MQOF Parish, please contact the parish office. If this is your first child, you will need to attend a Baptism workshop.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 7th May, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Cardinal Clancy Room. (No meeting in April due to Holy Thursday)**

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Registration for the Sacrament of Holy Communion will go live on Friday April 3, and remain open till 19th April. Link will be provided next week

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

John O'Brien, Elias Safadi, Bosco Roach

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Stan Saldanha, Joseph and Therese Vella

DECEASED

Sam Borg, Aloysius & Hilda Coutinho, Antick & Mary Jane Simon
Richard Osbourne, For Souls in Purgatory, Tony Arena, Frank Vitetta

SICK

Janita Dell

THANKSGIVING

St. Francis of Assisi, Klyne

Mass intentions are no longer available online. Please use the envelopes and give to the priests.



Fifth Sunday of Lent 21-22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Parish News

The Third scrutiny of the elect will be held at St Michael's Church at the 9.30am Mass this weekend.

Please keep Ashlee, Daniel, Rahul, Matthew, Daniel and Judy and Michael in your prayers.

As 4-5 April is Daylight Savings changeover weekend, the Easter Vigil will be at 7.30pm on 4th April. There is no 5.30pm Mass that evening.

At its meeting on Thursday the Parish Pastoral Council considered the priorities identified from the pastoral Planning Day. For your info, the PPC agreed to work on these priorities.

- Communication and visibility
- Welcoming
- Coordination across ministries and groups
- Children and families
- Faith formation pathways

Fr Wim



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- Tuesday 3rd March 3:45pm
- Friday 6th March 9:30am
- Tuesday 24th March 9:30am

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Some Wisdom

A day without sunshine is like night.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Change is inevitable, except from vending machines



NAGLE COLLEGE

We're ENROLLING NOW for 2027!

Where Dreams Take Flight



The Alpha program is starting on 13 April 2026, and you're invited!!!

Alpha is a safe space where you can ask questions about life, faith and meaning. Right now a seat at the table has been prepared for you.

When: Every Monday, from 13th April for 11 weeks in the MPA at St Patrick's.

The series includes a vibrant video, healthy discussion and a heart warming dinner,

For more info email: alphablacktown2148@gmail.com or register using the QR code on the right




OPEN DAYS

- 3 March 9:00am - 11:00am
- 24 March 9:00am - 10:30am

58A Orwell Street, Blacktown
T: 8887 4500 nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Scan QR code to register your interest



We proudly belong to  Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

You can support the parish by:

The Tap & Go Machine. The machine amount is variable, please use the screen to donate the amount you wish to give. It also accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay and Pay Wave. All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.

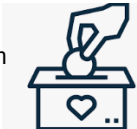
Planned Giving (Direct Debit or Credit Card) is also an option if you wish to do cashless donation to the parish, forms are available in the foyer and on our parish website or contact the parish office on 9622 1125.

Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to: www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations.

You can also send your offerings/donations thru bank transfer:

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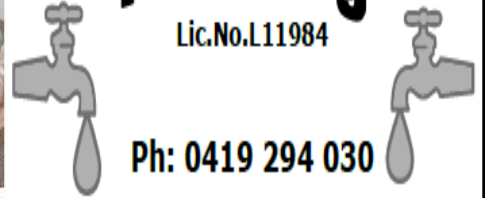

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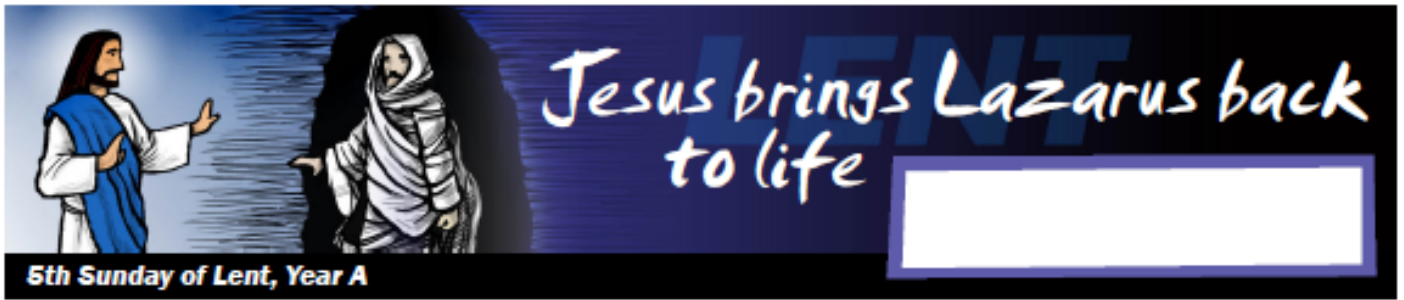
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Fill in the missing word on each strip of cloth to find out what the letters in each box spell.

Jesus' good r n Lazarus was very sick.

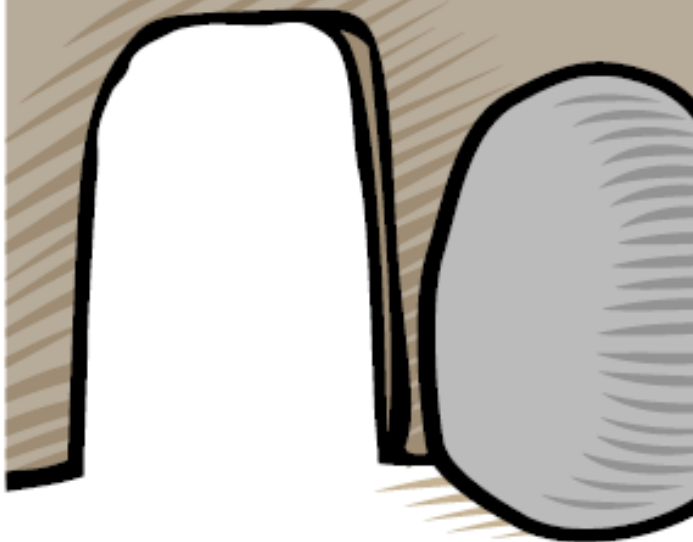
Martha and M were sad when their brother died.

"Lazarus will v again", said Jesus.

Jesus went to the opened b and prayed.

Lazarus walked out of s tomb alive.

Draw Lazarus leaving the tomb wrapped in strips of cloth.



Martha and Mary were sad when Lazarus died. They missed their brother, but still they showed faith in Jesus. What do you think Martha and Mary said to Lazarus when he came out of the tomb?

Two large, empty speech bubbles are provided for the student to write their response to the question above.

