
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 16 July 2020 — Eleventh edition

“Questions.....!”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

In the couple of weeks since the last edition of the Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle, we have been continuing to learn how to manage a re-opened cathedral in time of pandemic.

Sadly, the situation in Melbourne has deteriorated, and our sister cathedral, St Patrick's has had to close to worshippers again.

The resurgence of COVID infections in greater Sydney is of great concern, and hopefully will not lead to greater restrictions on places of worship being introduced here. While we have our COVID-safe practices in place, I want to remind everyone coming to Mass to scrupulously observe the physical distancing requirements while inside the cathedral.

The Sunday Gospel passage this weekend is the parable of the weeds and the wheat.

It can teach us about the need for patience and trust in the face of evils in the world. Why is there disease? Why does God allow suffering? Why must we learn to live with it?

The past few days I have been on a farm visiting family (safely and legally in between the southern and northern state borders!), where the whole question of weeds and good crop is very alive.



Farmers must rise to the challenge, and try to make even the weeds yield some value, somehow. It seems to me that we must all try to do something similar: to discover something of some worth even in what is imperfect, difficult, or disturbing. What can we learn? How can we grow? How might we make human society more just, supportive, life-affirming, respectful? In our religious lives, too: appreciate the sacraments more deeply, gain new insights into the depth of God's mercy, be more aware of God's personal knowledge of and love for us?

The regulatory approach COVID pandemic has highlighted all kinds of deeper sociopolitical issues. How do government and society properly allocate resources to look after the elderly and, do we really value and protect them? Why do we find migrants, refugees and “battlers” still living in outdated crowded and dehumanising types of public housing, which makes them more vulnerable

and easily “locked down” by faceless unelected health bureaucrats? On what basis do we achieve the “right” balance between the opening of the economy and the mitigation of an epidemic? On what ethical basis do those with power assess “risk”?

Well, I don’t have the answers to all that, but I do know that St Mary’s Cathedral continues to point to God’s love in the midst of it all. Thank you for your encouragement and support, and let’s continue to pray for our weedy world. For when we look at the bigger scene, the whole magnificence of Creation, even with the weeds, the imperfections and the pandemics, it is truly beautiful.



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

Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19

To help parishioners with any questions they may have around COVID-19 and its impact on sacraments such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, you may find the FAQs page on the Archdiocese of Sydney website helpful at this time by clicking -

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/>

ACBC National Catholic Men’s Gathering:

The ACBC National Catholic Men’s Gathering for 2020 is now being offered as an online event for registered participants. This modified program will be delivered in four pre-recorded sessions of approximately 1 hour in length. Each session will offer input from a variety of speakers and musicians, along with a response and questions for group discussion or individual reflection.

Aim: To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese and the world.

Cost: FREE

Registration: Available from Monday 29th June

Event Program: Available from Saturday 15th August, 2020

Go to:

www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

Parent Line: 1300 1300 52

Many families are in the midst of or are facing serious challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and need extra support but don’t know where to start.

Parent Line can help parents by providing support and strategies to manage.

Call us 7 days a week on 1300 1300 52.

Live-streaming of Mass:

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

