



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

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Weekday Mass: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am

Adoration & Novena: Saturday 9.00am

Lord's Day Mass: Saturday 5.00pm (Vigil), Sunday 8.00am & Sunday 10.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 9.00am - 10.00am. Or contact the parish office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

22 MARCH 2020

First Reading

1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Second Reading

Eph 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel

Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

(Full Version: Jn 9:1-41)

LENT



PRAY

IS LOVE FOR GOD

FAST

IS LOVE FOR YOURSELF

GIVE

IS LOVE FOR OTHERS

Antiphons and readings on the last page.

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Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

Pastoral Council

Karim Kassis (Chair)
T. 0408 404 130
Charlie Scully (Vice Chair, Project Manager)
T. 0402 071 849

Maureen Hynes (Secretary, Parish Choir)
Jennifer Rush (Asst Secretary, Safeguarding)
Anthony Kasule, Arthur Doumit (Retreats),
Brenda Wendt-Hussein (Catechists), Amanda
Gahan (SVDP & Youth), Jenny Michael, Joji
Salar, Micheline Botham, Renee Salar, Rhia
Victorino, Vinita Nazareth, and Principals of
the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T. (02) 9644 8859
Joe Moses, Sylvia Jukic, Brendon Nazareth
(Finance Controller)

Plenary 2020

Alicia Moore

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
T. (02) 9644 9083

Principal - Phil Townsend
Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South

T. (02) 9646 1434
Principal - Gai Melville

Family Educator - Angela Finnane

Safeguarding Office. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office: Phone (02) 9390 5810

CatholicCare. Provides caring advice and advocacy to help families. CCareline 13 18 19 | CatholicCare.org

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:
(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Healing After Abortion: 0400 092 555

Sara's Place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit
www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 9699 8190

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon 23/3	6.45am	Mass
Tue 24/3	6.45am 7.30pm	Mass Bible Study
Wed 25/3	The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity) 6.45am Mass	
Thu 26/3	6.45am	Mass
Fri 27/3	6.45am	Mass
Sat 28/3	8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 5.00pm	Mass Rosary Adoration, Confession Vigil Mass
Sun 29/3	8.00am 10.00am	Mass Mass



"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL
at Snell Family
46 Lewis Street, Regents Park**

Please join them any evening at 7.00pm for the Rosary.

To host the Pilgrim Statue and Rosary prayer please contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

**From Legion of Mary, Berala
at the Kassis Home
To host the Rosary Statue Legion of Mary, Berala call
Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.**

29 MARCH 2020

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Dom PANGILINAN	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
LECTOR/S	Roshan SEBASTIAN	Joe MOSES	Amanda DOWDELL
	Sharon SEBASTIAN	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Sharon IACONO
COMMENTATOR	Joy SKERRITT	Karim KASSIS	Rhia VICTORINO
SP. MINISTER	Kay SCULLY		Anna MANGANARO
SP. MINISTER	Elizabeth CHIA		Isabella ARAUJO
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Jenny MICHAEL	John SHANLEY

Cleaners SPC: Malia & Mefiposeta Pei

Children's liturgy: N/A

Saturday 8AM

28 MARCH

LECTOR FOR MASS

Christine KENSEY

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Monica Smith, Fr Ray Farrell, Sr Tomsy

Recently Deceased: Cenon Alinson, Herbert Vogel

Deceased: Kath Coyne, Mamerto Bolonia Sr, Fatima Bolonia, Gloria Bolonia, Astrid Bolonia, Marylou Geronca, Winnie Guillena, Holy Souls in Purgatory

Deceased Members and Friends of: O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Duong Family, Amores Families, Florendo Families, Domingo Families

Other Intentions: Rima Nakhle, Tony Rahme, Conrad & Bernadine Lopez (Wedding Anniversary)

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police.



Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office: phone (02) 9390 5810 or email safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Jesus opens your eyes even in the darkness of COVID19

The epidemic of COVID19 is expected to get worse in the coming weeks. Following the Archbishop's pastoral letter and directives this week, most of the parish activities other than Masses are now put on hold. These include First Holy Communion Program, RCIA, Holy Communion visits to the sick at home & Berala on the Park, Visitation & Communion at Auburn Hospital, and any other activities that could risk the spread of the virus. Covid19 is such a pandemic which has gripped the world without much warning. With no vaccine or treatment in sight and varying advice on how to stay safe, the situation is like that of a blind person. The beauty and greatness of God's creation is now masked by the darkness of fear and insecurity.



One of the seven signs in the Gospel of John is about an encounter between Jesus and a blind man (Ref John Chapter 9). According to John's narrative, the blind man encounters Jesus two times: once at the beginning of the story and again at the end. In both cases, it is Jesus who finds the blind man, and not the other way round. In this current situation, if you feel that there is darkness everywhere, trust that Jesus will find you. But this revelation of Jesus and the insight he provides will be gradual in unfolding. For that you need to be trustfully patient as the blind man in the story. In the beginning, when the Pharisees asked "where is he (Jesus)?" the response was, "I do not know." In the next phase when the Pharisees asked the man to comment on the identity of Jesus, he said 'a prophet'. This is a progress in his insight. By the time the Pharisees in the story questioned the divinity of Jesus, the man who received vision is insightful: he says that *Jesus is from God*. In the final stage of his faith journey, the man is able to see Jesus and proclaims him as 'Son of God' and worships him.

It is not out of context to read this Sunday's Gospel (John Chapter 9) in this crisis situation created by COVID19. John narrated the story of Jesus giving sight to the blind man in a crisis time, towards the end of the first century AD. It was a time when Christians were thrown out of their normal worship places, the synagogues. This happened after the council of Jamnia (around 80AD) to secure the integrity of the mainstream society, the Jews. Many Christians were also expelled from their homes by their own people who remained Jews. Therefore, social isolation along with fear and anxiety were the characteristics of the Christian Community John was addressing. To them, as a sign of God's saving presence, John wrote the story of how Jesus found and cured the blind man. Though the causes are different, the experience of the early Christians of John's community and the society at large now are similar. The plague of COVID19 has caused social isolation, fear and anxiety in our time. Therefore if you feel too blind to see God's saving presence, meditate on John Chapter 6 and other scripture and trust in the Son of God who can provide you insight.

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

Historical Context – Light of the World

The events of today's gospel passage occur within an extended passage of the gospel of John in which Jesus attends Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn 7:1 following). A feature of the feast was the illumination of the Temple. Pilgrims would cover the Temple with lights and torches so that it shone out over the entire city. It was during this feast that Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the World and, a few verses later, healed the blind man and brought light into his world.

Living the Gospel – Lenten Light

The story of the man born blind is a perfect choice for the Lenten season. During this season we are invited once again to open our eyes to Jesus; to step out of darkness and into the light; to look towards the future with hope and not despair. When we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the Easter vigil, we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World into our lives. This annual call to turn away from darkness and walk in the light is a powerful and poetic call to focus our lives on the way of Jesus.

Gospel Focus – None so blind

There's a very old saying that has its roots in the Bible but is not a direct quote from the Bible: 'There are none so blind as those who will not see.' It would be a fitting summary of today's passage for there are two movements between darkness and light that are evident in the story. Firstly, there is the blind man who can see. He can see physically but can also see the truth of who Jesus is. Secondly, there are the Jewish authorities who have physical sight but are completely blind to the truth of Jesus.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 22 March 2020



Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

A Christ is the way to the light, the truth and the life

From a treatise on John by St Augustine (AD 345-430)

The Lord tells us: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* In these few words he gives a command and makes a promise. Let us do what he commands so that we may not blush to covet what he promises and to hear him say on the day of judgement: "I laid down certain conditions for obtaining my promises. Have you fulfilled them?" If you say: "What did you command, Lord our God?" he will tell you: "I commanded you to follow me. You asked for advice on how to enter into life. What life, if not the life about which it is written: *With you is the fountain of life?*"

Let us do now what he commands. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Lord. Let us throw off the chains that prevent us from following him. Who can throw off these shackles without the aid of the one addressed in these words: *You have broken my chains?* Another psalm says of him: *The Lord frees those in chains, the Lord raises up the downcast.*

Those who have been freed and raised up follow the light. The light they follow speaks to them: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness.* The Lord gives light to the blind. Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth to anoint the man born blind. We are of Adam's stock, blind from our birth; we need him to give us light. He mixed saliva with earth, and so it was prophesied: *Truth has sprung up from the earth.* He himself has said: *I am the way, the truth and the life.*

We shall be in possession of the truth when we see face to face. This is his promise to us. Who would dare to hope for something that God in his goodness did not choose to promise or bestow?

We shall see face to face. The Apostle says: *Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face.* John the Apostle says in one of his letters: *Dearly beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. We know that when he is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* This is a great promise.

If you love me, follow me. "I do love you," you protest, "but how do I follow you?" If the Lord your God said to you: "I am the truth and the life," in your desire for truth, in your love for life, you would certainly ask him to show you the way to reach them. You would say to yourself: "Truth is a great reality, life is a great reality; if only it were possible for my soul to find them!"

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, 25 March - The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)



The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as

Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity God destined her to be the mother of

Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

She is the virgin-mother who fulfils Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38). Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

Mass of the Feast at 6.45am.

WHAT'S NEW?

Suspended Ministries & Events

Following the Archbishops' directives and Fr Thomas' careful consideration to protect the well-being of our volunteers and parishioners during this epidemic, the following have been temporarily suspended:

Ministries:

- Choir
- Greeters
- Hospitality
- Hospital Visitation Saturday
- Hospital Communion Sunday
- Communion to Homes & Nursing Home
- Children's Liturgy

Any sick person requiring prayers, anointing or communion, please contact Fr Thomas. He will try to accommodate your request.

Events:

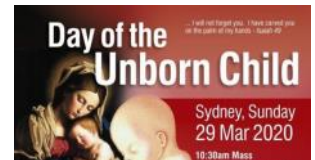
- Stations of the Cross - starting Friday 27 March
- Men's Breakfast - 28 March
- First Holy Communion Classes and RCIA

Miscellaneous:

Hall Bookings - all bookings from now until end of July have been cancelled. We are accepting any bookings until further notice.

Day of the Unborn Child – CANCELLED

PLEASE NOTE: The Day of the Unborn Child which was to be held on Sunday 29th March this year, has been cancelled due to the emergency situation which has been enacted owing to the Coronavirus - COVID-19 outbreak. We are very sorry this has happened and we assure everyone that it will be on again next year, God Willing.



Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross
you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of your people,
know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return
after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore
our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.
We seek refuge under your protection,
O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test
– and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and
blessed Virgin.

(Adapted from [Vatican News](#).)

A little thought from Pope Francis

“Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street.

When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party.

Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other.

We think about when it will be all a memory but normalcy will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift.

We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious.

Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter.



We will go back to laughing together.
Strength and courage.

See you soon!”



Pastoral Letter to the Pastors and people of the Archdiocese of Sydney in a Time of Pandemic 18 March 2020

Apocalypse now?

Drought, fires, storms and now plague. It can feel like the end of the world is coming.

In a sense it is. The world as we know it is being turned upside down – at least temporarily – as many get sick and some die from COVID-19, and so much of ordinary life is put on hold.

The Church is not immune. I was recently tested for COVID-19 and put into self-isolation myself and, though happily I tested negative, I know the disruption and anxiety people are experiencing.

But in times like these it's important not to panic or lose heart. If this pandemic shakes us up and starts us thinking about who or what's most important to us and what we should be doing with our lives, that can be a good thing.

Worshipping in spirit and in truth

One of the great Lent gospels is the story of the woman at the well. The woman asked some questions about worship. 'The hour is coming,' Jesus answered her, 'indeed it is here already, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.' (*Jn* 4:23)

What does that require of us at present? Several instructions have already come from health authorities and the Church. Outside gatherings of more than 500 people and indoors gatherings of 100 have been forbidden; in due course the public celebration of Mass may have to be suspended.

Individuals have already been asked, before attending liturgical celebrations, to consider their own health – both their potential to infect others and their susceptibility to infection. Parishioners or clergy who feel unwell or have flu-like symptoms should remain at home. Please be assured that the rest of us will be praying for you.

With this letter I am today issuing some new directives for the celebration of the sacraments and pastoral care in the Archdiocese during this pandemic.

The Church in Australia was founded at a time when the Mass could not be celebrated on these shores and our forefathers and mothers waited for years to receive the Holy Eucharist. For us it will be at worst a matter of weeks or months. But just as prayer sustained them through those times, so can it for us today.

We are now all going on retreat together

Our enforced retreat from the world can be an opportunity to grow closer to God and more prayerful. People were greatly edified by recent images of Pope Francis' pilgrimage on foot through the empty streets of Rome to the image of Our Lady of Health. Let's join him, then, in prayer and fasting for those who have died or are suffering from COVID-19, those at risk or anxious, those treating the sick or seeking a cure, as well as those who are leading us. The power of prayer, married with the wisdom of health experts, will ease and hopefully eliminate this disease.

I ask that, as far as possible, churches remain open at this time to signal our continuing availability and as an incentive to private prayer. The Blessed Sacrament might at times be exposed in the monstrance for this purpose. Prayers of intercession for an end to the epidemic and for the safety of all should be included in Masses, the Divine Office, as well as private prayers. I ask consecrated religious to redouble their intercessory prayers for us all.

Continued pastoral care of the sick

Please be assured that any Catholic who contracts COVID-19 will as far as possible be assisted by our clergy with the sacraments and other pastoral care. It's at times like these that our pastors really shine.

Clergy will continue attending the sick, elderly and incarcerated to provide Confession, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Communion and other pastoral care, unless they are themselves at risk of transmitting the virus. All ministers should follow precautions recommended by health authorities when visiting people's homes, aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons and detention centres.

Where a priest tests positive for COVID-19 or is required to self-isolate, every effort will be made to find a supply priest to take his place. In some places the cancellation of Masses may be required and/or provision of a Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Holy Communion.

Even if physical distancing is sometimes desirable, 'social distancing' is never so. We all need human company. So in addition to the sacramental care provided by parishes, healthy young volunteers and others should consider prudent ways to check in with the sick, frail elderly or otherwise isolated to inquire whether they have particular needs – for groceries, medicine, pastoral care or simple company. Individuals could cook meals and deliver them to the doorsteps of those in isolation. Modern technologies can also assist in overcoming some people's sense of isolation.

To help people maintain their physical health and spiritual life through this crisis, we have a page on our archdiocesan website. For latest updates, prayers and spiritual resources, and to watch Mass online visit <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/>.

In this difficult time I entrust our Archdiocese and our nation to the intercession of Our Lady, Help of Christians, of Lourdes, and of Good Health. God bless you all.

Yours sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "Anthony Fisher OP".

(Most Rev.) Anthony Fisher OP
Archbishop of Sydney



Directions for the Archdiocese of Sydney from 18 March 2020 until further notice

With respect to the Celebration of Mass and other Liturgies

Many people are already self-selecting to stay at home and attendance at many Masses will predictably be under 100. But for the sake of caution during this time of pandemic and on the advice of the Bishops Conference, the following directions will be observed in the Archdiocese of Sydney:

- no indoor Mass or Church event should be conducted with more than 100 attendees; no outdoor event for more than 500 people
- if more than 100 attendees might be expected for an indoor Mass or other Church event, it should be cancelled, postponed, ticketed, moved outside or split over two or more time-slots or venues (linked by live-stream and provision of Holy Communion)
- priests are thus granted permission to celebrate multiple Sunday Masses as necessary
- holy water should be removed from all stoups but still to be available for taking home
- alcohol-based gels (or the like) should be available near church entrances, confessionals, baptisteries and in the sanctuary
- attendees should be encouraged to spread out around the church ('physical distancing')
- all ministers of Holy Communion should disinfect their hands before and after distributing
- in the Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite, the Body of Christ should only be administered in the hand and the Chalice should only be received by the celebrant, with any concelebrants intincting from a second chalice
- the Sign of Peace should be omitted or limited to saying 'Peace be with you' with a nod or bow; no hand-shaking or hand-holding should occur here or at the Our Father
- hymn books should not be used
- collection plates should not be passed from person to person; baskets on long handles, leaving collection bowls or electronic 'tap and go' terminals may be used and direct debit encouraged

Apart from Mass...

Whether or not public Masses continue to be celebrated the following directives are also issued:

- as far as possible, churches should remain open to allow private prayer; the Blessed Sacrament might be exposed in the monstrance for this purpose (as long as fewer than 100 are attending and with the usual provisions for reverence and security of the Sacrament)

- on some days when this is liturgically permitted (see Ordo pp. 10-11), priests should offer the Mass for the Sick, the Mass for Any Need or a votive Mass such as that of Our Lady of Lourdes
- prayers of intercession for an end to the pandemic and for the safety of all should be included in Masses, in the Divine Office, and in private prayers; houses of consecrated religious are asked to redouble their intercessory prayers also
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals may be celebrated, if necessary restricted to immediate family; baptisms and weddings can, of course, be postponed
- preparation for and celebration of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation for children should be postponed until the pandemic is over
- all ministers should follow precautions recommended by health authorities when visiting people's homes, aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons and detention centres
- when Anointing the Sick, priests are given permission to lay on hands by holding them above rather than upon the head and to anoint using a cotton wool ball or bud or a protective glove which can be disposed of appropriately after a single use; anointing the head would be sufficient
- priests will abide by all civil restrictions while seeking to be as pastorally available and creative as possible in the circumstances; they should ensure that parishioners can contact them in emergencies.

If the Public Celebration of Mass is eventually suspended

If the public celebration of the Mass is eventually suspended, the following additional directions will be observed in the Archdiocese of Sydney:

- all but priests are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass: the faithful can keep holy their Sunday by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion
- priests should celebrate daily Mass privately and offer it on behalf of those who cannot attend and for the whole nation
- churches should as far as possible remain open for private prayer
- the Second and Third Rites of Reconciliation should not be used; First Rite Confessions should only be heard through a grill covered with a protective cloth
- priests should consider continuing to publish their weekly parish bulletin on-line with advice and a weekly homily/reflection
- Sunday Mass and Holy Week services will be celebrated privately at the cathedral and be live-streamed or available on demand at <https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>

Further instructions will be issued by the Liturgy Office regarding Baptisms of several children, the RCIA and the various rites of the Triduum (if these go ahead).

These directives will be reviewed as required.



(Most Rev.) Anthony Fisher OP

OTHER NOTICES

POSITIONS VACANT

Administrative Support/Receptionist

We are looking a person to fill the position at Ryde-Gladesville Catholic Parish, which is located on the corner of Victoria Road and Charles St Ryde. If you would like to apply for this position, please email your CV to Mrs Judy Raumer, EA to Fr Greg Morgan – ea@rgcp.org.au by 25th March 2020

Volunteer Driver needed for Centacare Mini-bus

CatholicCare through Centacare Industries in Belmore provides meaningful employment and life-skills training for adults with a variety of intellectual disabilities. Are you based in South-West Sydney, have a Class C drivers license and some free time? We are looking for a volunteer driver, comfortable driving a Toyota HiAce Van, to help out with our morning and afternoon bus runs. You would be transporting a small group of adults with intellectual disabilities to and from work. We need volunteers from Monday to Friday, morning shifts from 6:30am to 8:00am and afternoon shifts from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Vocations Outreach

is an initiative that seeks to foster and promote religious vocations among young people. We would like to introduce our newest program for Catholic young adults discerning religious life. This program is a Discernment Mentorship Program that gives young adults access to online formation courses and connects them with a professed religious to aid them in their discernment. Since it is based online, this is an opportunity Franciscan University is offering to all English-speaking young adults. I've attached our recent press release here and you can read more about the program at <https://vocationsoutreach.org/mentor>.

SUPPORT & SERVICES

Does your business have a social conscience?

Centacare provides meaningful employment, training and social connection for people living with intellectual disability. Services include packaging, assembly, security shredding, gardening, cleaning and logistics. If Call CCareline to find out more on 13 18 19. CatholicCare.org | connect@catholiccare.org | 8am-8pm Mon-Fri

Can you picture yourself being a foster carer?

We are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 for more information visit FamilySpirit.org or email connect@familyspirit.org between 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday.

Healing After Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, Sydney offers healing retreats for those who have experienced an abortion. The retreat offers a sanctuary in which to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion in a safe, supportive, confidential and non judgmental environment. Information www.rachelsvineyard.org.au or call us on our confidential voicemail number 0400 092 555 or email info@rachelsvineyard.org.au. The next retreat will be Xon 1-3 May 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS

JRS Food Drive – Lenten Appeal

This Lent, donate 1 item each week to give to refugees living in this community. Your donation will be given to the Jesuit Refugee Service Foodbank. Jesuit Refugee Service Australia, 24 Roslyn Street Elizabeth Bay NSW 2011, PO Box 522 Kings Cross NSW 1340, T: +61 2 9356 388, W: www.jrs.org.au, E: jrsinfo@jrs.org.au

Just for Laughs

A man goes to his doctor and says, "Please help me, doctor. I think my eyesight is really worsening." The doctor asks the man to come and look out of the window. "Tell me what you see there," says the doctor and points. "I see the Sun," answer the man. The doctor turns to him and asks, "Goodness me, how much further do you want to see?!"

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 22 Rv1

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R**

Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon Cf Jn 9:11, 38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Ez 37:12-14**

2nd Reading: **Rom 8:8-11**

Gospel: **Jn 11:1-45**