

**Collects and Readings**  
**18 March 2018**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Collect**

God of all comfort, where we are stuck, release us, where we have given up hope, inspire us, where we focus only on ourselves, help us to see the needs of others; transform us by your Spirit to be the people you have called us to be, spreading your love and proclaiming your presence throughout the world. We ask this through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**First Reading –**  
**Isaiah 40: 27-31**

<sup>27</sup>Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. <sup>29</sup>He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. <sup>30</sup>Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup>but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

**Second Reading –**  
**1 Peter 5:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**Post Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

**Readings for next week –**  
**25 March 2018**  
**Palm Sunday**

- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-24
- Mark 11:1-11