



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 28th March and Sunday 29th March, 2020

CHURCH CLOSURE

In accord with Commonwealth directives, the doors of Infant Jesus Church in Koroit and St Patrick's Church in Port Fairy were locked at midday on Monday 23rd March. Sadly, our parish churches will remain closed until Tuesday 14th April, or otherwise advised by public authorities.

Bishop Paul writes to us: *"Many people will feel deep sadness that churches need to be closed. I share this sadness.*

However, this decision has been made on medical advice to reduce the number of people who become ill, and indeed to save lives.

"Although our churches will be closed for a time, we can, of course, continue to pray. In the present circumstances, I recommend that we increase our prayer at home.

"We might recall the words of the Gospel that were read on Ash Wednesday:

When you pray, go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you. (Mt 6:6)

"We can pray in our own homes. In a spiritual sense, we can go into the private room of our heart in times of reflection. There we can speak with God about our own needs, and about the needs of people around the world."

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We commend **Charles Piller** to the Lord's mercy, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.



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

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

Some parishioners have 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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Daylight Saving ends in Victoria next weekend (not this weekend). At 3am on Sunday 5th April clocks will be turned back to 2am. As usual, most of us will turn back our clocks before we go to bed Saturday night. Unusually, if you forget this year, there's no fear of arriving an hour early for church, because you'll stay at home on Sunday morning. (A small silver lining.)



A PRAYER FOR THOSE AROUND THE WORLD DYING ALONE

St Jacinta of Fatima, who yourself died alone in 1920, without your family at your side, please accompany those in strict quarantine all over the world, dying alone right now.

Obtain for them a share in your sorrow for sins, and pray they encounter the love of God, giving them comfort and confidence. Amen.

A PRAYER IN TIME OF DISTRESS

The Australian Catholic Bishops have commended this prayer to us:

O God, healer of all our ills, to whom we turn in this time of distress, grant we pray in the power of faith, eternal rest to the dead and comfort to those who mourn, health to the sick and peace to the dying, strength to the medical workers, wisdom to our leaders and a spirit of kindness to us all. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



THE HOLY FATHER'S URBI ET ORBI BLESSING

Every Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, the pope stands on the balcony or at the doors of St Peter's Basilica in Rome and ministers a blessing *urbi et orbi* — to the city and to the world. Normally one must be in the same place to receive a priestly blessing, but the pope's *Urbi et Orbi* blessings are efficacious via mass media.

On Friday Pope Francis ministered an extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* blessing to pray for an end to the global COVID-19 pandemic. It was the first time in the ritual's history that St Peter's Square was empty, and the only way to receive the blessing was by watching from home.

Before ministering Solemn Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament, the pope preached a short meditation, an abridged version of which is reproduced here.

FROM POPE FRANCIS

For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by. We feel it in the air, we notice it in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. We were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are drowning!" (Mk 4:38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

"*Why are you afraid?*" the Lord asks us. "*Have you no faith?*" Lord, your word strikes us — all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!"

"*Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?*" Lord, you are calling on us to seize this time of trial as *a time of choosing*. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.

We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even

though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people — forgotten people — who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and enforcement officers, volunteers, priests, religious, and so very many others. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer? How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all? Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love.

Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter's rock-solid faith, I entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God's blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: "*Do not be afraid!*" (Mt 28:5) And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us." (cf. 1 Pet 5:7)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLY WEEK (FROM THE HOLY SEE)

Concerning the date of Easter. Easter is the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The Easter Triduum is celebrated over the arc of three days which is preceded by Lent and crowned by Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time.

The Chrism Mass. Having evaluated the concrete situation in the different countries, the Bishop has the faculty to postpone it to a later date.

The Paschal Triduum. Wherever the civil and ecclesiastical authorities have put restrictions in place, the Sacred Triduum must be celebrated in the following way:

Bishops will give indications, which have been agreed with the Episcopal Conference, so that, in the Cathedral and parish churches, though without the physical participation of the faithful, the Bishop and parish priest(s) can celebrate the liturgical mysteries of the Paschal Triduum. The faithful should be informed of the times of the celebration so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. In this occasion, the means of live (not recorded) televisual or internet broadcasts are helpful.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHRISM MASS (FROM THE BISHOP)

In our diocese, the Chrism Mass has a particularly strong communal element, drawing together people from all around the diocese. Not only does this gathering include a renewal of commitment to ministry by our priests. We also include a renewal of commitment to all the varied ministries that serve our diocesan community. So, it seems appropriate to postpone our Chrism Mass till later in the year when we might be free to have our usual diocesan-wide gathering.

I propose postponing the Chrism Mass to about six months time, when I would hope that restrictions because of the coronavirus will have been lifted. Following our usual custom of celebrating the Chrism Mass on a Monday evening, I propose that we celebrate the Chrism Mass this year at 6:30 pm on Monday, 21st September, the feast of St Matthew.

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Our Child Safe Policies can be read at our church entrances and on our websites. Our safe-guarding officer is Peter Sanderson.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Palm Sunday

First Reading. *Is 50:4-7.*

I did not cover my face against insult: I know that I shall not be shamed.

Second Reading. *Phil 2:6-11.*

Christ humbled himself but God raised him on high.

Gospel. *Mt 26:14-27:66.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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