



THEME

**"COME, HAVE BREAKFAST"**  
**JOHN 21:12**

# a message of **hope**

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My dear young friends,  
Christ is risen, He is truly  
risen, Alleluia!

This morning you are  
invited to breakfast. You  
are startled, you can't quite  
believe who has invited you.  
It seems all a dream. But it  
is real. Jesus, who was dead  
days ago, is now standing  
with you on the beach. He

is standing next to a charcoal  
fire with fish cooking on it and  
bread. A barbie on the beach – a  
very Australian scene! It looks  
appetising. You have been fishing  
a long time during the night and  
tired. Perhaps you are imagining  
all of this? But no, you saw how  
after a wasted night in the boat  
your nets were filled with fish  
(153 big fish!) from his Word. The  
dawn brings surprising joys.

"You saw  
how after a  
wasted night  
in the boat  
your nets  
were filled  
with fish  
(153 big  
fish) from  
his word."

He brings you a fish burger  
to eat – he feeds you. It reminds  
you of other amazing moments.  
Here you are, with Peter and  
James and John, Thomas,  
Nathaniel and another of the  
disciples, eating with the Lord.  
And you know it is the Lord, and  
He is alive. You wonder why you  
are here, you who are a "small  
fry", caught up in this most  
amazing story. Then you think  
of the miraculous catch of fish  
which you have helped to haul in,  
and you realise that there are no  
"small fry" to Jesus, but that he  
wants all sorts and everyone is a  
"big fish" to him!

Come to the barbie on the  
beach with Jesus at World Youth  
Day in Sydney 2008. And in the  
meantime, all the blessings of  
the Easter season!

**ANTHONY FISHER OP,  
WYD08 COORDINATOR**

# faith foundations

## THE RESURRECTION

The Christian faith can be summarised in the following way: The Father sent the Son to give us the Spirit, so that in the Spirit we might be sons and daughters in communion with God. St Seraphim of Sarov stated that "the goal of the Christian life is to acquire the Holy Spirit."

Having taken upon Himself the curse of sin by dying on the Cross, Jesus "gave over his spirit." On the day of the resurrection, Jesus "breathed on the disciples", like at the **beginning of creation** when the Spirit or breath of God "breathed" over the "chaos" and brought life into being. In doing so he was bringing into existence a new creation, bringing about freedom from sin and death through the forgiveness of sins. "Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven." (John 20:22)

The resurrection of Jesus in the body was so important for the evangelists that in almost every episode they recount

... "the goal of the Christian life is to attain the Holy Spirit."

there is a physical dimension to the encounter He had with his disciples. He invited them to touch his glorious wounds, he ate food with them, he was embraced. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus is central to Christian belief and is expressed in the Gospels as a high point of revelation that Jesus is the Son of God made Flesh. St Thomas, after having first refused to believe the testimony of the other disciples, when he saw Jesus and verified for himself the truth of their

claims, proclaimed "My Lord and My God!" (John 20:28)

St Paul summarised in typical fashion why the resurrection is so important to us now and for our eternal life: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain. You are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all."  
[1 Corinthians 15:17-18]

New life for the body (resurrection) and new life for the soul (forgiveness). That is the promise of Easter, that is Jesus' Easter present to us. Both are tokens of the love of God poured out for us in the Holy Spirit. Just like the Easter barbecue on the beach. The miraculous hauls are already happening! New life is all around us and within us. "Come, have breakfast" in the kingdom of God.



**PIESRIMAGE**

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# pilgrim prayer

# inspired writings

## PRAYER TO LAZARUS



St. Lazarus, beloved friend of Jesus, remember the great love the Lord has for you. He frequented the home you shared with Martha and Mary, your sisters, and blest your family with His consoling presence. He wept upon your death but turned your death into the wonderful manifestation of Him being our life and resurrection. He called you forth from the tomb and released you from death to the glory of God the Father.

Now in eternity, you live with Jesus, your beloved friend and our Lord, forever. We implore you to please remember us in His beatific presence and bring to Him the concerns we entrust to your powerful intercession... (in silence, mention your petitions/thanksgiving). If what we ask is not for God's greater glory or for the good of our souls, please assist us to pray as we ought. We are confident in your fraternal bond with us and with Jesus, and we are certain that you will never be indifferent to us. With faith in Jesus, our life and resurrection, we eagerly await the day when, with you, St. Lazarus, our dear friend and humble patron, we shall adore and thank the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit face-to-face for all eternity.  
AMEN.



**"COME, HAVE BREAKFAST" JOHN 21:12**

## EASTER VIGIL HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI Saint Peter's Basilica Holy Saturday, 7 April 2007

[To view the homily in its entirety, click here.](#)

What was truly new in what happened on account of Christ? The human soul was created immortal – what exactly did Christ bring that was new? The soul is indeed immortal, because man in a unique way remains in God's memory and love, even after his fall. But his own powers are insufficient to lift him up to God. We lack the wings needed to carry us to those heights. And yet, nothing else can satisfy man eternally, except being with God. An eternity without this union with God would be a punishment. Man cannot attain those heights on his own, yet he yearns for them. "Out of the depths I cry to you..." Only the Risen Christ can bring us to complete union with God, to the place where our own powers are unable to bring us. Truly Christ puts the lost sheep upon his shoulders and carries it home. Clinging to his Body we have life, and in communion with his Body we reach the very heart of God. Only thus is death conquered, we are set

"Only the Risen Christ  
can bring us to complete  
union with God..."

free and our life is hope.

This is the joy of the Easter Vigil: we are free. In the resurrection of Jesus, love has been shown to be stronger than death, stronger than evil. Love made Christ descend, and love is also the power by which he ascends. The power by which he brings us with him. In union with his love, borne aloft on the wings of love, as persons of love, let us descend with him into the world's darkness, knowing that in this way we will also rise up with him. On this night, then, let us pray: Lord, show us that love is stronger than hatred, that love is stronger than death. Descend into the darkness and the abyss of our modern age, and take by the hand those who await you. Bring them to the light! In my own dark nights, be with me to bring me forth! Help me, help all of us, to descend with you into the darkness of all those people who are still waiting for you, who out of the depths cry unto you! Help us to bring them your light! Help us to say the "yes" of love,

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# testimony of faith

## STEVE, ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE (CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF EVANGELISATION AND CATECHESIS FOR WYD08)

In the great jubilee year 2000 the Archdiocese of Melbourne organised a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in its lead-up to the WYD in Rome that year. Two hundred of the 400 pilgrims travelled through the incredible sites often called "the fifth gospel" because they so powerfully speak of Christ in an almost sacramental way. Not everything was so glorious however.

"And so we began, and sang a hymn at the conclusion of each decade, which resounded throughout the echoing walls of the basilica."

In the lengthy queue waiting to go to the very place reported to be where the corpse of Christ lay, in the church of the Holy Sepulchre, there was a cacophony of noises emitted by distracted and distracting visitors. The church is the place where the resurrection of Jesus is said to have taken place and I was frustrated and annoyed by the chaos that surrounded us. Even the least religious of our pilgrims were struck by the barn yard environment for what ought to have been a solemn and prayerful place. Even the priests, I have to admit, rushed people on in a manner befitting a cattle herding. Then our shepherd had an idea!

Archbishop Pell, now Cardinal in Sydney, decided we had the numbers and

should make a difference. So he directed us to pray the rosary. And so we began, and sang a hymn at the conclusion of each decade, which resounded throughout the echoing walls of the basilica. After about five or ten minutes the whole packed basilica had either joined in, with the response to the Hail Marys coming in many different languages, or were silent and a unified beauty ensued. For many of our pilgrims this visit to the Holy Sepulchre made in faith of the bodily and glorious resurrection of Jesus became a high point of our pilgrimage. For me, the organiser under Archbishop Pell, there was a lesson in leadership: if you decide to make a difference, you can! And prayer always helps!

# saints and witnesses

## ST LAZARUS OF BETHANY

**Born:** from Bethany just outside Jerusalem, he is said to have been only 30 when he fell seriously ill and died and was raised by Jesus

**Died:** Lazarus is said to have finally died at the age of 60 at Kition, Cyprus

**Patron Saint:** Patron of the Sick, the Poor and the Dead

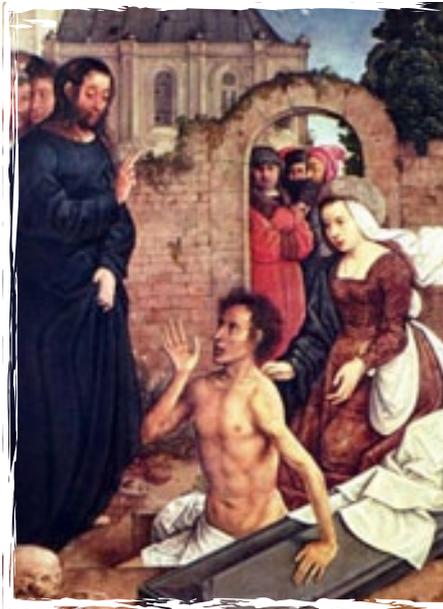
**Feast Day:** 21st June [formerly 17th December]

**Representation in Religious Art:** depicted as rising from a tomb before Jesus and his sister, often still in his binding cloths

Lazarus (in Hebrew "God hath helped"), also known as **Lazarus of Bethany** or **Lazarus of the Four Days**, was the brother of Martha and Mary, who lived in Bethany just outside Jerusalem. Jesus often went and stayed with them and was at home there. Their place was a refuge for him.

Jesus was a very close friend of Lazarus. We are told "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." When Lazarus died we received a glimpse of the human emotion that Jesus felt when the evangelist recounts him hearing the sad news, "Jesus wept" (Jn 11:35)

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:41-44) and took the opportunity to teach others about his own resurrection. The religious authorities "plotted to kill Lazarus



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazarus>

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and took the opportunity to teach others about his own resurrection.

too" (in addition to Jesus) because "many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him."

(Jn 12:11). According to local tradition he fled to Kition in Cyprus (present day Larnaca) and was met by the apostles Paul and Barnabas, who ordained him as the first Bishop of Kition.

Lazarus' resurrection was a resuscitation, therefore he eventually died, distinct from Jesus who was risen into a glorified state for all of eternity. The remains of St Lazarus are buried beneath the **Church of St Lazarus** in present day Larnaca. His relics were found in a marble sarcophagus during the Church renovation in 1972, however they were first discovered in 890 AD in his tomb with the inscriptions "Lazarus, the foundry dead and friend of Christ."

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# place of pilgrimage

## THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

**Where:** Jerusalem : Israel

**The Church of the Holy Sepulchre** occupies one of the earliest and most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. The Burial of Jesus is described in the Gospel accounts of Matthew 27:60, Mark 15:46 and Luke 23:53. Ancient Christians, even after the destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD), trickled back to the place of Calvary and the Burial of Jesus so that they could walk in the "footsteps of the Saviour" in his suffering, death and resurrection.

The **Empress St Helena** with Bishop Macarius of  
"...we will be given the  
strength to overcome our  
divisions..."

Jerusalem led an expedition to Jerusalem to discover under the ruins of the city, the sacred sites and holy relics of Jesus' life. Her son, the Emperor Constantine in 336 AD, completed the first, very beautiful Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Fire, earthquake, riots, the crusades, re-building campaigns and disputes have altered the original buildings and appearance of the site. Modern archeology has uncovered many of the different layers of rock, wall and even ancient Christian graffiti.

Today the Church is a complex of assorted interconnected chapels and altars which commemorate different aspects of **Christ's Paschal Mystery**, each building and shrine reflecting the devotion and artistic style of the Christian denomination which guards it.

Inside is the **Stone of Unction** (where the preparation of Jesus' dead Body is venerated) and beyond this is **Rotunda of the Burial** (or the **Anastasis**: Resurrection) which has been enclosed by a dome built with the co-operation of the Churches in the 1960s. Through a very low doorway is the **Edicule** - a small chamber of marble cladding the roughly hewn rock believed to be the **Tomb of Christ**. Nearby the Greeks venerate the **Chapel of the Angel**.

Up a rough staircase are several different chapels dedicated to the **Crucifixion of Christ - The Chapel of the Nailing (Franciscan Friars); the Rock of Calvary (Greek Orthodox); The Chapel of Adam (once guarded by the**



**Crusaders) and The Chapel of the True Cross.** To the north is the Catholic chapel dedicated to the appearance of Christ to **St Mary Magdalene** on Easter morning.

In March 26, 2000 Pope John Paul II prayed at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre:

*"Here at the Holy Sepulchre and Golgotha, as we renew our profession of faith in the Risen Lord, can we doubt that in the power of the Spirit of Life we will be given the strength to overcome our divisions and to work together to build a future of reconciliation, unity and peace?"*

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# towards WYD 08

## G'DAY! LAUNCH! LAUNCH! LAUNCH!

No, WYD08 has not become a shipyard, but we have launched a number of major elements, that will help us succeed in delivering WYD08 in July 2008.

**Registrations** for groups opened in March and we are very pleased with the response from around the world. Groups representing almost 70,000 pilgrims have already indicated that they are coming to WYD08 from over 100 countries around the world. This is an exceptional result as the excitement for WYD08 builds.

**Youth Festival** applications were launched at the same time as the Vocations Expo and again we have been overwhelmed by the response. The variety of proposals has ranged from large scale theatrical performances, through to discussion groups particularly on social justice issues and many that just wish to celebrate their faith with other members of this universal Church. Applications will close in October, but the WYD08 team would encourage you to lodge your applications early.

**Volunteers** are an essential part of WYD08 not just in the practical sense of helping other Pilgrims in their accommodation or at events but as a wonderful opportunity for spiritual

formation. Registration for long term volunteers is now open for people who are able to commit up to 12 months to the Church and WYD08. The roles and skills that WYD08 needs are available on the website. If you are able to assist please apply. Applications for event volunteers are planned to commence in late July 2007.

The **WYD08 Pilgrim Partnership Support Program** has been officially launched by Archbishop Phillip Wilson, the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. This program is focusing on building relationships between groups in Australia/ New Zealand and Oceania. It has been extremely well received with lots of enquiries.

### HomeStay

And now it's time for HomeStay. As many Pilgrims to previous WYDs can testify, HomeStay is a wonderful experience for both the hosts and the Pilgrims who are invited. HomeStay will be a Parish-based program providing accommodation in the four Sydney

dioceses to thousands of Pilgrims during the WYD week. In conjunction with local community service organisations such as Rotary, Apex and Lions, homeowners in Sydney will offer accommodation to Pilgrims from around the world. Once again although HomeStay helps in the practical issue of accommodation it presents the unique pastoral opportunity which will benefit the Church long after WYD08. We would encourage e-Pilgrims in the greater Sydney area to register their homes as Home Hosts and spread the word through their parish, their workplace and their schools to encourage others to join this program. Details are available through the HomeStay coordinator in each Parish. Registrations for HomeStay will be through the website. More details will be made available next month. [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org)

Similar programs will be run through the local Diocese for the Days in the Dioceses outside Sydney throughout Australia and New Zealand.

**SEE YOU IN SYDNEY IN 14 MONTHS!!**