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Sunday, 22 March 2020 Fourth Sunday Of Lent Year A



Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Today's the Fourth Sunday of Lent, "Laetare Sunday," a time of happiness in the middle of a time of penance. Don't be afraid!

Masses are still being celebrated publicly in the Cathedral, following the usual daily timetable but with a limit of one hundred persons present. In some jurisdictions in Australia public Masses have already ceased and we may well reach that point in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Limiting access to Mass is a hard thing, and does not sit easily with anyone. But in the context of this coronavirus pandemic, we must think of everyone, not just individuals. You or I as individuals might say to ourselves "I am prepared to take the risk of getting sick or even dying, for the Mass."

But with diseases such as this COVID-19, each of us might easily contract and unknowingly, unwillingly, spread the virus to others - including those who are most vulnerable to its more serious effects, even death. We cannot make the decision to risk death or serious sickness for other people, and put our spiritual thirst above their wellbeing or very life. We have a responsibility to care for others, and to contribute to the effort to keep the infection rate down so that hospitals can cope and appropriate medical care can be given to all who need it.

It is a balancing act, trying to do the right thing in the right proportion at the right time.

The Mass will still be celebrated by the priests. Holy Communion will still be available for those who hunger for the Bread of Life, though for a while not in the usual context of a sizeable communal gathering. The Prayer of the Church, the Divine Office, will still be prayed day in and day out to praise God and seek His blessing for each and for all.

Especially in the next few weeks or months it will be more valuable than ever that we pray together with others, in families and in small groups, as well as individually. Make a point of going to "pay a visit" to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, in your local parish church or here at the cathedral! Say the Rosary, which still so easily leads us to Jesus as it always has done.

Read the Catechism, get to know more about the sacraments and the Bible.

Buy lots of good books, not hoards of other paper goods.

Please keep an eye on St Mary's Cathedral's website and social media pages. Not only are many of our Masses being live-streamed, but we can quickly let you know about what's happening.

Let me emphasize again, the Cathedral is open each day for private prayer. With so few tourists around, it is more serene than usual, you'll love it! Liturgy...

First Reading 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord Response: Thanks be to God



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Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

- 1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R)
- **2.** He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (*R*)
- 3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R)
- **4.** Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (*R*)





Liturgy...

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord Response: Thanks be to God



Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



Liturgy...

Gospel Jn 9:1-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

Liturgy..... Gospel Jn 9:1-41 Continued.......

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said:

'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ





Weekend Mass	Saturday Vigil: Sunday:	 6.00pm 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass) 12.15pm Latin Mass in the extraordinary form is held each Sunday in the Lady Chapel. 6.00pm Mass
Weekday Mass	Monday to Friday: Saturday: Public Holidays:	6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm 9.00am & 12noon 9am (or as advertised)
Reconciliation	Monday-Friday: Saturday:	12noon - 1.00pm & 5.00pm - 5.25pm 11.30am - 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm
Vespers (Evening Prayer)	Saturday: Sunday:	5.30pm 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)
Stations of The Cross	Fridays @ 4.30pm:	March – 06, 13, 20, 27 & April – 03

**COELIACS: Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.

CATHEDRAL CLERGY

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP Father Donald Richardson, Dean Father Brendan Purcell Father Gerard Woo Ling Father Lewi Barakat

CATHEDRAL STAFF

Chris Backhouse - Cathedral Sacristan Thomas Wilson - Director of Music Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Mary's Cathedral Precinct

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW LOOK CATHOLIC WEEKLY OR PURCHASE A COPY FOR \$2



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

ST MARYS CATHEDRAL



"You are welcome to join us for Stations of the Cross, a special devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's suffering and death for our sake".

> Fr Don Richardson, DEAN OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

> > DATE: FRIDAYS 28 FEBRUARY 6 MARCH 13 MARCH, 20 MARCH, 27 MARCH & 3 APRIL TIME: 4.30PM

ABOUT STATIONS OF THE CROSS:
The Stations of the Cross is a special devotion that commemorates the journey of Christ to his Crucifixion and burial.
St Mary's Cathedral has 14 stations arranged in order in which we visit to commemorate and pray. The stations are magnificent oil paintings painted in France, which were acquired by Cardinal Moran in 1885 during a visit to Europe.

*INFORMATION ON IMAGE:
The Carrying of the Cross Window – 4th Sorrowful
Mystery of the Rosary.
Positioned on the eastern side of the Cathedral.
The image depicts Jesus being forced to carry his
cross uphill to the place of execution. 4th Sorrowful

CATHEDRAL NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: STATIONS OF THE CROSS A SPECIAL DEVOTION COMMEMORATING THE JOURNEY OF CHRIST TO HIS CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL IS PRAYED EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT AT 4.30PM.

BISHOPS ANNOUNCE NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR DROUGHT. The Catholic Bishops of Australia have

announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national – and so should the response be national. Access resources and find out more at:

www.catholic.org.au/drought.

SAFEGUARDING. Keeping Our

Communities Safe. We understand how difficult it can be for people who have experienced abuse to make a complaint. We have developed a Listening to You card, which is available in all our parishes to provide guidance for those wishing to make a complaint. We want to support you in this process and we can provide access to counselling and support services if needed. For more information please see the attached posters that we ask Parish Priests to print and display in a prominent area within parishes. For assistance, please contact

safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

DIVINE RENOVATION. Transform your Parish from maintenance to mission! Pastors, Ministry Leaders and Lay Faithful are invited to a Divine Renovation Conference in Canada. The Archdiocese of Sydney will join with Parishes from across the globe at the Divine Renovation Conference to experience hands-on leadership formation and networking to develop mission-focused parishes. For more information and registration details, contact Helen Wagner **02 9307 8499** or:

HELEN.WAGNER@SYDNEYCATHOLIC.OR

THE 12.15PM LATIN MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM EACH SUNDAY IS HELD IN THE LADY CHAPEL.

LIVESTREAM OF THE SMC MASSES

The Cathedral will be livestreaming at least one Mass daily on the Cathedral Website. Visit www.stmaryscathedral.org.au to tune in.

UPDATE OF THE RELICS OF ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX AND HER

PARENTS. The National Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saints Thérèse, and her parents, Louis and Zélie has been **postponed** due to the outbreak of Covid-19. A revised itinerary and other updates will be posted on Catholic Mission's website:

www.catholicmission.org.au and its Facebook and Twitter accounts.

MEN'S PRAYERWEEKEND 27-29 MARCH 2020

\$250: Paul White and Fr Thang Nguyen msc. Transitions occur frequently in our work, relationships, spirituality and health. During this retreat we will reflect on scripture and modern authors on the interaction between trust and discernment particularly at times of transition in our lives.

Come, relax and enjoy God in tranquillity at St. Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, N.S.W. RSVP Ph: (02) 46300233 OR Email contact@towersretreat.org.au website: https://towersretreat.org.au

HEALING AFTER ABORTION

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, Sydney offers healing retreats for those who have experienced an abortion. The retreat offers a sanctuary in which to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion in a safe, supportive, confidential and non judgmental environment. Information and a brochure can found at: www.rachelsvineyard.org.au or call us on our confidential voicemail number 0400 092 555 or email info@rachelsvineyard.org.au. The next retreat will be on 1-3 May 2020.

ARCHDIOCESE COVID-19 UPDATES

To help people maintain everyone's physical health and spiritual life through this crisis, the Archdiocese of Sydney have a page on their website for the latest updates, prayers and spiritual resources, and to watch Mass online. Visit:

https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirusupdates/

EMBRACE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP.

Embrace will cancel its regular Sunday evening gatherings until further notice. For more information: please write to embrace@stmaryscathedral.org.au.

ENCOUNTER KIRIBATI WITH PALMS.

18-26 MAY 2020. A 12-day tour visiting a number of islands in this small Pacific nation. Palms personnel work with local communities to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty in a part of the world impacted by climate change. You will meet and spend time

with them and their host communities to see first-hand how Palms Australia is working to create a better world. It might even inspire you to join Palms and work overseas yourself. Tours offered to Timor-Leste in September and Thailand/Myanmar in November. For more information call **Robert** at Palms on **02 9560 5333** or email **robert@palms.org.au**.

that seeks to foster and promote religious vocations among young people. We would like to introduce our newest program for Catholic young adults discerning religious life.

This program is a Discernment Mentorship Program that gives young adults access to online formation courses and connects them with a professed religious to aid them in their discernment. Since it is based online, this is an opportunity Franciscan University is offering to all English-speaking young adults.

I've attached our recent press release here and you can read more about the program at

https://vocationsoutreach.org/mentor.

URGENT: VOLUNTEER DRIVER NEEDED FOR CENTACARE MINI-BUS

CatholicCare through Centacare Industries in Belmore provides meaningful employment and life-skills training for adults with a variety of intellectual disabilities.

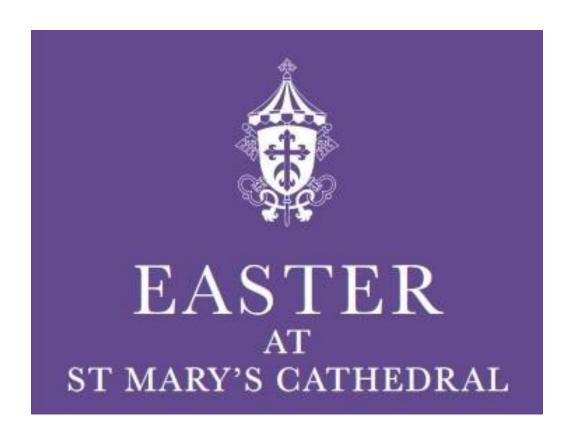
Are you based in South-West Sydney, have a Class C drivers license and some free time? We are looking for a volunteer driver, comfortable driving a Toyota HiAce Van, to help out with our morning and afternoon bus runs. You would be transporting a small group of adults with intellectual disabilities to and from work. We need volunteers from Monday to Friday, morning shifts from 6:30am to 8:00am and afternoon shifts from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. To indicate your interest or find out more please call CCareline on 13 18 19 or email connect@catholiccare.org

JRS FOOD DRIVE - Lenten Appeal. This

Lent, donate 1 item each week to give to refugees living in this community. Your donation will be given to the Jesuit Refugee Service Foodbank. Help us keep the shelves stocked... Jesuit Refugee Service Australia. 24 Roslyn Street Elizabeth Bay NSW 2011. Contacts for more information - T: +61 2 9356 388. W: www.jrs.org.au. E: jrsinfo@jrs.org.au.

CALLING ALL CATECHISTS -

Children's Liturgy, Sacramental Preparation, Public School Catechists. You are invited to 'come and see' and experience the pilgrimage of a lifetime to where Jesus walked. "To experience the Garden of Gethsemane, the place of the Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee – scriptures come alive and you will never be the same again!" Very Rev Michael McLean, Episcopal Vicar for Education (Schs), Leader of the Archdiocese's CCD Parish Catechist Support team's Jubilee Pilgrimage. Departs 16 May 2020, 10 Nights/13 Days in the Holy Land with Optional Rome Extension (5 Nights). Book now 1800 819 156 www.harvestjourneys.com/PV3120 DEPOSIT due 20 Dec 2019. "Next year, Jerusalem!"



WILL BE LIVESTREAMED VIA THE CATHEDRAL WEBSITE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

PALM SUNDAY / 5 APRIL, 2020

7.00am; Mass 9.00am; Mass

10.30am: Procession & Solemn Mass 12.15pm: Low mass (Extraordinary Form) 5.00pm: Solemn Vespers and Benediction

6.00pm: Mass

MAUNDY THURSDAY / 9 APRIL, 2020

10.30am: Chrism Mass 6.30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper 9.00pm: Compline The Office of Night Prayer

GOOD FRIDAY / 10 APRIL, 2020

10.00am: Stations of the Cross 3.00pm: Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

HOLY SATURDAY / 11 APRIL, 2020

10.00am: Tenebrae The Office of Readings 6.30pm: Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY / 12 APRIL, 2020

7.00am: Mass 9.00am: Mass 10.30am: Solemn Mass

12.15pm: Low Mass (Extraordinary Form) 5.00pm: Solemn Vespers and Benediction

6.00pm: Mass



Pastoral Letter to the Pastors and People of the Archdiocese of Sydney in a Time of Pandemic 18 March 2020

Apocalypse now?

Drought, fires, storms and now plague. It can feel like the end of the world is coming.

In a sense it is. The world as we know it is being turned upside down – at least temporarily – as many get sick and some die from COVID-19, and so much of ordinary life is put on hold.

The Church is not immune. I was recently tested for COVID-19 and put into self-isolation myself and, though happily I tested negative, I know the disruption and anxiety people are experiencing.

But in times like these it's important not to panic or lose heart. If this pandemic shakes us up and starts us thinking about who or what's most important to us and what we should be doing with our lives, that can be a good thing.

Worshipping in spirit and in truth

One of the great Lent gospels is the story of the woman at the well. The woman asked some questions about worship. 'The hour is coming,' Jesus answered her, 'indeed it is here already, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.' (Jn 4:23)

What does that require of us at present? Several instructions have already come from health authorities and the Church. Outside gatherings of more than 500 people and indoors gatherings of 100 have been forbidden; in due course the public celebration of Mass may have to be suspended.

Individuals have already been asked, before attending liturgical celebrations, to consider their own health – both their potential to infect others and their susceptibility to infection. Parishioners or clergy who feel unwell or have flu-like symptoms should remain at home. Please be assured that the rest of us will be praying for you.

With this letter I am today issuing some new directives for the celebration of the sacraments and pastoral care in the Archdiocese during this pandemic.

The Church in Australia was founded at a time when the Mass could not be celebrated on these shores and our forefathers and mothers waited for years to receive the Holy Eucharist. For us it will be at worst a matter of weeks or months. But just as prayer sustained them through those times, so can it for us today.

We are now all going on retreat together

Our enforced retreat from the world can be an opportunity to grow closer to God and more prayerful.

People were greatly edified by recent images of Pope Francis' pilgrimage on foot through the empty streets of Rome to the image of Our Lady of Health. Let's join him, then, in prayer and fasting for those who have died or are suffering from COVID-19, those at risk or anxious, those treating the sick or seeking a cure, as well as those who are leading us. The power of prayer, married with the wisdom of health experts, will ease and hopefully eliminate this disease.

I ask that, as far as possible, churches remain open at this time to signal our continuing availability and as an incentive to private prayer. The Blessed Sacrament might at times be exposed in the monstrance for this purpose. Prayers of intercession for an end to the epidemic and for the safety of all should be included in Masses, the Divine Office, as well as private prayers. I ask consecrated religious to redouble their intercessory prayers for us all.

Continued pastoral care of the sick

Please be assured that any Catholic who contracts COVID-19 will as far as possible be assisted by our clergy with the sacraments and other pastoral care. It's at times like these that our pastors really shine.

Clergy will continue attending the sick, elderly and incarcerated to provide Confession, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Communion and other pastoral care, unless they are themselves at risk of transmitting the virus. All ministers should follow precautions recommended by health authorities when visiting people's homes, aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons and detention centres.

Where a priest tests positive for COVID-19 or is required to self-isolate, every effort will be made to find a supply priest to take his place. In some places the cancellation of Masses may be required and/or provision of a Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Holy Communion.

Even if physical distancing is sometimes desirable, 'social distancing' is never so. We all need human company. So in addition to the sacramental care provided by parishes, healthy young volunteers and others should consider prudent ways to check in with the sick, frail elderly or otherwise isolated to inquire whether they have particular needs – for groceries, medicine, pastoral care or simple company. Individuals could cook meals and deliver them to the doorsteps of those in isolation. Modern technologies can also assist in overcoming some people's sense of isolation.

To help people maintain their physical health and spiritual life through this crisis, we have a page on our archdiocesan website. For latest updates, prayers and spiritual resources, and to watch Mass online visit https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/.

In this difficult time I entrust our Archdiocese and our nation to the intercession of Our Lady, Help of Christians, of Lourdes, and of Good Health. God bless you all.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+ Oldhan Fishen or

(Most Rev.) Anthony Fisher OP Archbishop of Sydney