



# St Francis of Assisi Parish

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Parish Bulletin Fifth Sunday of Easter 10th May 2020

<b>PARISH PRIEST</b>	Fr Anthony Girolami	<b>ASSISTANT PRIEST</b>	Fr Jose Mathew
<b>PASTORAL ASSOCIATE</b>	Sr Ignacia Coching - 9407 6720	<b>YOUTH MINISTER</b>	Carmel Walsh - 9407 6704
<b>OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Bernice Quinn - 9407 6700	<b>PARISH BOOKKEEPER</b>	Cheryl Langford - 9407 6722
<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPAL</b>	Mark Basile - 9407 3100	<b>DEACON</b>	Rev Simeon Anthony

## STREAMING OF MASSES

Mass is being streamed every Sunday at 9 am and Wednesday at 8 am. To access the stream, please visit our website [www.cam.org.au/millpark](http://www.cam.org.au/millpark) and click on the link provided on the homepage.

## ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL

We now have an online parish payment portal, CDFpay for Parishes.

You can set up a recurring payment, if you haven't done so already, or you can choose a one-off offering. The St Francis of Assisi Mill Park site can be found via the link on our website [www.cam.org.au/millpark](http://www.cam.org.au/millpark)

You can select to contribute to either the parish or presbytery. Please note that contributions to 'presbytery' will not be recorded towards your family's thanksgiving contributions.

**We ask that you please enter your current envelope number under the 'notes' section. If you don't know your number please email [millpark@cam.org.au](mailto:millpark@cam.org.au) or call 9407 6701.**

Thank you to all who are supporting our parish.

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The newsletter will be available each week in the Presbytery foyer and on our website [www.cam.org.au/millpark](http://www.cam.org.au/millpark)

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

*Those who are ill: David Wallace, Anthony Lethbridge, Sam Pisani, Maria Concepcion Alcedo, Danuata Plaskota, Rebecca Scaringi, Marina Manabat, Isau Issac, Sharon Barber, Flor Madio, Brian Rooney, John Pathinathan, Alfio & Giovanna Tringal, Herve Incoult, Maria Ljutic, Inaam Jerjis, Nilcar Gacula.*

Dear Parishioners,

As we heard on Thursday the redacted statements regarding Cardinal Pell's submission to the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child abuse were revealed. While some of these comments by the Commission were critical of the Cardinal he responded with surprise to the fact that conclusions were reached without evidence. I have written a few thoughts about this which can be accessed on the parish website [www.cam.org.au/millpark](http://www.cam.org.au/millpark)

This weekend I have included an account of the life of 'Credible Witnesses' whose witness to Christ can give us inspiration at this time.

And very importantly - Happy Mother's Day.

Yours in the Risen Lord, Fr Anthony Girolami.

## CREDIBLE WITNESSES

### Blessed Pierre Lucien Claverie, Bishop of Oran, and Eighteen Companions

*Heather King*

Blessed Pierre Lucien Claverie, Bishop of Oran, together with eighteen companions killed by extremists in Algeria between 1994 and 1996, died in odium fidei, meaning in "hatred of the faith".

The award-winning French film *Of Gods and Men* (2010) movingly portrayed the martyrs' faith and struggle. Starting in 1992, Algeria had been embroiled in civil war, leading to increasing violence from clashes between state-backed military forces and extremist rebels. Though the ostensible goal was to convert the Islamic society to democracy, the transition did not go smoothly. Close to 45,000 are estimated to have been killed in the struggle. Catholics in Algeria represent a small minority. The Trappist monks of the Abbey of Our Lady of Atlas at Tibhirine knew they stood a good chance of being murdered if they remained.

On the night of 27 March 1996, twenty or more armed men attacked the monastery and kidnapped seven Trappist monks. Two more hid and escaped detection. However because the phone lines had been cut and a curfew was in effect, they were unable to contact police until the next morning.

A 23 May statement from the fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group claimed that the monks had been beheaded two months after the kidnapping. Others claim the monks were killed by an Algerian Air Force airstrike and beheaded afterward. Whatever the case, their heads were recovered on 30 May, and buried in the Tibhirine convent. The bodies have never been found.

Nearly three years before the abduction, French Father Christian de Chergé, the monastery's prior, had written a letter indicating that he and his fellow monks were willing to offer themselves as a sacrifice for the Algerians whom they served. That letter, now known as the "Spiritual Testament of Christian de Chergé", has become a contemporary emblem of one of Christ's seven last "words" on the cross: "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." "When the time comes," Father de Chergé wrote, "I would like to be able to have that stroke of lucidity which would permit me to ask forgiveness of God and of my brothers in humanity, forgiving wholeheartedly, at the same time, whoever my killer might be." "May we meet each other again, happy thieves, in paradise, should it please God."

Less well-known are the facts surrounding the assassination of Algerian-born Bishop Claverie himself. So devoted a champion of interfaith dialogue that he was mourned by many in the Algerian Muslim community. On 1 August 1996, several months after the Tibhirine abductions, the bishop was killed along with his driver by a remote-controlled bomb. Seven people were convicted of the killings and sentenced to death. The Catholic 'Church of Algeria successfully petitioned to have their death sentences commuted,

In January 2018, Pope Francis recognised Bishop Claverie, seven Trappist eleven other religious men and women from France, Spain, Tunisia and Belgium as martyrs. They were beatified on 8 December 2018.

## Mass Intentions

A number of people have asked me about having Masses offered for people's intentions. While Fr. Jose and myself are not offering public Masses we are still offering Mass privately everyday. If you would like a Mass offered you can fill out the Mass intention envelopes at the Parish Office, or simply use your own envelope and leave it in the box, set aside for Parish contributions in the presbytery