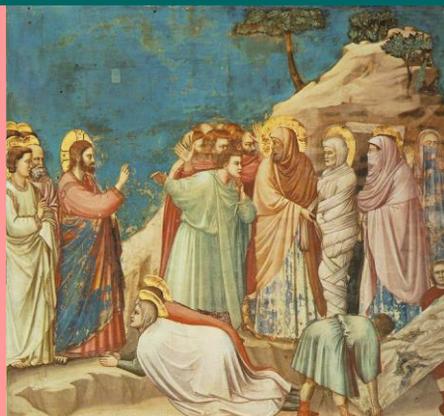# Worthing Deanery Prayer

The theme of this week 3rd April 2017.

Lazarus

Reflection

On Sunday the story in John's Gospel recounts when Jesus arrived in Bethany and his friend Lazarus had already been dead four days. Mary and Martha, his sisters, were broken-hearted. The people were wailing and lamenting in the face of death. No matter how clever or advanced humanity becomes we cannot change the condition of death. Even when our bodies are alive on earth the Bible tells us that we are spiritually at risk if we fail to remain in God's grace and love. We can feel absolutely helpless and hopeless when we are faced with death. The great question is "how can this situation be changed?" Jesus tells Martha the answer to this great question of life in verses 25 & 26. "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me though he may die, he shall live." Jesus is God, the great "I AM". What does that mean for our lives? It means that when we trust in Jesus, we will never have to die spiritually; we will have eternal life in relationship with Jesus forever. Our bodies may someday wear out but we will go on to be with the Lord forever. And one day our bodies will be resurrected and transformed into new bodies. Not only are we delivered from our sin when we come to Jesus but we are also delivered from death. We have the hope of the resurrection and we will soon celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus when Easter arrives in two weeks time. Every blessing for the holiday ahead and try to find time to attend the Holy Week liturgies and Easter Mass.

Prayer

God our refuge, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith. We pray there may be an end to their suffering. Help us to see the face of Jesus amongst those who seek refuge from persecution, and give us the courage to help end these injustices in our world. Amen.

From the bible

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11: 25