



10th April 2020

**Pastoral Letter to Parishioners of St. Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish,
Mordialloc and Aspendale**

Dear Parishioners,

There are two ways of looking at how Easter will be celebrated this year. One way is to say, what a shame that we couldn't gather in the church and have the Easter ceremonies as we have in the past or another way is to say, isn't it great that we could still have our Easter ceremonies in the comfort of our homes and to then send the links to others so that they could to partake in the online liturgies. It is imperative that we keep looking for the positives in our everyday, in every little part of our day as we stay at home and feel somewhat restrained. How did they cope 100 years ago when the Spanish flu forced people into isolation and there was absolutely no technology let alone phones!

Our social distancing doesn't mean spiritual distancing. We don't isolate ourselves from this special time in our church's celebrations, we just need to do it differently. We are still Easter people, people of hope and joy who commit to a way of life that follows the example of Jesus. I think that this experience will be an opportunity for many who have drifted from their faith to again revisit what their faith means to them especially when we strip away some of those unimportant layers. The Holy Spirit cannot be isolated by a mere corona virus. It is the virus of fear that can lessen the Holy Spirit's effectiveness.

In the recorded Stations of the Cross liturgy, did you recognise the images? These quite small stations are from St. Louis' church in Aspendale. When we attend mass we tend to walk past the prayer space that they occupy but I invite you when we are back to attending mass to come and pray before the stations. The video allows close ups of each station and an opportunity to reflect on the detail.

I would like to again thank the team who have spent many hours recording and producing the wonderful liturgies that we have all enjoyed. I just have to stand there and look good (not so easy) and then the magic of computer software takes over and there you have it! Thanks especially to Phil Hills who has spent much of his school holidays (he is the Deputy Principal at St. Macartan's, Mornington) overseeing the

production of these videos. Trent Alphonso is now assisting and I hope to engage St. Bede's college and their offer of help with future recordings.

This Easter Sunday will be like no other. Celebrations for us all will be quite different. I will be connecting via video conference with my family which will include my brother in Newcastle and my cousin in Sydney on Sunday afternoon and we will all have a drink and a catch up together. I hope that you are able to connect with family in whatever way is appropriate.

Take care everyone and I do miss seeing you. I don't think that I could ever get used to this current way of parish life so I too, like you, long for a return to more traditional way of being parish.

I found this video inspirational, emotional and a great initiative. Couch Choir – look it up.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HezxInuN1YA>

Stay safe and God Bless,

St. Brigid.... pray for us.

St. Louis.... pray for us.

St. Mary of the Cross.... pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Andrew

ASPENDALE

PARISH CENTRE

37 Dolphin Street

Aspendale Vic 3195

Tel: 03 9580 7981

MORDIALLOC

PRESBYTERY

520 Main Street

Mordialloc Vic 3195

Tel: 03 9580 1018

mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale

ABN 30 159 648 648

St. Brigid's, Mordialloc

St. Louis de Montfort's, Aspendale