



The Parish of St. Fidelis

17 April 2020

Dear friends,

In these days of Easter, we are used to rejoicing. It is our annual reminder that Jesus is alive and with us, that we have hope always and that there is a better life to come for us.

Looking at the tragic numbers of deaths and sickness across the world, it is hard to rejoice. But it is necessary for us to keep hope, and to pray for those who have lost their lives and for those who suffer abroad and at home.

We seem to be very fortunate in Australia, and this is indeed a reason to give humble thanks. But as Christians in solidarity with other people, let us not forget to pray and support others who are not as fortunate as we are.

Reach out to others in Prayer

We're using technology for lots of things at the moment: work, schooling, shopping, entertainment and even Sunday Mass ! We can also use it to pray- particularly with those we cannot be with physically. What about calling your parents, children, family members, fellow parishioners or friends and praying with them over the phone ? It might feel a bit strange at first. But give it a go ! We pray with each other in church, why not pray with each other in a different way ? You will not be disappointed, and neither will the other person. This would be very much appreciated by an older person who may not have much social contact at this time.



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CDFpay for Parishes – Online Payment Portal Now Available

During this time when visits to our church are suspended, our income has greatly diminished. I am very grateful to those who have supported the parish during these days with direct debit and other means. We need you.

We are now pleased to offer the option for online giving, thanks to the Catholic Development Fund who have created the online portal CDFpay for Parishes.

This site enables you to make quick and easy online payments, as well as recurring payments.

The portal can be accessed via the parish website: <https://stfidelisparish.org.au>

And also via the parish Facebook page: St Fidelis Parish, Moreland.

When accessing the portal you will find two options: as the two sides of the envelopes offer.
Church Account

This offering supports the day to day parish expenses: salaries, utilities, insurance, church supplies etc

Presbytery Account

This offering supports the priests of the parish: stipend, housekeeping expenses, sick and retired priests, car insurance and petrol.

Those who support us with your Thanksgiving Envelopes, the new sets will be mailed soon.

I thank you in advance for supporting our parish community.

Reach Out

We are all conscious of those who may be isolated or alone at home. Please take a moment to reach out to those you think of. A quick telephone call, a note in the letterbox, an email if possible or text message. Even if this is out of the ordinary for you, please do so. You may know the parents or neighbours of a friend; someone in the street or someone you haven't seen for a while. A small thing goes a long way in this time.

Sunday Mass

At the moment, we are fortunate to be able to stream Sunday Mass at 11am on our parish Facebook Page. There are other options on the internet as well as well as Mass for you at Home on Channel 10 on Sunday morning and on demand at <http://www.mfyah.com.au/>

Other options include:

St Patrick's Cathedral (Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Youtube channel)

Bishop Robert Barron from USA: www.wordonfire.org

Eternal Word Network from USA: www.ewtn.com

These places also offer daily Mass.

Participating in Sunday Mass

Whilst watching Mass is very different to being present, it is the best we can do at the moment. As you do so, I encourage you to participate well:

Set aside some quiet time before and after Mass to prepare and give thanks

Refrain from eating and drinking before and during Mass

Set up a candle and some religious objects near the television or computer

Dress properly as if you were physically present

Make a Spiritual Communion during Mass

Read the readings before and during Mass

From a Sunday Missal or from www.catholic.org.au or www.universalis.com

Participate in changing posture (standing etc rather than just sitting during Mass)

Whilst some of these things may sound a bit strange to us, they do help us to realise that we are not just watching another television programme, but we are spiritually participating in our Sunday worship of God in the best way that we can.

Feasts

This Sunday is the **Feast of Divine Mercy**. If you have an image in your home, you may like to place it in a prominent place and light a candle. Consider praying the Chaplet this Sunday. For more information see: <http://www.divinemeracy.com.au>

This coming Friday, 24 April is the **Feast of St Fidelis**, our parish patron. I will offer Mass this day in the church for all of you, but I suggest that you might like to mark this Feast at home. Maybe with a festive meal or another form of celebration.

Here is a Prayer to St Fidelis that you might like to pray next Friday in union with the whole parish:

*Father,
you filled Saint Fidelis with the fire of your love
and gave him the privilege of dying
that the faith might live.
Let his prayers keep us firmly grounded in your love,
and help us to come to know the power of Christ's resurrection.
Through Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

House Blessings

During these days, I am trying to do some extra walking each day. Whilst on my walks around the streets of the parish, I think of you all and pray for you. I would be happy to bless your homes (and families inside!) if you let me know. Just send an email to the parish office with your name and address (Moreland@cam.org.au) and I will be happy to bless your home with Holy Water from the footpath as I am walking past (only those within the parish boundaries please). I think you will all agree we can use all the Blessings available at the moment !

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at any time, and at arranged times. There are options to make times and places available to celebrate the Sacrament anonymously also. Please call or email the parish to find out or make a time.

Thank you for your continued support in many ways. I am very grateful and humbled by those who have called, written, emailed and reached out to me in some way. Let us continue to reach out and connect with each other in different ways until we can be united in faith in our beautiful church again.

Blessings for the Easter season,



Fr David Cartwright
Parish Priest