

**Sunday 2 April 2028**

*Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)*

**First Reading - Isaiah 43.15-21**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord, your Redeemer,  
the Holy One of Israel, says:

I am the Lord your God,  
the Creator of Israel,  
your King.

I made a path for you  
through the mighty waters  
of the sea.

I drew out the Egyptians behind you,  
chariots and horses, an army of warriors;  
but now they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished,  
quenched,  
like a wick.

Yet now I say:  
recount this history no more,  
nor dwell on events of the past,

for now I begin something new;  
indeed, it is already begun.

Even the wild animals  
will honour me.

I will make  
a safe route  
through the wilderness,  
and rivers  
will flow in the desert,  
to refresh my chosen people,  
the people I formed for myself;  
and they will declare my praise anew.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Philippians 3.4-12**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone  
had reason  
to be confident,  
I had more.

I was a descendant of Jacob,  
in the tribe of Benjamin,  
a Hebrew,  
born of Hebrews.

In the observation of the law, I was a Pharisee.  
In zeal, I was a persecutor of the church.  
In righteousness according to the law,  
I was blameless.

And yet I regard  
all these things  
as worthless now,

for nothing  
has any value at all  
compared to knowing  
Christ Jesus as my Lord.

For the sake of Christ,  
I have lost everything.

But I count this loss as nothing,  
for what I have gained  
is Christ.

United with Christ, I depend  
no more  
on a righteousness of my own,  
derived from the law,  
for I have instead  
a righteousness  
that comes from God,  
through faith in Christ.  
And so, leaving behind  
all that has gone before,  
I now press on towards the goal  
of knowing Christ more fully,  
and the power of his resurrection;  
sharing in his sufferings, and even  
becoming like him in his death,  
if somehow then  
I may share  
in his resurrection from the dead.  
All this I choose, just as Christ  
has chosen me.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - John 12.1-8**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

Six days before the Passover,  
Jesus came to Bethany,  
to the home of Lazarus.

Lazarus was the one  
Jesus had raised  
from the dead.

There, they gave a dinner for Jesus.

Martha served,  
and Lazarus was at the table, with Jesus.

Mary took a pound  
of costly perfume,  
and used the perfume  
to anoint  
Jesus' feet,  
wiping his feet with her hair.

And the house was filled  
with the fragrance  
of the perfume.

Judas Iscariot  
(the disciple who was about to betray Jesus)  
complained, saying, 'This perfume  
could have been sold  
for a whole year's wages,  
and the money given to the poor!'

(He said this  
not because he cared about the poor,  
but because he was a thief.  
He looked after the disciples' funds,  
and would steal from them.)

Jesus said, 'Let her alone.

She has kept this perfume  
for the day of my burial.  
You will always have the poor with you,  
but you will not always have me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.