



Life has certainly changed for us all. There are many things I realise I have taken for granted, one of those being able to attend Mass on a Sunday. In my home of a Saturday, there was usually a discussion as to what Mass we were going to attend on the Sunday. Will we go to 8.30am? – no too early, I'd like a sleep in; 10.30am? – not sure as I'd like to go to the market; 6.00pm? – no because we're going to friends for tea. How I wish these somewhat trivial matters were still a part of my ordinary life, I miss it.

However, since the shut-down of our churches I have been involved in helping bring the Mass to parishioners and others at St Joseph's, Warrnambool. Our Sunday Mass is celebrated on a Saturday, recorded and then uploaded to YouTube and the Facebook page. One might think it is a matter of turning up at the church, filming it and going home. No, there is a lot more to it than that; we even had a rehearsal before our first week of production! Decisions need to be made on the position of the camera, the music, and of course there is the sound and lighting check. It is important that those viewing the Mass feel a part of the celebration, so when reading you need to look into a camera attached to a pillar; somewhat different than looking into the body of the church at the congregation. Then there are the responses; you can't allow your mind to wander, you need to stay in the present, as there is no editing or cutting which would happen if making a movie!



The people who prepare the liturgy come together each week, (at a socially acceptable distance), to run through the Mass for that Sunday, making sure that everything will run smoothly on the day of filming. It also helps settle the nerves, giving confidence to everyone that it will 'be ok on the day'.

This new experience of being involved in Mass online has opened my eyes and ears in a different and more personal way, helping me feel more connected with the Mass. As much as I miss coming together each week

with parishioner's I feel privileged to be involved. I am very mindful of those who are missing Mass in their lives, but hope and pray our whole congregation will be back together soon.

Leanne McElgunn – Parishioner
Photos: Fr John Fitzgerald celebrates Mass

St Joseph's Parish, Warrnambool Masses can be watched [here](#).