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# The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle

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St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 10 September 2021 — Twenty-fifth edition

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## *“Church and a poem . . .”*

**D**ear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

We seem to be a bit closer to the reopening of churches in New South Wales, but in the meantime it is a very hard thing for so many to be unable to attend Mass.

Archbishop Fisher and other religious leaders are in discussion with the NSW Government and Health Department, emphasizing that worship is an “essential” activity. The Church is working with a leading infectious diseases and risk management specialist, to devise a plan that would allow for safe reopening of churches and safe return to worship for all.

We should cherish even more what we have otherwise taken for granted.

I am grateful for Fr Brendan for passing on this poem, written in 1942 by one of many Polish Catholics deported by Stalin’s regime to the Soviet Union. Here is an English translation:

### **CHURCH**

We had a brick-built church in our town,  
Away from the street, with green trees around,  
And when the bells pealed in the tower,  
And organ rang out with wondrous power,

As I gazed at the paintings hung on the wall,  
The altar shining with light and gold,  
The thought never came then to my mind,  
How painful, to have no church [on Sunday] at all.  
  
And now, as I stand in this small clay hut,  
Which houses a chapel as of a day,  
Where two candle-flames are all the light,  
And there are no bells, no organs to play,  
  
Only today do I feel to the full,  
What joy, what a gift to have Mass every day!

*Ludwika Kownacka, translated by Mary Besemeres*

I hope you can join us online for the liturgy this coming week, remembering especially The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, on Tuesday 14th and Our Lady of Sorrows the following day.

May the Lord grant us a safe week ahead and all the consolations of faith, hope and love.  
God bless,

*Fr Don Richardson, Dean*

# Chronicle Notices



## NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 6-12 SEPTEMBER

Download resources, produced by children, to help them feel safe under the added pressures of COVID-19.

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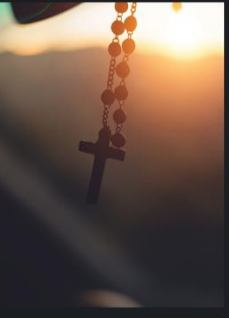



PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING THE



# Holy Rosary

FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING THIS TIME OF LOCKDOWN

Organised by  
**CITY COMPASS**  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
Young Professionals and Adults

Via Zoom at 7pm, Sunday September 12.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85639150028>

Or visit  
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