

Good morning everyone

This is the service prepared for us by Father Paul in Menorca

### Worship for 29 March 2020

If you are in Europe,  
remember to set your clocks forward an hour  
on Saturday night / Sunday morning.

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And a reflection by Father Simon

'..those who walk at night stumble, because the Light is not in them' Verse 10

As we know so well, the writings of John are an object lesson in the dramatic use of darkness. Caravaggio's painting of 'The Raising of Lazarus' reflects this well. Darkness occupies the whole upper half of his canvas. We see Jesus in the presence of Mary and Martha, calling the dead man back. In his painting Caravaggio shows the exact moment of transition from death to life. Lazarus' out flung arms - suggestive of the cross, represent death, while new life is indicated by the light from Christ that warms the body of his friend ; and by Lazarus' right hand palm which opens upward to receive Christ's illumination.

Some artists call this the 'Call Scene' because it depicts God calling to an individual to leave darkness behind and to enter the lights. In his famous and much loved painting, the artist, visibly separates the darkness from the light. It is very appropriate that the the story of Lazarus is told in John's. Gospel which is pervaded by the great conflict between

Light and darkness. As we move through Passiontide, we may think of our own response to Jesus. How can we open our hands receive his light ??

Please make time this week to read and reread the Sunday Gospel and let Christ speak to you through the words of John.

Fr Simon

**Lord our God**, we thank you for the help you have given us so that we can stand before you, rejoicing in the certainty of faith. We thank you for guiding and leading our lives and for letting us see a goal ahead. Be with us in times of silence when we seem to be alone. Keep us strong and steadfast through all the turmoil of life. Help us to remain unshaken, for you walk with us holding us by the hand. Amen.

Wishing you all a blessed Sunday

Vicky