



## Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Parish

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### WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED-

THE CHURCH WILL HOWEVER BE OPENED DURING  
NORMAL MASS TIMES FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

### Our Vision

*We are a Catholic Community who profess, celebrate and witness that Jesus lives, and to whom the Father sends His Spirit. We express that belief by living out and spreading the message of the Gospel.*

**22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2020**

**4th Sunday of Lent – Year A**

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 available in the Narthex.

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 :- [ourladyofthepineschurch.org.au](http://ourladyofthepineschurch.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 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](http://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. Other resources that are available during this period are <https://www.dolr.org/article/those-unable-receive-eucharist-can-have-spiritual-communion> and <https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/spiritual-communion.html>

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 [jerald.mariadas@cam.org.au](mailto:jerald.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.

### **Prayers of the Community**

**Our Prayers are asked for those who died recently: especially and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially** Myrtle and James Mullins, Linda Stocco, Rev Fr John Heffey, Pasqua Serruto, Jesus Herrero, Aalia Marcos, Cruz Marcos, Luigi Ricciotti, Ion Dadarlat, David Larkin, Rosie Volpi, Alessandro Giussani, Pasqua Serruto, Angelo Riccioni, Giovanni Bassita Riccioni, Elvira Ercolani, Kasnawi Siaril, Tanya Balnaves, Michelina Coviello, Concetta Salvatore, Olwyn Ryan, Giuseppe Monterosso, Betty Salm, Noel Patirck Walsh.

**For those who are sick:** Paul O'Connor, Emily Patrikis, Madeline Gilmore, Dan McMahon, Teresita Leung, June Webster, Joel Pemberton, Angela Selva, Anthoula Miras, Danny and Alice Zanon, Margaret Jansen, Teresa Talia, Mary Ritus, Lois Norton Old, Salaka Hewamaduma, Priyanthi Perera, Josh Davis, Maree Spinks, Joyce Foo, Peter Wilkinson, Anthony Calcagno, Audrey O'Connor, Tai Thomas, Pat Carty, Khok Hong Tan, Choi Yeng Chew, Marie and Graham Simpson, Catherine Poon, Ann Weerappah, Bronwyn Burke, Filomena Fusco, Carmenza Cruz, Alicia Nivia, Frank Prendergast, Joan O'Hanrahan, Pauline Smit, Remi Vulich, Mary Tancredi, Irma Ciccotelli, Jovina Ebell, Gina Ciriaco, Dr Hong Nauyen, Cesare Iozzi, Ian Stuart.

## What is Spiritual Communion

What is spiritual communion? St. Thomas Aquinas described it as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and lovingly embrace him” at a time or in circumstances when we cannot receive him in sacramental Communion. In the past, instruction manuals gave as the most familiar situation, the need of a parent to stay home from Sunday Mass to care for a sick child, thereby missing the opportunity for Communion. Spiritual communion needs no special instruction; it only requires the same disposition as the actual reception of the sacrament and a turning to Jesus with the heart. These days as we experience a renewal of eucharistic adoration, those who come to spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament are receiving spiritual communion, even though they may not have called it by that name.

## Prayer of Spiritual Communion

No particular prayer or formulary is required, though there are acts of spiritual communion in Catholic prayer books to help focus a proper intention. One of the most popular is that composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori:

“My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already in my heart  
and unite myself to you completely.  
Please do not let me ever be separated from you.”

### Please note:

- During this time the church will be open during normal mass times for a period of half an hour for private reflection .
- During this period the Parish Office will also close early at 2.00pm

## Reflection for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Conversion is a process. The blind man in the Gospel reading exemplifies this journey into faith. Notice that at first he did not go to Jesus. Jesus came to him. The man responded by waiting to see what would happen and then by obeying Jesus.

Conversion begins when Je-sus seeks us out and we make ourselves available to his touch. He then opens our eyes to the truth, but we don't immediately understand.

When the man's neighbours asked about his cure, he did not yet understand who Je-sus was; he thought of him as just a man.

Then, the pressure of listening to the Pharisees argue about who Jesus was caused him to give it more thought. He concluded that Jesus must be a prophet.

Next, as the Pharisees treat-ed him more roughly and raised the possibility of expelling him from the synagogue if he claimed that Je-sus was the Christ, he began to wonder whether it might be true. Their reasons for hating Jesus became the eye-openers that cured his spiritual blindness.

Finally, Jesus sought him out again, this time to minister to him in response to the mistreatment he had suffered from the Pharisees. In this act of caring, the man could see who Jesus really was. Conversion – the purification of our spiritual vision – takes place in the fire of our sufferings as we recognize the concern that God has for us.

**Prayer to St Joseph –  
under whose patronage the Archbishop has placed this time of crisis.**

*St Joseph,*

*A*  
**PRAYER**  
*to*  
**ST JOSEPH**

You were receptive to God working in your life.  
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.  
You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care:  
may your prayers assist our local Church to respond  
to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers:  
help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity:  
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:  
may we be mindful of others, particularly the  
elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these  
difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all  
history and every situation: help us to grow in faith  
and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE