



Parish of St Peter and Paul's

19th March 2020.

My dear friends,

In accordance with the directive received by the Bishops of Victoria, it is advised that with immediate effect all Public Liturgies and Celebrations of Mass is suspended until further notice. A copy of the letter from the Bishops of Victoria is attached for your perusal.

I appreciate the importance for all of you to attend Mass, and in view of this I would like to advise you of a few options that are available.

1. I will be pre-recording a normal weekend mass, and the link will be made available on our parish website :- www.sspp.org.au
2. Mass with his Holiness Pope Francis is being live streamed from his private Chapel of "Casa Santa Marta" every day at 5pm on :-<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta/2020-03/pope-naaman-nazareth-indignation-homily-luke-kings.html>
3. Mass is streamed live daily from St Patricks Cathedral in Melbourne at 1.00pm daily and is then available as a recording on demand until one hour prior to the next 1.00pm mass.
On Sundays, the 11am Mass is streamed live and it is also available as a recording on demand. Please go to :- MelbourneCatholic.org.au/mass
4. Channel 10 has Mass every Sunday at 6am .
5. Light FM on 89.9 has Mass on Sundays at 7.00am. This is a traditional Roman Catholic Mass by Father Kevin Dillon from Rowville.

Regardless of how you choose to participate in your "home" Mass, obviously reception of communion will be missing from your "Digital" Mass; however the old traditional concept of "Spiritual Communion" is re-emerging – in a nutshell, the idea is that the desire to receive the Eucharist is a grace in itself, and one offers up that desire in prayer to God, it can become an occasion for even greater grace and spiritual growth.

Please be assured of my continued pastoral care to the community during this period. Should you have the need for a visit , anointing of the sick, communion to the sick or Reconciliation, please do not hesitate to contact me via the parish office on 03 9842 1480 or by email to gerald.mariadas@cam.org.au.

As part of our parish support through this difficult period Neal Murphy has made himself available to offer support on a spiritual perspective through counsel and prayer as required. Neal is a Mental Health First Aid facilitator and also has a masters degree in pastoral counselling. Neal can be contacted through his work number on 0401 136 207.

At this time, we also ask you to be mindful of those who are vulnerable around you. The sick , frail and elderly , disabled and those who are on their own are especially vulnerable during times like these, and if you can, please check on them and offer any assistance you can.

During this period , we will keep the Church open for private reflection and prayer. I would however like to remind you of the social distancing rule whilst you are in Church. All parish activities will also cease until further notice. This does include all group gatherings, Stations of the Cross and Catechist lessons.

We will keep you updated during this period through our website and email. If you would like email updates and newsletters delivered to you via email, please inform the Parish Office of your details.

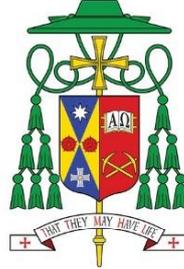
During this stressful global health crisis, please know, that I have you all constantly in my thoughts and prayers. Please keep in your prayers our community , our Church and those who work on the frontline of this virus especially our health care workers and paramedics.

I thank you all for your continued support of Ss Peter and Paul's Church, and know that whilst Masses are temporarily suspended, I will continue to be here for you all.

Yours In Christ,

Fr Jerald.

Parish Priest.



Wednesday 18 March 2020

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria,

This morning, the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective today. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully.

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

- Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.
- All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority.

We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation. Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. We assure our people that the Mass is being offered for you in our parishes and that while you are not physically present, you still participate spiritually and that you are close to the hearts of your pastors in the Eucharist.

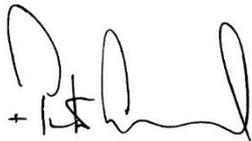
We urge the clergy to make themselves available to visit individuals, especially those who are unwell and vulnerable. This includes viaticum and all the opportunities for healing through the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation.

Again, we encourage you to regularly consult your local websites for further details of local arrangements.

Tomorrow further pastoral guidelines will be shared in the Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst. Clergy and religious should consult with their Ordinary if any questions remain uncertain.

All of this is happening during the Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the Easter mysteries. While we are invited to be self-sacrificial at this time, we must remember the words of Jesus upon appearing before his disciples after his resurrection: Again and again he said 'peace be with you.' (Jn 20:19) Let us not panic, nor be anxious, nor reduce ourselves to caring only for ourselves. This is a time to be sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe.

Thank you for all your patience, prayers and resilience.



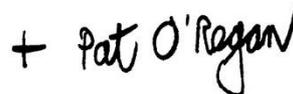
Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR MA, DD
BISHOP OF BALLARAT



Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



Most Rev Patrick Michael O'Regan
BISHOP OF SALE