
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 21 August 2021 — Twenty-second edition

“it could be worse . . .”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners
and friends all,

It could be worse, we could be
living in Afghanistan.

Next Sunday, 29th August, is
“Social Justice Sunday” in the
Catholic Church.

Consider the injustices which
continue against so many people
and communities, the huge
failures in statesmanship and
governance nationally and
internationally which seem to
characterise these days; the
incompetence, corruption,
power-grabbing and self-
righteousness on daily display
globally and closer to home; the
immense suffering and long-
term damage to communities
and individuals done by the
Covid pandemic and some
measures used in response to it.

How do we react to all this?
Surely, we are called to prayer
and to action.

The 2021 annual Social Justice
Statement by the Australian
Catholic Bishops says that “the

signs of the times are clear - we
know that we human beings
need a change of heart, mind,
and behaviour.”

So how might we foster a change
of heart, mind, and behaviour, in
the midst of pandemic,
lockdowns, wars, despotic
regimes and all the other things
which oppress and which call for
action in the name social justice?

“The Bishops invite us to join
them in responding to Pope
Francis’ invitation to take a
seven year journey towards
total ecological sustainability
guided by seven Laudato Si’
Goals. The Goals are: response to
the cry of the earth; response to
the cry of the poor; ecological
economics; sustainable
lifestyles; ecological spirituality;
ecological education; and
community engagement and
participatory action.”
(<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>)

Personally, I don’t feel quite
ready for a seven year ecological
journey just at the moment. But

maybe I will do later this year,
when the lockdown ends, when
hopefully we can visit family and
friends, when kids can go to
school, when people can go to
work and feel valued, when we
can gather and celebrate life
together, when the phone calls
from anti-vaxxers in a bunker
somewhere telling me my DNA
is being modified have stopped,
and when I’m no longer being
watched with suspicion by the
police for walking along the
street minding my own
business, and when we can all
join together in the cathedral for
Mass and the sacraments.

But it could be worse. And I
continually hear of people doing
good and kind things for others
during this lockdown: “integral
ecology” in action! Love is
always “sustainable.”

Peace,

Fr Don Richardson, Dean

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Fr Donald Richardson

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SIGN THE NO EUTHANASIA PETITION TO PREVENT STATE-SANCTIONED KILLING IN NSW

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is urging all Catholics to sign an e-petition to prevent the NSW parliament passing laws that sanction the killing of vulnerable human beings. There is never a good time to introduce laws such as this, but to do so in the middle of a pandemic and amidst lockdowns adversely affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions is unconscionable.

Please sign this petition, calling on the Government to keep us focused on the present challenges and once they have been met, let us focus on medicine at its best and not its most lethal. Click image below

**TAKE
URGENT ACTION TODAY
TO HELP SAVE
VULNERABLE LIVES.**

HOPE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

for the COVID-19 Crisis

**Sunday
22 August
10:30am**

*Solemn Mass at
St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
Principal Celebrant
Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP*

Livestreamed on the St Mary's Cathedral YouTube channel.

THE Catholic Weekly

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