
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 23 June 2020 — Tenth edition

“Encouraging signs - slowly and carefully”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

It has been very encouraging to have people back at Mass these past few weeks. We are looking forward to being able to accommodate hundreds of people, rather than fifty, at Masses from July 1st. For health reasons we will not be able to have a “packed” cathedral, but even maintaining 1.5 m between everyone we can and will be able to greatly increase the numbers at Mass in the cathedral.

It has been a blessing to be able to celebrate Masses with some students and staff of St Mary's Cathedral College for the past couple of Wednesdays, as we would normally do pre-COVID.

With the ability to have many more people at Mass from 1 July, we will be ceasing the Sunday 4pm Mass after next Sunday, 28th June, and reverting to our normal timetable for Mass.

As circumstances permit, we will be gradually re-introducing sung

Vespers and music at a number of Masses. However, singing is regarded as a further infection risk and requires greater physical distancing for the choristers, and this is a logistical problem not easily handled.

With more people out and gathering, the risk of infection increases. So it is very important that everyone keeps up good practices when coming to Mass. Don't come if you are at all unwell or have any flu-like symptoms. Use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the cathedral. Maintain physical distancing when seated in the pews (except with people you actually live with) and in the Communion procession, and avoid shaking hands as a sign of peace.

I have to admit that managing the shutdown, the transition to closed operations, the upgraded livestreaming capacity, the appropriate pastoral outreach, and the re-opening, etc, etc, at the cathedral has been quite a challenge and I am looking forward

to a few days away in July for some rest and renewal. Like many of you, I have felt the burden of the inability to travel far and isolation from family. I will be visiting my 97 year old Mum, and there is a backlog of family birthday parties to be celebrated! But as the resurgence in COVID cases in Victoria shows, these are dangerous times and we must still be very careful.

As we gradually feel our way forward out of this pandemic, I want to mention with thanks the many messages of appreciation that the cathedral priests and staff have received from our parishioners and the wider community. We are glad that we have been able to adapt and continue the liturgical, devotional and pastoral ministry of St Mary's Cathedral during this crisis so far. Many of the churches in our city and suburbs have not been able to return to anything like normal operations yet, and to me this highlights the very special role that

St Mary's Cathedral plays in the life of Australian Catholics. We have also received many messages of appreciation from people overseas who have been helped by the dignity and beauty of our liturgy as viewed on the internet, when local churches and cathedrals have been unable to offer as much. This is a great privilege!



*Fr Don Richardson, **Dean**,
Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral Parish,
Sydney.
Administrator St Philip Howard Parish,
Norfolk Island, South Pacific.
Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish,
Darlinghurst.
Liturgy Office Director, Archdiocese of
Sydney.*

Chronicle Notices

Please do not forget:

St Mary's Cathedral is live-streaming daily Mass via its website:

<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>

Please keep sending us your
Prayer Intentions and
Petition to Our Lady

PRAYER INTENTION

prayerintentions@stmaryscathedral.org.au

PETITION TO OUR LADY

petitionstoourlady@stmaryscathedral.org.au

Maximus – ‘The Inner Life of Man’ with Bishop Richard Umbers

Maximus – Men Striving for Greatness is the Archdiocese of Sydney's premier men's ministry video podcast.

On this week's show we interview Bishop Richard Umbers to discuss the need for men to have an active and habitual prayer life, and what that looks like in our busy lives today.

Join us on the Maximus – Men Striving for Greatness Facebook page on Friday the 26th of June at 4 pm for an inspiring conversation.



Open Our Churches national petition

While it is pleasing to see progress made on the easing of restrictions on churches in NSW, our fellow Catholics in some other states and territories are still struggling to practice their faith under unfair restrictions at this time. You can voice your concerns directly with all the premiers and chief ministers by signing the Open Our Churches petition at this address: www.openourchurches.com.au



Are you struggling in this time of crisis?

You are not alone. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline that can connect you with a local volunteer from your community.

 **CCareline 13 18 19**
by CatholicCare

If you would like to
make a

DONATION

please click here:

<https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/smc/#donate>

or

call: +61 2 9220 0406



Social Pages

special invitation:

Marriage Mass – Sunday the 12th of July at 10:30 am

We are very pleased to announce that the Marriage Mass at St Mary's Cathedral will be going ahead. While we will not be able to have hospitality or a presentation of certificates, we welcome all married couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary to come, celebrate and receive a blessing from Archbishop Anthony Fisher.

Email: lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org

or

Phone: (02) 9307 8400



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
