

APRIL 2020



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE  
**Holy Family**

MOUNT WAVERLEY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give thee my heart and soul.

# A Message from Fr Pearce

After DFAT upgraded their travel advice and encouraged all Australians who were able to return home to do so, I decided to heed this warning and returned to Australia and after my mandatory quarantine of 14 days, I returned to the Parish in time for Easter. I am glad to be back in amongst you in these most strange of circumstances

While this will be a Holy Week like never before, I encourage you and your families to make the most of this time and to enter into the important mysteries we commemorate. I know that not being able to participate in the liturgies will be hard for many of you, and I encourage you to have a look through some of the wonderful resources on our Parish website as you strive to make this a Holy Week in your homes, and with your families. Be assured as I celebrate each of the Liturgies over the coming days, I do so for each one of you and your intentions at this time.

As we enter into these most holy days, the message of Easter has so much to offer us as we continue to face the challenges of COVID-19. Not only is there a palpable fear as we watch the effects of the virus around the world and the economic uncertainty it brings with it. There is too the real and lived fear that isolation and social distancing brings. Although they are an essential part of the remedy, they bring with them their own disquiet, as we feel the pain of the separation from loved ones, and the discomfort of isolation. This quiet ache can serve as a reminder to us, that we were not made to be alone, we were not made for isolation, no we were made for communion, with one another and with the God who loves us. May they also draw us deeper into the reality of the Easter story this year as we accompany Mary and the Apostles through the distress of Good Friday, and the isolation of Easter Saturday, and rejoice with them at the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. May this great celebration, be a reminder to us in our own time that fear, isolation and death did not have the final word then, and will not now.

I commend to you the wonderful resources our Parish team have been putting together, a selection of which are in this addition. I also encourage you to reach out to the Parish if there is anything we can do you help you at this time. We have a wonderful team of staff and volunteers who are ready to assist with any need. The Parish Office is open 7-days 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely in Christ

Fr Nicholas Pearce PP



"The Lord is risen from the tomb; for our sake he hung on the Cross. Alleluia! The Easter proclamation joyfully resounds: Christ is risen! He is truly risen!... This proclamation is the foundation of the hope of all mankind. If Christ did not rise from the dead, not only would our faith be in vain but our hope would also be vain, for we would all still be held hostage by evil and death." Saint-Pope John Paul II



# Listen to the Liturgy of the Word and a reflection on this Sunday's Gospel

[holyfamily.melbourne/pray](http://holyfamily.melbourne/pray)

by Fr Pearce and featuring original music by Gen Bryant



## Support the Parish while we Support You



- Envelopes can be dropped into the Parish Office
- Have you considered transferring to electronic giving at this time
- Your ongoing support is appreciated

[holyfamily.melbourne/donate](http://holyfamily.melbourne/donate)

## Leave your Light before the Lord

Light a 7 day candle for your family and intentions before the Tabernacle

Visit online or contact the parish office.



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# Awakening a Hunger for God

Written by: **Christian Bergmann**

“*Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction*” (*Deus Caritas Est*)

As Catholics, we have entered into what might be thought of as a ‘sacramental desert’. Not because the world has suddenly become emptied of meaning and sacramental significance. Rather, because for the time being we, as laypeople, are no longer able to participate in the Eucharist, which is the “source and summit” of our faith.

The American Catholic writer, Mark Shea, recently suggested that we should think of this decision in terms of our shepherds, the bishops, caring for “the least of these”, as Jesus taught. Since COVID-19 is a highly infectious virus and particularly dangerous for those over a certain age bracket, it is a prudent and wise decision to care for those most vulnerable by taking these measures. During this time, Shea said, one of the things we should also do is pray for those around the world who often have to wait considerable lengths of time, sometimes years, before receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist due to the shortage of priests.

Reading this, I couldn’t help but think that as we pray for those who go without, maybe this could be a time for us to rediscover once again what the heart of prayer is.

I say this because of something the Trappist monk Thomas Merton once wrote. Of prayer, he said this:

“the secret of prayer is a hunger for God and for the vision of God.”

Prayer can be a lot of things. Consoling. Disorienting. Wearisome. Desperate. Mindless. Fervently sincere. It can roll off the tongue without a thought or be a fight to find the right words, or any words at all that don’t sound ridiculous. However, at the bottom of it all, for Merton, is a hunger for God and a hunger to see God, regardless of how much we fight with Him and ourselves in the process.

In a recent Wednesday audience, Pope Francis spoke about the hunger and thirst of the human heart. He said that in every heart, even in the hearts of the most corrupt, there is “an interior thirst, an interior hunger, a restlessness . . .”

Perhaps, to pray is to get in touch with this inner restlessness and awaken ourselves to a hunger for God. Not only that, but a God who feeds us with his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

During this time in the desert, I hope that together we can continue cultivating a hunger for Him in the Eucharist.

There are some practical things for us to do to help with this.

## Read John 6.

The sixth chapter of John’s Gospel is the most famous discourse of Jesus in the New Testament on the Eucharist. Maybe we can break it open again, read it through slowly, and get back in touch with the heart of Jesus for His people and what He wants to give them.

## Pray the Act of Spiritual Communion

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.

## Offering up Our Suffering

Even though Catholics hear the words “offer it up” a lot, this is a time when we can really enter into the mystery of the Eucharist without being able to participate in it. By offering up our suffering – our time away from the sacrament – for specific causes, we can get back in touch with the spiritual significance of the Eucharist and truly learn how to pray.

## Read a Good Book

Reading books by people who know more than we do is always a great way to deepen our understanding. One of my favourites on the Eucharist is by Jeff Cavins, called *I'm Not Being Fed: Discovering the Food that Satisfies the Soul*. By Vinny Flynn, too, is *7 Secrets of the Eucharist*, a classic when it comes to modern Eucharistic devotional reads.

## Watch online videos of the Mass.

I know it sounds strange, but this can be a really helpful tool for moving us to really desire the Eucharist once again. It is, obviously, no substitute, but hopefully it can stoke within us that hunger and thirst for something we might have been taking for granted so far. If I can recommend one avenue for this, Bishop Robert Barron has videos of the daily Masses offered from his chapel whilst they, too, are in lockdown. They can be found on YouTube and are always accompanied by good homilies.

# Mass Online, On Radio and on Television

## On Television

### Channel 31 (44 on Digital)

Daily Mass (as well as the Holy Week liturgies) from St Patrick's Cathedral will now be televised free to air on C31 (often listed as Channel 44 on digital TVs) More details (including the full list of liturgies) can be found at: [bit.ly/holyweekliturgies](http://bit.ly/holyweekliturgies)

### Channel 7

Channel 7 will be broadcasting the 3 pm Good Friday Service and Easter Sunday Mass live from St Mary's Cathedral Sydney

## On Radio

Mass celebrated by Father Kevin Dillon from Rowville is broadcast at 7 am live on 89.9 Light FM.

## Online

### Bishop Robert Barron

Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and founder of Word on Fire – Bishop Robert Barron has been using new media to evangelise for over a decade. On his website or YouTube channel, viewers can find daily Mass alongside hours of intelligent and thought-provoking content on topics relevant to the faith.

Watch here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcMjLgeWNwqL2LBGiPb1A> or <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>





# Tips from the Saints for working at Home.

Written by: Fr Nicholas Pearce

“ In a sense, the final word of the Gospel on this matter as on others is found in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. It is here that we must seek an answer to these problems so important for the spirituality of human work. *The Paschal Mystery* contains *the Cross* of Christ and his obedience unto death, which the Apostle contrasts with the disobedience which from the beginning has burdened man's history on earth. It also contains *the elevation* of Christ, who by means of death on a Cross returns to his disciples in *the Resurrection* with the power of the Holy Spirit. Sweat and toil, which work necessarily involves the present condition of the human race, present the Christian and everyone who is called to follow Christ with the possibility of sharing lovingly in the work that Christ came to do. This work of salvation came about through suffering and death on a Cross. By enduring the toil of work in union with Christ crucified for us, man in a way collaborates with the Son of God for the redemption of humanity. He shows himself a true disciple of Christ by carrying the cross in his turn every day in the activity that he is called upon to perform. - St John Paul II  
Laborem Exercens

As we enter into the Easter Season, we are reminded that the work we do, is not just a means to an end, but is an important way that we can collaborate with Jesus, in his saving act on the Cross. Rather than seeing work as mere toil, our Christian tradition teaches us that we can unite our daily work, with the work of Christ, and thus sanctify our daily activity. With so many of us socially distancing (or in quarantine) and thus working or studying from home, our

work takes on new challenges, and also provides new opportunities to grow in holiness. here are some tips from the saints and a few other heavy hitters on how to effectively work from home, and grow in holiness at the same time.

## Don't Worry About Tomorrow

"YESTERDAY IS GONE. TOMORROW HAS NOT YET COME. WE HAVE ONLY TODAY. LET US BEGIN."  
— MOTHER TERESA

Turn off the TV, and stop the social-media scrolling. With so much beyond our control, its time to focus on what is within our realm of influence. Your next project or essay, your next report or meeting, these are the things the Lord has placed within your control. If yesterday was not so good, don't worry, today is a new day. Be willing to start again and take each day as the new opportunity the Lord gives you to move forward and grow in holiness.

## Embrace Simplicity.

"JESUS, HELP ME TO SIMPLIFY MY LIFE BY LEARNING WHAT YOU WANT ME TO BE AND BECOMING THAT PERSON."  
- ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

Whether we like it or not, our lives just got a lot simpler. It will not be possible to do at home everything we were able to do at work or school. What is important is focusing on we can achieve, and focus on doing what those things well. Entrust your day to the Lord, asking him what he wants you to achieve each day.

## Get Dressed for Action

"THE WORLD OFFERS YOU COMFORT. BUT YOU WERE NOT MADE FOR COMFORT. YOU WERE MADE FOR GREATNESS."  
- POPE BENEDICT XVI\*

Just because you can stay in your PJ's till midday does not mean you should. Make sure you get up each morning and get dressed for action, have a good breakfast and then get to work. It is important that although you are now working from home, you set yourself a plan for action, and goals .that you wish to achieve, the first of which should be getting dressed

## Create a Space

"GO INTO YOUR ROOM, CLOSE THE DOOR AND PRAY TO YOUR FATHER, WHO IS UNSEEN. THEN YOUR FATHER, WHO SEES WHAT IS DONE IN SECRET, WILL REWARD YOU." - MATT 6:6

Having a dedicated space to work is essential, and will help to eliminate distractions. Busyness and clutter lead to chaos and anxiety. Find an area of your home where you can create a space that is clear and free of distraction. This becomes the place where you 'go to work' and where equally you can walk away from and leave behind when it is time to relax. Turn your desk into an Altar "Great holiness consists in carrying out the little duties of each moment." - St. Josemaria Escriva With the shutting of churches and the subsequent Eucharistic fast for the lay faithful, your desk becomes your altar. It is here where you can offer sacrifice each and every day. It is at your desk, where your commitment to the 'little duties' of study or work provides you with the opportunity to grow in holiness and grace.

## Offer your work up for others.

"JESUS, I WILL NOT WAIT; I WILL LIVE THE PRESENT MOMENT AND FILL IT WITH LOVE"  
- CARDINAL VAN THUAN\*

Sometimes it is helpful to offer periods of work or study for others. Write the name of someone you love onto a post-it note and stick it to the screen of the computer or the desk in front of who you as a reminder of who you are offering this hour of work or study for. Don't forget to offer an hour of work for our doctors and nurses, and for our civil leaders

during this time.

## Include times for Breaks/Exercise/Prayer

"RETIRE AT VARIOUS TIMES INTO THE SOLITUDE OF YOUR OWN HEART, EVEN WHILE OUTWARDLY ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS OR TRANSACTIONS WITH OTHERS, AND TALK TO GOD"  
- ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Be kind to yourself. Make sure you schedule in time for breaks, prayer, exercise, and time to connect with those in your home. Remember this is a marathon, not a sprint, so looking after yourself is vital. Don't forget to find ways to reach out to friends and colleagues, making time to connect via facetime or zoom for a virtual coffee and chat.

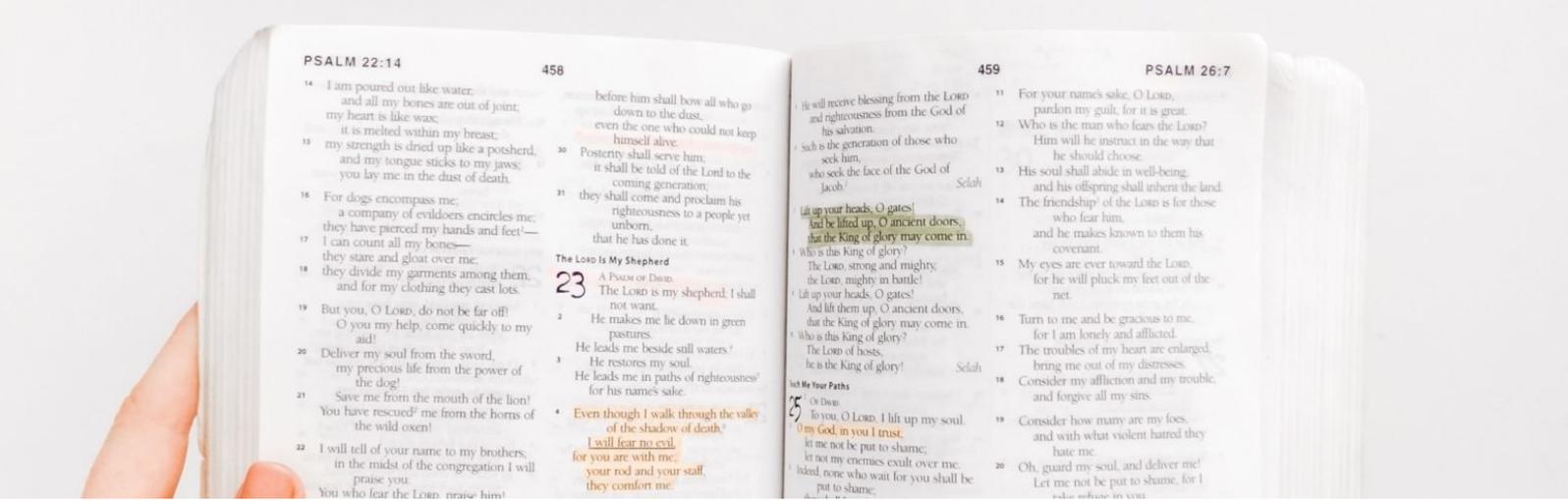
## Be Patient

"YOUR MORTIFICATION SHOULD BE YOUR DILIGENCE IN DOING YOUR DUTIES AND PUTTING UP WITH THE ANNOYANCES OF OTHERS"  
- ST JOHN BOSCO

Life, while becoming a whole lot simpler, has also become a whole lot more complicated as we navigate what it means to be working and studying from home, surrounded by our family members or housemates. Whatever you gave up for Lent this year.... don't worry about that now, your new penance is being faithful to your work or study while remaining patient with those whom you live.

\*While I know these two are not saints.....here's hoping.





# The New Normal

Written by: **Kari Bergmann**

These last few months have been strange and challenging times for all of us. Some of us have lost our jobs or have lost hours at work, many of us are working from home, and most children and teens are now studying from home. We cannot attend Mass, birthday parties, or weddings. We aren't able to visit with friends or extended family even in our own homes. In fact, we are forbidden from leaving our homes unless it is for an essential reason (and those reasons are very limited). With so many unprecedented changes and restrictions, it's more important than ever that we work to find a 'new normal', that we establish routines.

For children and adults alike, establishing predictable patterns of behaviour is beneficial to mental health. Children, in particular, thrive in environments that are predictable and consistent. When children can understand their surroundings and have clear boundaries it helps them feel safe and reduces anxiety. Adults are also better able to cope with stress when they have a routine to anchor them, especially one that prioritizes self-care.

Creating a 'new normal' could involve establishing regular wake-up and sleep times, getting dressed upon waking (even when you're spending the day at home), limiting screen time (for adults just as much as kids), getting daily exercise, having consistent mealtimes, and scheduling in household chores. While all of these things are important, I would argue that our 'new normal' needs to be centred on God.

As challenging as the coronavirus restrictions are, they have presented us with an opportunity to deepen our prayer lives and our relationships with Christ. Most of us are spending more time at home than we ever have and we aren't permitted to leave the house when we have free time. There are fewer obstacles than ever to stand in the way of

establishing and maintaining daily practices of prayer. I would suggest, that as you are trying to establish a new routine for you and/or your family, it should be built around regular prayer. Ideally, begin and end the day with prayer, this is something that even young children can do. You can say grace as a family before breakfast and perhaps a simple prayer like the 'Our Father' or 'Hail Mary'. Before bedtime you can encourage children to say a simple "sorry, thank you, please" prayer sharing one thing they are sorry for, one thing they are thankful for and one thing they want God to help them with. If you have older children now is a good time to get in the practice of praying the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet as a family. For adults, perhaps now is the time to start reflecting on the daily readings or even learning the Liturgy of the Hours (the free App 'Laudate' has many excellent prayers). Or maybe you would benefit from some quiet time in contemplation with God, shutting out all other distractions and just being still with God.



# Drawing close to Him

Written by: Vivien Dolar

I don't know about you, but in the last couple of weeks, it feels like I'm waking up in a movie. I know there are many who might be feeling anxious, afraid, stressed and even a little imprisoned in their homes. The introvert in me was definitely enjoying the time away from people, but as the days go by, the extrovert in me is thirsty for human interaction.

With nothing but COVID-19 on everyone's lips, there are moments that I forget what season we're in. This Lent has definitely been an interesting one: the whole world seems to be offering some kind of penance. Whether that's giving up time with family and friends, less/no income, catching up over a coffee or even just taking public transport — you name it, people are having to sacrifice it. Yet in this stripping back, there is an invitation being offered to us. Even with public worship suspended, there is nothing stopping us from offering God our prayer, fasting and almsgiving in the ordinariness (and maybe mess) of our daily lives and homes. I was able to get to an evening daily mass the night this was announced, but even so, there was this sudden hunger and thirst to receive Him again.

In my prayer the last couple of weeks, the Spirit keeps leading to the story of the Woman at the Well. Like that woman, I come to the well with all of my baggage, doubt, sin, sorrow, fear, pride and stubbornness trying to ease this thirst that ultimately only Jesus can quench. Sometimes we get lost in these things while they trick us into believing that in them is our identity and worth. As I immerse myself in this story, I become this woman at the well and I realise that it is Jesus who speaks first. He sees and acknowledges me; I realise I have a thirst to be seen.

Jesus tells me of the reality of my past, my sin. He knows me;

I realise I have a thirst to be known and accepted. Jesus then tells me that in Him is eternal life. He offers relief; I realise that this thirst is for 'magis' - something more, greater than what the world can offer. So in the midst of craziness, maybe this is our opportunity to spend more time at the well. To give him permission to show us who we really are; that we are more than our sin; that our deepest thirst is for Him - Love, Goodness, Peace, Beauty and Truth itself. He is the Good Shepherd; maybe we can use this time to get to know His voice. To let Him call us by name; to give Him the time and space to tell us how He is calling each of us personally and uniquely to draw closer to Him.

When Jesus first speaks to the Samaritan woman he says, "Give me a drink." Despite our thirst for 'more', His thirst and desire for us is far greater. Maybe in this time He wants to show us that He is **the** Way, Truth and Life. Maybe our suffering in this time — be it big or small — is an opportunity to journey through the desert towards Calvary like Jesus did, and to unite it with His suffering on the cross. And while it seems like Easter may not end up feeling like much of a 'resurrection' this year, maybe we can cling to the hope and the knowledge that His Passion and love for us has already conquered death.

Maybe He can be the peace and security we can cling to in this chaos and uncertainty. Maybe drawing nearer to Him and knowing our thirst more will keep us coming back to the wellspring of Life.

*My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.*

— John 10:27-28



# Praying at Home with Young Children

Written by: Rachael O'Shea

It's hard enough getting kids to Mass at the best of times. Encouraging (bribing, threatening...) them to sit quietly and pay attention. Now we have to try and do that when all of their toys are just in the next room?

That sounds impossible! Take a deep breath and know that you're not alone- many parents are facing the same task.

We are so fortunate to be living in a time where there are a variety of resources available, and Mass is telecast into our homes on the nearest screen. It's not quite the same as being in the physical presence of Our Lord at Church, but what a great opportunity COVID19 has given us to bring Christ more substantially into our household.

Here are some tips:

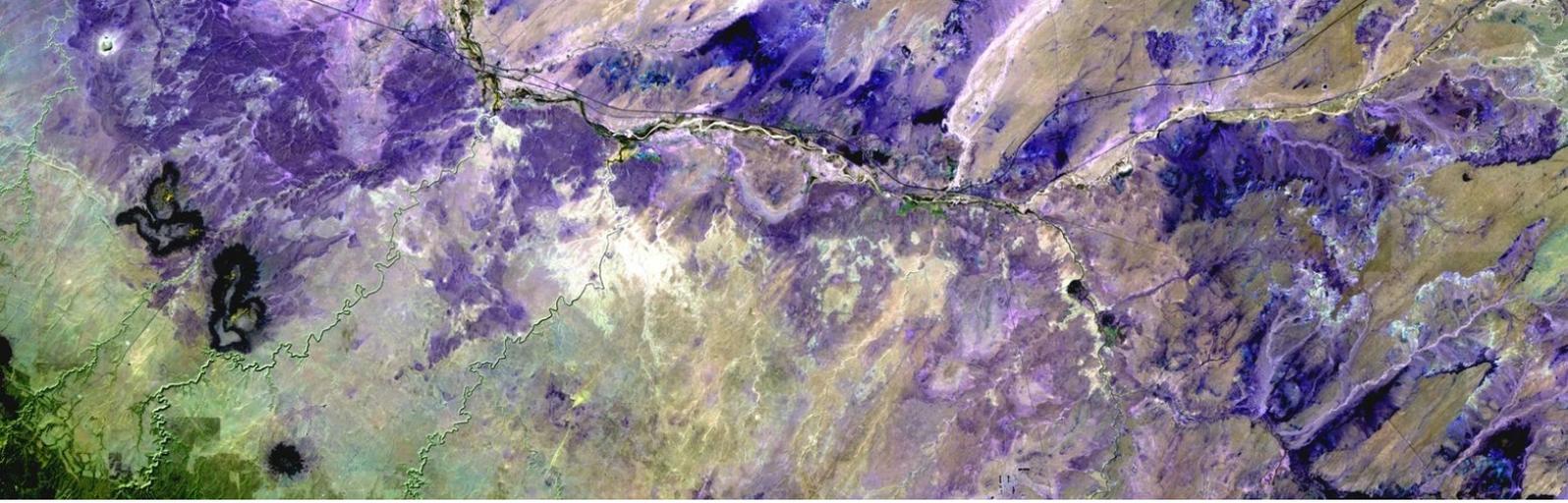
- Choose the best time for your family when you can all be present and attentive. This might be at your regular 9 am mass time or maybe after lunch when the littlest family members have their nap.
- Set up a beautiful space. Clear any clutter (distraction) from the room and set up chairs or pillows in front of your screen. If your couch is on the cozy side, it may not be the best seat for paying attention. Ensure everyone has a seat and space to kneel.
- Create an Altar under your screen to focus on. Involve younger family members in laying out the cloth (purple for Lent, white for Easter), place a candle, Crucifix and Bible open to that day's gospel.
- Tell your children the behaviour you expect of them, tell them how long your chosen Mass will go for and assure them that if they behave well they can have a reward afterwards (snuffing out the candle, jumping on the trampoline with dad etc)

- Allow your children to offer suggestions (within reason). Our girls set up a choir of teddies and insisted on having a cup of tea after Mass!
- Wait until everyone is still and quiet before beginning.
- Remember that this is out of the norm for everybody, so be patient while the kids get used to the change.

Rather than live streaming mass with the whole family, we have chosen to create our own small liturgy of the word, for the children (all three under five years), as having the television on, automatically makes them less focussed. ([You may like to use the audio recording that Holy Family offers each Sunday here](#)). After our prayerful liturgy, the children complete an activity based on the day's Gospel. Ideas for Holy Week activities can be found at [www.catholicicing.com](http://www.catholicicing.com) and [www.youngcatholicmums.com](http://www.youngcatholicmums.com).

Remember, if it's worth doing it's worth doing badly. No matter how jumbled or un-holy your attempt at praying might feel, know that your efforts are seen not only by the Lord but also by your children. In months to come, they won't remember the perfect explanation of the Gospel you gave or the funny word someone mispronounced. But they will remember that while the world was in crisis, their family kept faith in God and made Mass a priority.

***Rachael O'Shea is a mother of three with a background in early childhood education. She has a passion for helping others to share their faith with Children***



# A Desire to be United

Written by: **Kari Bergmann**

We are currently facing challenges in response to the coronavirus that seem unprecedented to many of us. I myself cannot remember a time when I could not attend a public Mass, nor can I think of a time when I was directed not to leave my home unless it was for an essential purpose. The restrictions that the government has placed on us have been compared to war-time protocol or the response to the Spanish Flu, which few of us remember. I think it's fairly easy to catastrophize our current situation, and the media certainly helps in that regard. But it's important to note that throughout history, many of our Christian brothers and sisters have been through similar experiences (and much worse).

We can be both encouraged and challenged by the men and women who have faced the trials of their own times and held fast to the faith. I have felt sadness and disappointment knowing that I may not be able to attend Mass or receive the Eucharist for a matter of weeks, possibly months, but I am inspired by the example of people like the martyrs of Japan and Korea, many of whom went for years without Mass and some of whom had never seen a priest!

It is both beautiful and humbling to think of these people growing closer to Christ and even dying for him without access to the sacraments and Mass. It forces me, when looking at my own faith and my relationship with Christ, to wonder what I can do to live as they did. How can I deepen my faith and draw closer to Christ and my fellow parishioners even when I'm stuck at home? How can I care for my neighbour when I cannot see them in person? How can I deepen my love of the Eucharist when I cannot receive it?

I would like to highlight the examples of two women, Bl.

Olympia Bida and Bl. Laurentia Herasymiv (1911-1952), who faced far more challenging circumstances than we do currently, yet they were able to love and serve Christ. The nuns were sisters of Saint Joseph in the town of Khyriv, Ukraine. After the establishment of the Soviet regime the sisters suffered a number of attacks on the convent. Nevertheless, they continued to care for the children, to catechize, to organise underground religious services (often without a priest). In 1950, they were arrested by the Soviet agents of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs and sent to a Boryslav labour camp.

Eventually, the sisters were sentenced to lifelong exile in the Tomsk region of Siberia. Sister Laurentia suffered from tuberculosis during this time. "She spent the last two years of her life without the Sacraments and in the near certainty that she would have no opportunity for viaticum or a final confession." Even on her deathbed Bl. Laurentia Herasymiv begged for the Eucharist, though no priest was present to give it to her. Bl. Olympia also died within a few months of Bl. Laurentia. Both sisters, in their unwavering faith unto death, their continued service to others, and their fervent desire to be united with Christ in the Eucharist, show us how we can and should live during this trying time.

Bl. Olympia Bida...Pray for us.

Bl. Laurentia Herasymiv...Pray for us.



# Behold the Handmaid of the Lord

Written by: Ignatius Zaher

The Angelus is an ancient prayer which is familiar to many Catholics, and for generations and generations has been recited at Noon and 6 pm to commemorate the Annunciation and Incarnation. Established over 700 years ago, The Angelus was a simple prayer that allowed farmers and those working in the fields to stop and punctuate their day with prayer, without having to go to the Church. Growing up my family didn't pray the Angelus, and to be honest I never really appreciated it until these past few weeks as the restrictions surrounding COVID-19 came into effect. With less freedom and a much quieter life the short break from study or whatever other task I am doing allows me to refocus Jesus.

I am someone who likes being free to do what and go where I want, and in the initial stages of this pandemic, I struggled with the restrictions. For me, the Angelus provided a daily reminder of Mary's 'yes'. When the Angel visited her, she did not know what was going to happen. Instead of worrying or complaining she choose to say yes, "behold the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38). This is something I am trying to imitate and unlike Mary, I forget my resolution constantly. Without the Angelus, I probably wouldn't experience the peace that comes from trusting in God, no matter how hard it is or how badly I do it.

The men of the Frassati Fraternity have committed to ringing the Parish's bell and praying the angelus twice a day at noon and six. We invite you to join us in praying the angelus with us wherever you are and together to lift our hearts to God for ourselves and for each other.

*The Angelus is "a summary of 'the Christian epic' in three books: the divine invitation and initiative; the human response of obedience, fiat; and the result of this obedience, the Word made flesh." – St Pope John XXIII*

“ The Angelus:

∿. The Angel of the LORD declared unto Mary,  
℞. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
Hail Mary...

∿. Behold the handmaid of the LORD.  
℞. Be it done unto me according to thy word.  
Hail Mary...

∿. And the Word was made flesh.  
℞. And dwelt among us.  
Hail Mary...

∿. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
℞. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray, Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O LORD, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **AN EASTER CALLING TO US BY NAME**

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli  
Archbishop of Melbourne**

What a strange and unsettling storm we are living through! Our lives have become a see-saw between physical isolation and online overload. We come to this year's Easter festivities having been tested in unprecedented ways. What might we draw from that first Easter that can sustain and renew us? Let me offer you the name of Mary of Magdala.

The first to see the resurrected Jesus at Easter dawn was Mary. She was the first to see him; the first to recognise him; the first to be named by him; and the first to be sent by him. Mary rightly is the first apostle, the one called and sent to proclaim Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Yet, all of this happened quietly, and away from the public gaze that had marked the suffering and death of the world's Saviour. Jesus did not return to his people in a blaze of publicity; but quietly, gently, personally – he called Mary by name.

It is worth honouring Mary Magdalene at this strange and disorienting Easter of 2020, when none of our customary ways of marking these Greatest of Days can occur. For in the tender meeting of Jesus with Mary we have a sure sign of how we might make our way through these days of suffering.

Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead so as to show the world something marvellous and clever. His rising instead showed that suffering and death would no longer have the last word. Rather, that first word spoken to Mary and then repeated through the generations is a name, bearing hope and life for each whose name is called. Easter is a word that re-created the world.

Christians have not been able to gather physically to participate in the Easter Ceremonies this year. Friends and family have not been free to socialise together. No shared leisure; no common activities; no sport. There are no public ways to mark this religious festival. Yet, that first word Jesus spoke at his resurrection – a name on the lips of God – he is now speaking into this storm that has engulfed us. Overwhelmed, disoriented and fearful as we might feel, a calm, clear and tender voice is calling our name.

It is not a voice to magically whisk us away to comfort and security, nor a voice that pretends there is no storm to ride through. It is, rather, the voice of the Risen One, who has known suffering and death, and has tamed their power to overwhelm us. He stands with each of us, so that we need not stand alone. He calls each of us, so that we have a sure compass point. He walks with each of us to show the way through.

Death does not have the last word any longer, even though its threat remains. Our lives – held in the heart of God and carried through death to life by his Son – have not been forgotten. We are remembered by God; he calls each of us by name.

And as Jesus is calling us, he is also sending us to speak words of care, support and comfort into the lives of those around us, and into our #HomeChurch. He is the voice that speaks through those we are close to at this time – our children we are caring for, our leaders protecting the people, our healthcare workers serving in danger, our spouses and loved ones.

As we remember this Easter that the first word of the risen Jesus was the name 'Mary', may we hear our own names echo in that call. Let us hold onto this anchor in the storm we are currently living through. To borrow a colloquial phrase, Christ has our back, and we will be OK with him.

Happy Easter.

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# Contact Us

## OFFICE HOURS

9:30am - 2:30pm (Mon - Fri)

## ADDRESS

236 Stephensons Road,  
Mount Waverley, Victoria  
3149

## PHONE

03 9807 9494

## EMAIL

mountwaverley@cam.org.au

## WEBSITE

holyfamily.melbourne

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Father Nicholas Pearce  
Parish Priest

Kari Quist  
Evangelisation and Catechesis

Mariana Hladik  
Parish Administration

Joe Melhem  
Youth Ministry

Genevieve Bryant  
Youth Engagement

Lauren Considine  
Religious Education Leader (Holy  
Family School)

Leighton Hughes  
Parish DesignOps

## PARISH STAFF

Julie David  
Principal - Holy Family School

Janet Cullinan  
Parish Secretary

Christian Bergmann  
Hall Coordinator

Fr David Kim OFM Conv.  
Chaplain to the Korean  
Community

## HALL BOOKINGS

Small and Large Halls are  
available for family and  
group bookings.

Parishioners' rates available.  
Please contact the Parish Office  
for more information.

## COLUMBARIUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

Plots are now available for  
reservation for Parishioners  
and Families.

Please contact the Parish Office  
for more information.

## Regular Mass Times \*

### WEDNESDAY

9:15am  
Followed by morning tea

### THURSDAY

7:30am  
7:30pm **KOREAN**

### FRIDAY

9:15am

### SATURDAY

6:00pm

### SUNDAY

8:30am  
10:30am  
1:30pm **KOREAN**  
5:00pm

\* Weekly Mass Schedule may  
change from time to time. Please  
check the Parish website for the  
most up-to-date information.

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### WEDNESDAY

8:00am - 9:00am

### FRIDAY

8:00am - 9:00am

## Confession Times

### SATURDAY

5:15pm - 5:45pm

### SUNDAY

9:45am - 10:15am

## Baptisms

Sundays following 10:30am Mass.  
Please ring the Parish Office for  
preparation and scheduling of  
Baptism.

## Weddings

By appointment with the Parish  
Priest.

## CGB | architect

**P** 0468 632 148 - Christian



**P** 0417 399 366 - Andrew  
**E** mailbox@antmdesign.com

## Active Cleaning

**P** 0418 382 505 - Simon



**P** 9886 5318

## Stitch 'n' Time

**P** 0424 095 800 - Elsie



**P** 0433 661 738 - Jeffrey Kang



**P** 9807 3007

## Choi Painting

**P** 0402 354 246 - Alberto