



# 5th Sunday of Lent

**John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45**

'I am the resurrection and the life.'

At that time: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But 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 on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who 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, who is coming into the world.'

Jesus was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly 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 also have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said,

'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, 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.

## Some things to think about...

- Why was Jesus upset?
- Lazarus was Jesus friend, he loved him. Can you think of the people you love in your life? Friends, family members?

## Activity

The love we get from our friends and family is something we should cherish (protect lovingly). We can do this by making a memory jar: Each take a few small bits of paper. On each bit of paper, write a nice memory of your family member or friend e.g. my friend Jack taught me a new game; my family went to the seaside etc.

## Materials needed

- Recycled jam jars - 1 per child
- Strips of paper for writing on (5-10 per child)
- Pens/pencils

## Teacher's Notes

In this scripture Jesus was told about Lazarus' condition but he did not arrive until after Lazarus had been dead for more than three days. Historically three days was the medical verification that death had occurred. This reading also contains the shortest verse in the Bible, 'Jesus wept'. Even though Jesus knew he was going to raise Martha and Mary's brother from the dead, he still took the time to meet them where they were and grieve with them. This shows that Jesus is fully human, as this story shows the depth of his feelings for his friend.