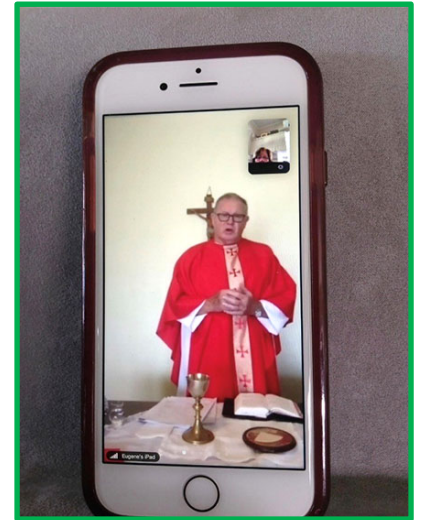




## EAST WIMMERA MASSES AND COVID-19

A week ago many of us had never heard of Zoom or of the many forums that normally frequented the boardroom or busy office schedule. It wasn't something that parishioners from East Wimmera Parish thought they would ever have to learn to use so they could attend Mass.

With the immediate closure of churches, we were all left wondering how long we would have to wait before our priests could say Mass again in our communities. So when it was suggested that our parish look at hosting a forum such as Zoom, Fr Eugene McKinnon, Noeline Hogan and Jacinta Miller put their heads together to come up with a presentation for the nine church communities included in the East Wimmera Parish; Banyena, Birchip, Boort, Charlton, Donald, Nullawil, St Arnaud, Wedderburn and Wycheproof. At this stage we are still accumulating contacts and we look forward to expanding this list to those people interested in being involved in this forum, from within our parish, from former parishioners and other interested people as well.



Our first Mass was Palm Sunday and with seventy-six participating devices from across the region we had a very successful broadcast. There was enthusiasm and excitement to see people from other communities that we knew who were on our screen, which brought a feeling of community and togetherness that we would never have had the opportunity to feel if we hadn't been encouraged to come together in this format due to the response to the COVID-19 virus.

Services for Easter Masses via Zoom with Fr Eugene are as follows:

Holy Thursday at 7.00pm, Good Friday at 3.00pm and an Easter Vigil on Saturday at 7.00pm. The link will be open half an hour before the scheduled Mass so you can sort your device out in time for Mass. All participants will be muted when the service commences.

Easter Liturgies this weekend via Zoom:

**Holy Thursday: 7.00pm** Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/4643061538> Meeting ID: 464 306 1538

**Good Friday: 3.00pm** Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/4643061538> Meeting ID: 464 306 1538

**Easter Vigil: 7.00pm Saturday** Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/349467121> Meeting ID: 349 467 121

Please note that the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services have the same meeting ID. Click on the link to join.

If anyone would like more information on our Zoom Masses please email Noeline Hogan at [eastwimmera@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:eastwimmera@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or phone 0476 617 976.

*Noeline Hogan*

*Photos from St Mary's Birchip FaceBook – Maureen Donnellon.  
Top: Fr Eugene McKinnon and bottom: Peter Barbetti*