



St Paul Apostle Community

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Endeavour Hills, 1 April, 2020

Dear Parishioners

The parish team trust this letter finds you well

Last week (the 5th Sunday of Lent) we began our live streaming of Mass. Special thanks go to Br Luke CP for his tireless work in setting up the technology necessary for the streaming and also to Didi, Gillian and our readers Patricia and Anne. The team will continue to make Mass available to you in this format until such time when we can congregate in our Church. Please don't forget to access the Mass via our website/ Facebook and those who understand this technology please assist those who do not. Booklets to encourage prayer/reflection in your own homes will also be made available for upcoming liturgies. These can be downloaded from the website or alternatively hard copies are available in a pouch on the front door of the Parish office.

Please note that following ceremonies will be streamed during Holy week:

Tuesday April 7th 7pm Reconciliation ceremony

Thursday April 9th 7.00pm: Holy Thursday Mass

Friday April 10th 3.00pm: Solemn Commemoration of the Passion

Saturday April 11th 7.00pm: The Easter Vigil

Sunday April 12th 11.00: Easter Sunday Mass

The reconciliation ceremony set for Tuesday night will be a reflective half hour that will allow for your own personal/family preparation for the Easter Triduum. It will include an examination of conscience and the outline of the ceremony will also be available on the website.

Due to the protocols of social spacing and meeting in numbers it is all but impossible to set reconciliation times. If people require individual reconciliation, then they may ring the parish office and arrange a time with Fr Brendan. Please note that Fr Brendan will be the only priest available so it is unlikely that all people's requests will be answered. Thank-you for your understanding and patience.

Fr Brendan's first letter spoke of the potential financial hardship that many people in our community were likely to face. He acknowledged that your first responsibility was to your family and that we understood the need for you to re-evaluate your contribution to the Parish and the Passionist community. The Parish and the Passionist community are looking at ways that they can be more frugal and continue to operate on a restricted budget.

Some parishioners have indicated a desire to continue their financial support and if you are in a position to do so the following are ways in which this can be done:

- Direct Debit where your pledged amount is debited from your bank account.
- Credit Card where your pledged amount is debited from your credit card.

To take up either of these options please find the relevant form attached to this weekend newsletter, or obtain it from the parish office. You may email the completed form to gillianv@stpaulapostle.com.au or drop it off at

the Parish office.

Alternatively if you wish to make a 'one off' donation you can do so via  Details of this will be available shortly on our website.

The Catholic Church throughout the world are making available to the people of God innumerable ways in which we can nurture our spiritual life during this crisis. There is a multiplicity of methods of worship ranging from the simple to the more elaborate but we would encourage you to stay connected to this parish. While your private devotional exercises are encouraged we are trying to sustain our own sense of community and identity. At the conclusion of the Easter ceremonies Fr Brendan and the PPC will explore ways in which we can keep our community connected.

If there is anybody in the wider parish community that you feel maybe isolated and require a friendly voice or some other form of assistance do not hesitate to contact the office.

Thank-you again for your continued support and please stay well.

Blessings

Love,
Parish Team

Fr Brendan recently received the following poem from a friend. It was written by Irish/ French Catholic writer and biographer, Kathleen O'Meara (pen name Grace Ramsay). The poem was published in 1869.

And people stayed home
and he read books and listened
and he rested and did exercise
and he made art and played
and he learned new ways of being
and he stopped

and he listened more deeply
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone was dancing
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently

and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived
in ignorant ways
dangerous
meaningless and heartless
even the earth began to heal

and when the danger ended
and people found themselves
they mourned for the dead
and they made new choices
and they dreamed of new visions
and they created new ways of living
and they completely healed the earth
just as they were healed