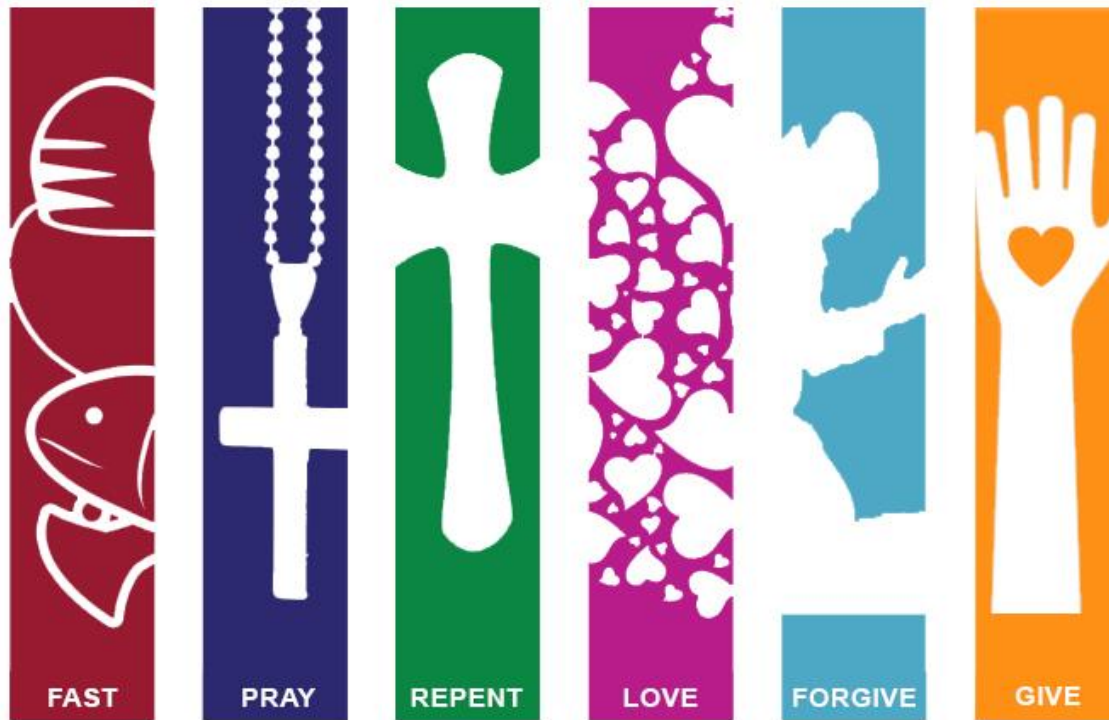




**LENT**





LENT



This Sunday's Gospel – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A  
(John 11:1-45)



Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany. So his sisters sent for Jesus, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying quietly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Laz'arus, come out." The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

**The word of God**

# Prayer One

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



## *Reflection*

*Our theme this week is Lazarus, because the Gospel story revolves around a man Who was raised from the dead.*



**Raising someone from the dead is a work of God. Only God can restore someone back to life when he or she dies. The faith of Martha and Mary and the people around had moved Jesus to help his friend Lazarus. And Jesus brought him to life.**

**We all die as we are all mortals. For Christians, death is the not the end of everything. Death changes life and does not end. When one dies and stops living in this earthly life, he or she will live again. We live in the Lord if we believe that we will live again only in the Lord.**

**This belief gives us hope even in very dark times, especially in times like this. This Gospel hints to the story of Jesus' own death and resurrection, showing the transformative power of God.**

# Final Prayer



## **LOVING FATHER...**

**Let us pray for our beloved dead, especially the forgotten ones. We pray for those who are living in fear, anxiety and grief right now. May the Lord guide them into the way of peace, calm and hope.**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**



# Prayer Two

## The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

### *Reflection*

*Lazarus was given new life in a literal sense.  
But people sometimes need the chance to  
start their lives anew in a metaphorical  
way...*





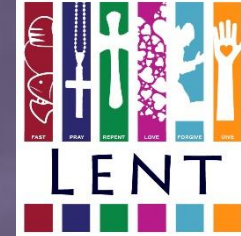


**Forty-one years ago this week a Russian woman walked into the American Embassy in India and formally asked for Asylum...a chance to start her life again**

**When people ask a country for asylum, it is because they have become afraid of their own country. Maybe because they don't feel safe, or maybe because their beliefs are being persecuted. What was different about this particular woman, though, was that she wasn't just anybody. She was the daughter of Joseph Stalin, who had ruled the Soviet Union for almost 30 years. Her defection from the Soviet Union to its greatest enemy at the time - the United States - naturally caused a huge uproar in her homeland. When she arrived in the United States she denounced her Father's regime and eventually took American citizenship.**

**Sometimes we have to walk away from things that we are very attached to. Maybe because we know they're holding us back. Or maybe because they're just not right for us.**





# Final Prayer

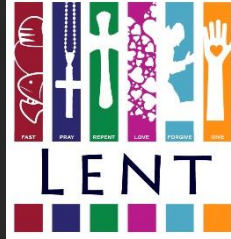
**God our Father, help us to have the courage to walk away from everything in our lives that isn't good for us. Anger, hatred, fear, sin, laziness... everything else that is holding us back.**

**In all things, help us to ask ourselves what you would do.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**





# Prayer Three

## The Sign of the Cross

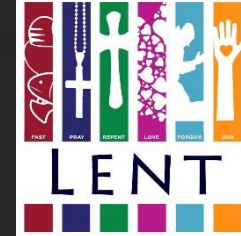
Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### *Reflection:*

*Last week we celebrated the feast day of  
St Oscar Romero - 24<sup>th</sup> March*



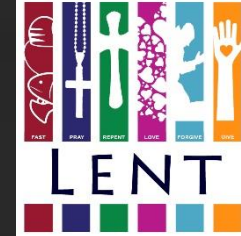
Oscar Romero's life has been a huge inspiration to many people (I even named my son after him!). But today his words seem more relevant than ever



**“Aspire not to have more but to be more, not to grab everything but to give abundantly to others”**

**Take a moment to reflect on what this means to you right now...**





# Final Prayer

**St Oscar Romero...**

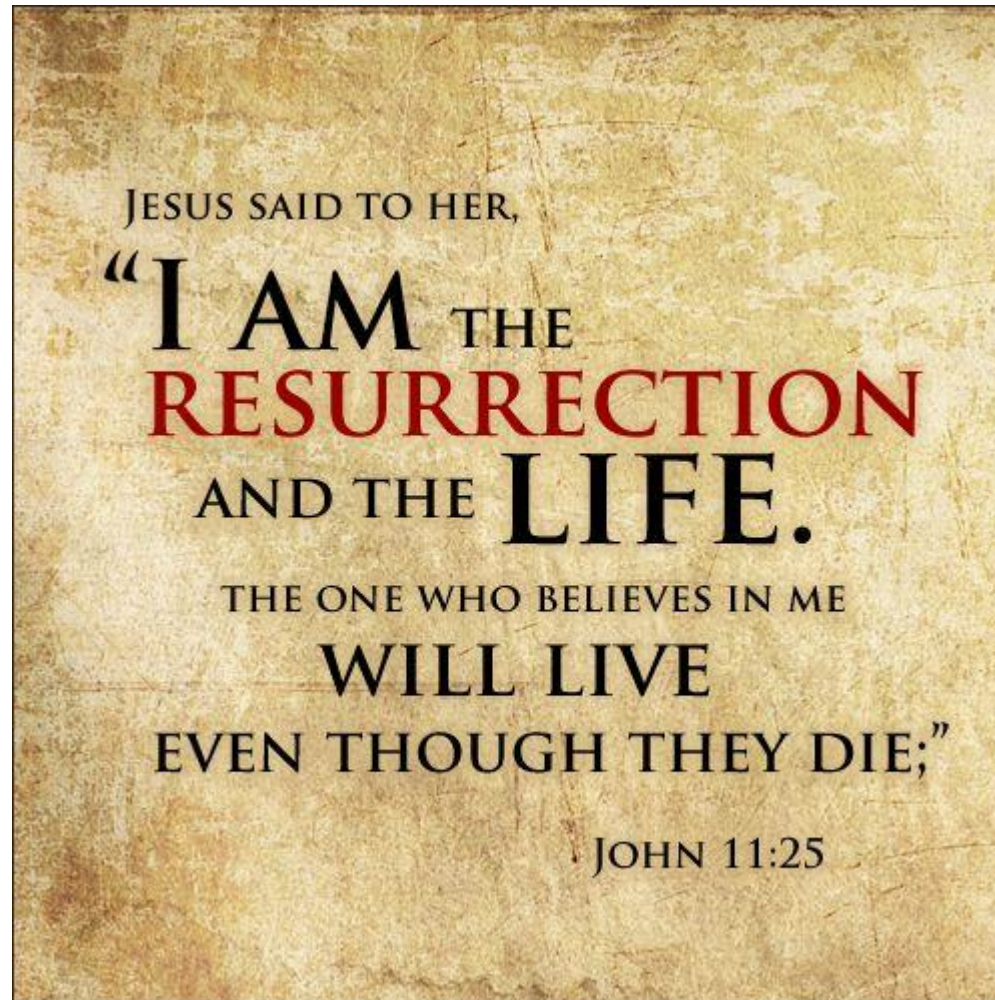
**Pray for us...**

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

**In the name of the Father and of  
the Son...**



# Final Thought...



***After the break the theme is:  
Peace be with you***