

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill, including: Lyn & David Hehir, Margaret Nichol, Anne Hurst, Denise Lovell. Those who have died recently: Marie Townsend

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Thomas and Catherine Armer, Joan Knight, Hunter Brown, Annie Fletcher Collins,

*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen*

**Dedicated Candles in Church this week -**  
**The Sanctuary Candle:** Thomas & Catherine Armer. Years Mind

**Our Lady of Peace Candle:** Joan Knight. Years Mind.

**The Sacred Heart:** Alan & Joan Wiggans on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their Marriage.

***Congratulations to Alan & Joan Wiggans who, this week, celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary!***

**Weekly Offering Envelopes: Please, keep these at home until we resume worship in Church.**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April is the Feast Day of Richard of Chichester who gave us the following prayer:

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.*

*O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.*

**The Parish of Lund  
St. John the Evangelist**



**Newsletter  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
The Fifth Sunday  
Of Lent**

*In the Diocese of Blackburn & the Deanery of Kirkham. A member of Churches Together in Kirkham & District.*

[www.lundparish.org.uk](http://www.lundparish.org.uk)

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**During this time of Church closure, please, be assured that Fr John continues to offer prayer in Church for the needs of all those in the Parish. If you have any particular prayer requests then, please, speak to Fr John.**

**Today's Readings:**

**First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The Lord shows Ezekiel a valley of dry bones, commanding the prophet to speak forth god's life. As an enfolded and breathing multitude arises, God declares and intention to renew and restore the people.

**Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

Paul exhorts his readers to focus on the Spirit that dwells in them, reminding them that the Spirit who Raised Jesus from the dead will give life to their mortal bodies.

**Gospel: John 11:1-45**

At Bethany, Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead, foreshadowing his own death and emergence from the tomb. Many of those who witness this miracle believe in Jesus.

**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 your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN.**

Reflection on 5th Sunday in Lent: 29th March 2020 By Cathy York

## Unbind and Let Go

"Lazarus is dead," Jesus tells the disciples. It's not hard to imagine the questions that might be running through the minds of the disciples and the hearts of Mary and Martha. They are the same kind of questions we ask ourselves and each other whenever life is interrupted and changed in ways we do not want, when circumstances show us just how difficult, fragile, and beautiful life

really is. “Why? How could this happen? What’s next for me? Is this an ending or a beginning? Could it be both? How do I move forward? How do I make sense of what has happened? What will life be like now? Is there life after this? Why didn’t God do something?” Every time life sets before us those kind of questions we are reminded that we live with more questions than answers, and the answers we do have no longer seem to carry the weight and authority they once did. Our lives are filled with unanswered questions.

The unanswered questions of life tend to leave us confused and disappointed. Disappointment is always wrapped up in and bound by our unmet expectations. That’s where Mary and Martha are in today’s gospel. They are disappointed and confused. “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Our ‘if only’ longings are ultimately about the past, our dislike of what is or our fear of something new. We want to preserve what was and keep things the way they’ve



always been. Almost always they come from a place of sorrow and loss, regret, failure, or disappointment. The illusion of “if only” wraps around our lives like grave clothes. We use it to tie up what has fallen apart, preserve what is decaying, and tie us to what has been lost.

Jesus does not offer answers or explanations to Mary and Martha, or to us. Instead, he uses our confusion as “an agency for transformation” (David Whyte). Confusion asks us to reassess ourselves and our inner world. It is the first step in freeing us from misguided assumptions. It opens our eyes to a deeper way of seeing. “Unbind and let go.” Every time we refuse to live an “if only” life, we unbind the past and let it go. Unbinding and letting go of the past are not a rejection but an offering. We do not reject the past, throw it away, or deny its value and importance to us. Instead, we free it to be made new, to be given new life, to become a new creation.

Michael Marsh. Adapted