

Ministerial Region of the Good Shepherd, Townsville



43 Morindo Drive, Kirwan. Q. 4817.
PO Box 203, Thuringowa Central. Q. 4817
Ph. (07) 4723 9844
Email: goodshepkirwan@tsv.catholic.org.au



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

25TH & 26TH MARCH 2023

“I believe in the resurrection”

In an essay in **U.S. Catholic** [April 2021], minister, author and seminary administrator Jeffrey Munroe writes of a co-worker who came into his office to tell him her cancer had returned after two years. Her doctor didn't think she could survive surgery to remove her cancerous kidney because her previous bout of cancer had so compromised her lungs.

What was there to say? Munroe remembers that “our silence said everything.”

“Finally, I managed to say, ‘I am so sorry,’ and started to cry but she said, ‘Stop it,’ so I stopped it but still cried a little. Those kinds of tears aren't easy to turn off. After a while she said, ‘I'm fine, I believe in the resurrection,’ which just about knocked me over. We went on to talk about Do Not Resuscitate Orders and other grim topics, but my mind kept returning to ‘I'm fine, I believe in the resurrection.’ There must be ten million miles between me saying that to her and her saying that to me. If I say it, it's a religious platitude offered in an attempt to avoid entering her pain. But when she says it, it is a confession of faith, raw and authentic and true and full of courage and hope. I don't know where that kind of faith comes from. I don't know if I have it. I thank God she does.”



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For us who struggle to follow Jesus, the idea of resurrection is more than an event recorded in the Gospels — resurrection is an attitude that finds hope in the hardest times, a perspective that uncovers life among the devastated and broken, an awareness that sees light in the darkest night. Lazarus' sister Mary articulates that hope in today's Gospel: that the God who created us as a manifestation of his love will not abandon us when our bodies return to “dust.” Such hope can be hard to embrace, but to “believe” in the resurrection is to live — and die — in the assurance that, in taking up our own crosses with courage and generosity, we can re-create our broken world in the love of the God who will re-create us when our Easter morning dawns.



Peace.....*Parish Pastoral Team*

Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with God. Micah.6:8