



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 21st March and Sunday 22nd March, 2020

PUBLIC WORSHIP SUSPENDED

Last Wednesday 18th March 2020, the Bishops of Victoria suspended all public worship until further notice. The lay faithful are dispensed from the Sunday obligation (can 1248). You are encouraged to sanctify Sunday by shared family prayer — eg: praying the holy Rosary, reading the Sunday Mass readings, or praying the Stations of the Cross.

The Koroit and Port Fairy churches will remain open for private prayer every day, from 9am to 6pm.

In addition, a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the church every day:

10am, St Patrick's, Port Fairy.

5pm, Infant Jesus, Koroit.

During these hours, Fr John is available in the church to individually minister the sacraments to those who request them.

We are advised to behave as though we are already infected with COVID-19. It is not only prudent but also charitable to minimise activity outside the home. Daily attendance at the Holy Hour is not recommended, as it may be risky to you and others. Whether you attend, and how often, is a matter for your personal prayer and discernment.

Fr John has prioritised home visits (including Moyneyana House). The Lord loves you a lot, and he longs to be close to you through his sacraments. Please call 0433 342 499 to arrange a visit.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



We commend **Charles Piller** to the Lord's mercy. His funeral is scheduled at 1pm on Wednesday, at the Port Fairy Cemetery. All welcome.

IN PLACE OF HOLY MASS

Mass For You At Home is broadcast on WIN at 6am Sundays, and on Foxtel's Aurora at 3am, 6am and 10am every day. It can be viewed online any time at: www.mfyah.com

Sunday Mass from St Joseph's, Warrnambool can be viewed at: www.tiny.cc/joe3280

Daily Mass with Pope Francis (in Italian, with English dubbing) can be viewed at: www.tiny.cc/vatican

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Last week's presbytery collection

Koroit: \$316.20

Port Fairy: \$292.50

The week before (long weekend)

Koroit: \$344.40

Port Fairy: \$1,190.80

Monthly planned giving (Feb)

Koroit pledged: \$3,227.00

Koroit received: \$2,613.00

Port Fairy pledged: \$2,572.00

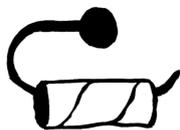
Port Fairy received: \$2,267.50

HOLY WATER FOR THE HOME

Small bottles of holy water are available in both churches, which you can use to bless your home. The ritual for making holy water includes an invocation against contagious disease and illness. Our reliance on medical science in no way detracts from faith in prayer and divine protection. We are people of faith and reason. That's *both-and*, not *either-or*.

MATERIAL DONATIONS

While Fr John's home visits are focused on spiritual support — especially through the sacraments — he will also offer material support to the housebound. One parishioner has already donated freshly-laid eggs which Fr John is offering to those he visits. If you have superfluous goods, please consider donating them to others. You can call Fr John, or of course ring up neighbours directly!



FROM POPE FRANCIS

At this present time, I think of the Apostles on the lake in the storm, yelling to Jesus: *Master, we are drowning!* Their prayer speaks to our own vulnerability. It is the scream of those who feel threatened and alone. We're in a difficult situation — desperate — and it is important to know that the Lord is there to hold on to. God supports us in many ways. God gives us strength and closeness, just as he did with the disciples in the storm, and when he gave his hand to Peter who was drowning.

FROM BISHOP PAUL

As we do our part to respond to the health emergency, it is good to add prayer to the steps we are taking. A parishioner asked if I could compose a short prayer that touches on the current crisis. I offer the following:

We pray for all those affected by the coronavirus pandemic in Australia and around the world.

We pray for those who have died and for their families and friends who are grieving.

We pray for those who are sick and for the doctors and nurses and all who are caring for them.

May Mary and Joseph and all the saints pray for us that we may have health of body and peace of heart and a spirit of kindness to one another."

FROM ANDREW JIRIK

(Diocesan Business Manager)

With the immediate suspension of public liturgies until further notice, a number of parishioners have already expressed concern for the welfare of their priests, especially around their income support via the first collection. The Diocese of Ballarat has a fund that will be able to financially support each presbytery through this unprecedented period.

The Ballarat Clergy Assistance Fund is an association of the Ballarat diocesan clergy, under the auspices of the Bishop, to ensure adequate remuneration for all diocesan clergy. The BCAF is designed to assist the Ballarat diocesan clergy in matters related to their financial welfare throughout their life of ministry. Currently this Fund supports priests where the first collection does not cover their costs, including those of the presbytery, and whilst Masses are not going ahead this fund will simply be extended to all parishes. If you would like to make a contribution to the Ballarat Clergy Assistance Fund or your parish, please contact your parish."

A SAINT'S ADVICE FOR THE COMING WEEKS OF QUARANTINE

In April 1937, St Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei, endured a lengthy isolation similar to our own — albeit more dramatic. With the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, the young priest was forced to take refuge in the Honduran Embassy in Madrid. He was confined in that house for four months with his brother Santiago and almost 100 others!

One of those present, Eduardo Alastrué, describes the atmosphere: *“Some people spent the time ruminating silently about their discouragement and misery; others sought relief in commenting bitterly on both present and past experiences; others lamented incessantly about their family problems, their lost careers or businesses, or their uncertain and threatened futures. These feelings were mixed with the fear aroused by past suffering and persecution, fear that made the world outside our asylum seem completely uninhabitable. In some cases, hatred of adversaries was connected to this fear, hatred that couldn't be acted on for the moment, but which hoped to satisfy itself one day in a rematch.”*

In contrast, the atmosphere that St Josemaría created around himself was positive and hopeful. To keep the day well occupied, he established a schedule that included moments for talking with God, study, and family time. He also preached meditations. In one he remarked, *“My life is so monotonous now! How can I bring God's gifts to fruition in this forced retreat? Don't forget that you can be like a snow-capped volcano. On the outside, yes, the ice of monotony and darkness might cover you; outwardly you appear trapped. But inside, the fire will not stop burning within you, nor will you tire of making up for your lack of external activity with a very intense interior life.”* Several years later, St Josemaría recalled this experience when writing to a friend:

The plants lay hidden under the snow. And the farmer, the owner of the land, observes with satisfaction: “Now they are growing on the inside.” I thought of you and I: of our forced inactivity... Are you, like the earth under snow, growing on the inside?

The following ten tips for quarantine are derived from St Josemaría's attitudes and behaviour during his forced isolation.

1. **Be optimistic.** God is allowing this situation for *some purpose*, so try to approach it with supernatural outlook, good humour, and hope.
2. **Have a schedule.** Make a schedule to keep better use of your time. Don't miss out on days which could be enriching!
3. **Don't waste time.** Avoid overusing TV and Internet to 'pass the time.'
4. **Learn something new.** Today could be a good day to learn a new language, try a new recipe, or adopt a new hobby.
5. **Practice hobbies.** Take the opportunity to renew your old hobbies too: music, reading, writing, sport.
6. **Pray with calm.** Moments of physical inactivity can become opportunities of great inner growth — if we let them. God is with us always.
7. **Have good conversations.** Speak with those near or far — thanks to phone and video conferencing.
8. **Be a support.** Fear and boredom are great temptations. Be attentive to the needs of others, who may be more vulnerable to these temptations.
9. **Keep calm.** Try not to focus on the negative side of things, and be grateful for all the good around you.
10. **Say you're sorry.** Living together with others under quarantine is often complicated, so be sure to quickly make amends with others when frictions arise.

Pope entrusts the world to Mary, Protectoress of the Roman People

On Wednesday 11th March 2020, Pope Francis made an unexpected pilgrimage through the deserted streets of Rome to pray before the ancient icon of *Maria Salus Populi Romani* and at the foot of a wooden crucifix that miraculously protected Rome from plague in 1522. He recited the Rosary and entrusted the whole world to Our Lady. This is the text of his Entrustment:

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to

you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Protectoress of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Our Child Safe Policies can be read at our church entrances and on our webpages.

Our safe-guarding officer is
Peter Sanderson.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading. *Ezekiel 37:12-14.*

I shall put my spirit in you and you will live.

Second Reading. *Romans 8:8-11.*

The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.

Gospel. *John 11:1-45.*

"I am the resurrection and the life."

CANONICAL ADMINISTRATOR: Fr John Fitzgerald, john.fitzgerald@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 5562 2231. Warrnambool office hours: 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr John Corrigan, john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0422 342 499. For urgent matters, please don't hesitate to call any time.

PARISH SECRETARY: Louise Dryburgh, portfairy@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0408 681 223. Port Fairy office hours: 9am to 1pm, Monday and Thursday.

Parish office: St Patrick's Church, Princes Highway, Port Fairy.

Parish postal address: PO Box 8, PORT FAIRY VIC 3284.