My Dear Parishioners,

By now most of us would be getting back to the usual activities of the year and next week the students return to school. Hopefully most of you have had an opportunity to refresh and relax. We are so fortunate there has been little disturbance to our daily routine when compared to other countries around the world. Perhaps for those of you who had planned to travel interstate your journeys were curtailed or you have had to isolate for some time.

Through all of this disturbance to our usual active lives there is a lesson to learn. In some ways it’s like the parents who teach their children and instructs them in ways that are appropriate and considerate of others. Striving to help them learn to think of others before they think of themselves. Might we say ‘follow me’ as I set an example for you to live bye. I’m sure most if not every parent would have this in mind as they instruct and guide their children along this path. In many ways it is our responsibility to be an example for others to follow. One might also say that the children are asking us to ‘teach me your ways’. For we know that our parents have shaped us and formed us with a pattern of life, which we then either accept or reject. Yes we have taught them our ways and hopefully, believing this is the best way to help them as they grow.

All of this is relevant for all of us each day, for the way we learn and grow is through our reflection on life and interaction with others. Hopefully the past year has helped us all to put the important things in our lives into perspective.

The Scripture for this Sunday again is relevant for us for the theme running thought the readings is ‘follow me’. I see the psalm particularly helpful and have placed it below. Not only do we ask the Lord to ‘Teach me your ways’ we may also ask those around us to the same. Perhaps you might like to substitute the name Lord and insert the name of someone who is important in your life. Perhaps a child might insert the name of a parent to replace ‘Lord’. Doing so helps to realise that we are all invited to ‘follow’ ways which are wholesome and good, appropriate and respectful. Yes it is our Lord who asks us to follow him.

*Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour.

*Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord.

*Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,

He guides the humble in the right path,

He teaches his way to the poor.

*Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

Likewise the Gospel of this Sunday is an invitation for all of us to follow Jesus, trusting in his guiding love and strength. This is nothing more than what parents ask of their children, surely.

Our Mass links for the 23rd and 24th January are:

Saturday 23rd January 6.00 pm Mass link:  <https://forms.gle/xEuJTbLWzdW7JVMf8>

Sunday 24th January 8.30 am Mass link:  <https://forms.gle/BDnkF8RfLCcoT4eo9>

Sunday 24th January 10.30 am Mass link:  <https://forms.gle/4cfuEd1QKggxoCK16>

I’ve attached a copy of the Scripture and children’s work sheets for you.

Kind regards and my blessing,

Peter