



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Pastoral Letter to Parishioners

10th July 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We are still living in volatile times when news about the pandemic continues to be so unpredictable. We go back to a lockdown way of life which is not unfamiliar to us but a hardship nonetheless. We can play the blame game which we hope may make us feel better (I don't think that it will) or we can see this as another opportunity. An opportunity to do isolation in an even more healthy and constructive way. What did you learn from last time? What could you do better this time around? How can you be a better person at the end of this?

It is vital that we all check in with our families and friends in a deliberate way. Those phone or video calls can be lifelines for others so let us **not think** about doing them but just **do** them. Who did you not call or call as often last time but will do this time? What about the neighbours? How are they?

Again, we are encouraged to stay at home and only leave for the 4 reasons: shopping for essential items, work or study, giving or the receiving of care and exercise. Unfortunately this means that there shouldn't be any reason to come to the churches. The parish office is officially closed although the calls and emails are being monitored. Obviously if you are walking or driving past the church and you would like to drop anything off in the letterbox (padlocked) or would like to pick up a newsletter then that's OK. We are checking the mailboxes everyday so feel free to use those. Please do not hesitate to call for any reason.

I was preparing to begin baptising children this weekend. There were 20 families who were requesting baptism and the arrangements to baptise them over the next 6 weeks (yes 6 weeks) was to happen. They too will be held off until the appropriate time is available.

Many of you may be aware that I have been asked by the Archbishop to be the Administrator of St. Anne's parish in Seaford. This is a temporary appointment whilst a process of investigation into an issue takes place in the parish regarding the parish priest. Protocols have been followed and the parish priest has been stood down during this time (the matter is not child-related) and to be fair for all concerned a process is currently undertaken. Being the Administrator isn't a particularly onerous

demand on me especially during this lockdown period but I do hope for all concerned a resolution to this matter happens soon.

Many of you attended last years' inaugural St. Mary of the Cross feast day celebrations. It was such a joyous occasion. At the beginning of the year, I had started planning for something similar but this year it will be the exact opposite with no one on site for mass. The only mass will be the recorded one but there will be an opportunity to learn more about Australia's first saint via a Zoom (video) presentation led by our own Pastoral Associate Bernadette Carr. So please diarise Saturday the 8th August at 11am and more details including the Zoom invite will be advertised. If you would like to find out more about what Zoom requires, please contact the parish office beforehand.

Some exciting news about the minor enhancements to St. Louis' church, they should be happening this coming week. The uninterrupted access to the church will mean that it should be completed smoothly (fingers crossed). I'll have photos to show you on the website and during a recorded mass soon. Stay tuned.

Stay warm and stay safe,

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

Fr. Andrew

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