



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1555)
St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal peoples.



FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD [Year A] Sunday 24TH May, 2020

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11 Why are you here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.
Responsorial Psalm: God mounts the throne to shouts of joy, a blare of trumpets for the Lord. [Psalm 46]
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.
Gospel Acclamation: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. ALLELUIA!
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.



Dear brothers and sisters,
Grace and peace to you in these Easter days. We write to you from a plenary meeting of the Bishops Conference which is like no other. Unable to meet face-to-face as we normally do, the bishops are meeting online for a week. We are intensely conscious of our isolation – not only from each other but also from you, the people whom we serve in the name of the Risen Lord. As we think of you, we make our own the words of St Paul: “So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Australia has certainly suffered because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but not as grievously as some other countries. For that we thank God and we congratulate public health authorities and governments on their prompt and prudent responses. Australians in general have also shown the solidarity and good sense, the generosity and kindness needed in such a time. In our healthcare workers particularly we have seen an exceptional spirit of self-sacrifice, and for that we are all grateful. The Churches and other religious communities have played their part, which has meant the suspension of public worship and the closure of places of worship. This has been a real deprivation, and the bishops understand not only your anxiety about the virus and shutdown but more especially your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. (Con't over page)

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you! AMEN.

There is a real hunger in this. It is something we all feel, and we long for the time when our hunger will be satisfied as together we return to the feast of the Lord. Even when our doors are closed, our hearts are still open. The churches may not yet be fully open, but the heart of the Church, which is the heart of Christ, is wide open. The celebration of Mass has never ceased. Though we and our brother priests cannot yet offer Mass with the people, we are still offering Mass day by day for the people – for all of you who are “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone” (cf Genesis 2:23). The Church which is the Body of Christ still glows with the life of Easter, “thought to be dying, yet we are alive...to be sorrowful, yet still rejoicing...to have nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Corinthians 6:9-10).

At the heart of the community of disciples, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14). In this month of May, Pope Francis has urged us to look to her to intercede for us in this time of affliction; and to Mary we will entrust our homeland looking to a mother’s unfailing love. May she who is Health of the Sick and Help of Christians pray for us now, that we may see Jesus with her eyes, the eyes of Easter, and love him with her heart, which is the heart of faith: “O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions but in your mercy hear and answer us” (Memorare).

The experience of shutdown has stirred great energy and creativity among people and pastors; this is producing unexpected gifts which we will take with us into the future. No locked door can keep the Risen Lord out; he is everywhere, even in this time of distress. “I stand at the door and knock,” he says. “If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come to you” (Revelation 3:20). We have heard his voice and opened the door to him who has come to us. That is the reason for our hope, even our rejoicing. One important service which people of faith provide to the wider community in this time is an unceasing prayer of intercession. So we ask you all to continue praying in the power of faith for those who have died, who are sick or at risk from COVID-19, for our healthcare professionals, essential service providers and researchers, for all who are isolated and anxious, and for our civic leaders and health authorities. In the hope born of faith we look forward to the time when the crisis will pass and we will be able to resume fully the Church’s worship and mission, even in a landscape which may be quite changed. In the meantime, we are talking with the states and the federal government about the reopening of churches and the gradual relaxation of restrictions. We will work with governments and local authorities at each stage of any resumption of Church life.

We commit to keeping ourselves and each other safe by observing strictly the advice regarding numbers, distancing and hygiene when the reopening of churches is permitted. We urge people to abide by the best advice on how to keep themselves and others safe physically, emotionally and spiritually, especially the vulnerable elderly. That is why we recommend the live-streamed Masses and the many other resources offered on diocesan websites, our Catholic counselling services and the COVIDSafe App. The season of Lent may be behind us, but this time of shutdown has been a kind of long Lent. Now, we pray, Easter is dawning as our country recovers from the pandemic and looks to build the future. There is no room for complacency but there is certainly room for the hope that Easter brings to birth, the hope that “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish you” (1 Peter 5:10-11). Looking to the God of all grace, we send to you our blessing of peace and all consolation.

From,

The Catholic Bishops of Australia

14 May 2020

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Lawrence McEwan, Daphne Conroy, Barry Erbacher, Margaret, Sexton (Roma), and those who have died from Covid 19 in Australia and beyond. *May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.*

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Fr Garrett Murphy (1962), Fr Michael Herbert (1970), Msgr Thomas Nolan (1950), Msgr Edward Concannon (1987), Fr Francis Hall (1999).

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Mary Twidale, Leona Parker, Helen Hoddle, Kim Ireland, Fr. Don Murray, Christine [Faus] Barron, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Jean Denison, Jo Tuite, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Rita Berry, Juanita Umipig, Maria Brown, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, George Pardon, Tina Hobson, Bev Boundy, Roslyn Pardon [nee Kearney], Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Morgan O'Brien, Teresita Pamulaklakin, and all those in our nursing homes and hospitals, and anyone suffering the effects of Covid-19.

Anointing Mass: As I'm sure you appreciate the next Anointing Mass scheduled for 6th June is cancelled. All going well the next celebration will be on the 12th September.

Unit for Rent One bedroom unit for an elderly person at St Patrick's Community Village is available for rent. To register an expression of interest, please contact Celia Waters at the Parish Office on 07 46371500.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – This year's theme is "They showed us unusual kindness" Acts 28:2. The service this year was prepared by the Christian churches of Malta.

To access this service and a copy of the service booklet, please go to the St Pat's website – www.stpats.org.au **This prayer service will be available on Wednesday 27th May from 9.00am. Please use the booklet and light a candle so we can pray ecumenically at this time.**

Mass in the Home: As from 15th May, the restrictions for visitors has risen to 5 at a time. With this in mind the priests here at St Patrick's would like to invite you to consider a home Mass. This would allow you to invite 4 others to your home as well. We are very keen to connect once again with you and feel this would be a beautiful way to gather once again. There is nothing extra needed, except a candle and small table! *We ask that you contact the front office here at St. Pat's on 4637 1500, or admin@stpats.org.au leaving your name, contact number and preferred date and time for a Mass.* After we discuss availability, one of the priests will make contact to make arrangements. Looking forward to begin reconnecting with each of you. God Bless our journey together.

RECONCILIATION: During this time of isolation we are aware that many have been unable to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. As the restrictions continue to prevent that from easily happening, hopefully we will be able to commence to some degree in July when restrictions are eased again. However anyone feeling the need for reconciliation please call St Patrick's front office on 4637 1500 to make arrangements to receive the sacrament.

PLANNED GIVING: Anyone concerned about their giving, there are options you may wish to consider. Please contact Celia at the Parish Office to discuss these options or you may simply like to do a bank transfer into St Patrick's Cathedral, BSB 064 786, Acc. No. 51289 0100, Ref PG (envelope number). We understand the difficult financial burden that everyone is encountering at this time, so do not feel obliged or pressured to give at this time. Thank you.

The way forward at St Patrick's.....

These follow the stages as directed by the Queensland Government, and Toowoomba Diocese.

Stage one: May 15th – June 11th (Limits of 10 people gathered, except funerals – 20 people)

- Cathedral will remain closed;
- Home Masses are available as 5 visitors are allowed to any household;
- Funerals to be directed to St Thomas More's (with single chairs it is easier to comply);
- Live Streamed Masses will continue on Sundays;
- Baptisms/Weddings at St Patrick's Cathedral available with 10 people (recording of attendees required for tracing);

Stage two: June 12th – July 10th (Limits of 20 people gathered, except funerals -50 people)

Only entrance and exit to St Patrick's Cathedral is via Neil Street door.

- Home Masses remain available;
- Funerals directed to St Thomas More's;
- Baptisms/Weddings offered at St Patrick' (cleaning of seats and recording of attendees required);
- Times of adoration available, [probably Monday 9am – 10am, Wednesday 11am – 12 Noon, Friday 5pm – 6pm] limited to 20 people (cleaning of seats and recording of attendees required);

Stage three: July 11th – TBA (Limits of 100 people)

Only entrance and exit to St Patrick's Cathedral remains via Neil Street door.

- Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms available at St Patrick's (cleaning of seats and recording of attendees required);
- Sunday Masses will commence at the **end** of this stage;
- Live Streamed Masses will continue.
- Weekday Mass resumes with limit of 100 people (cleaning of seats and recording of attendees required);
- 1st Rite of Reconciliation continues (cleaning of seats and recording of attendees required);
- Cathedral open for specific times during the week, requiring people to clean the area in which they sit, and record the details of those who attend;

Cleaning will be done by staff of St Patrick's, except for Reconciliation and private Prayer time in Stage 3.

Should this staged approach change you will be notified.

The Cathedral is different from a normal parish. This staged approach is the only real way we can proceed taking into account the requirements of Government and Diocese, but uppermost is your safety and health as we continue to move toward being fully together again.

Thank you for your patience, Father Michael

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S LIVE STREAMING: (feel free to sing along!!)

Opening Hymn: Glory Be to God in Heaven

1. Glory be to God in heaven,
Peace to those who love you well;
On the earth let all your people
speak your grace, your wonders tell
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
Mighty Father, heaven's king;
Hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.
2. Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
Now with God in triumph seated
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour, you are God alone.
In the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three in One!

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
AMEN.

Psalm (Sung): God mounts the throne to shouts of joy, a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Alleluia Verse:

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.



*After Communion,
Bishop Robert will
entrust Australia to the
care of Our Lady,
Help Of Christians,
Patroness of Australia.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

AMEN.

Recessional Hymn: Glorious in Majesty

1. Glorious in majesty, Holy in his praises,
Jesus, our Saviour and our King. Born a man, yet God of old,
Let us all adore him: Filled with the Spirit, let us sing.
- Refrain: Living is to love him, serving him to know his freedom
 Come along with us to join the praise of Jesus.
 Come to Jesus now. Go to live his word rejoicing.
2. Victory he won for us, Freeing us from darkness,
Dying and rising from the dead. Living with the Father now,
Yet he is among us: We are the body, he the head.