



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS
Chatswood Catholic Parish

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER 17 May 2020 – Year A/2

WITH OUR LADY OF DOLOURS
WE PRAY FOR:

Recently Deceased:

Jack Biviano, Gloria Soal,
Alfredo Ierace

Deceased Anniversaries:

Herbert Tomsett



Church - Cnr Kirk & Archer Sts,
Chatswood
Parish Office - 94 Archer Street,
Chatswood, 2067
PO Box 1446, Chatswood, 2057

Phone: 9410 9000 or for an after
hours' emergency call:
0473 046 906

www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood
chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office hours:
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm
Closed for lunch 1pm – 1.30pm

Fr Jim McKeon (Parish Priest)
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(New Parishioner Engagement Co-
Ordinator)

Church reopening:- From Saturday May 16th the church will again be open for personal prayer for up to ten people at a time.

There will also be the possibility to celebrate Mass for up to ten people at a time. Given that this will not allow everybody access to a Sunday Mass, the suspension of the obligation for Sunday Eucharist given by Bishop Anthony on March 18th continues.

Other parish ministries and groups can also meet with up to ten people. See information on the next page.

This will not be a return to business as usual, as there are changes and precautions which must be observed.

Mass will be celebrated Mondays to Saturdays at 9am, and on Sundays at 8am, 9am, 10am and 11am, commencing Sunday May 17th. These changed times are only temporary, and are to allow the church to be open for prayer afterwards, from 9.30am to 7pm on weekdays and Saturdays, and 12pm - 7pm on Sundays.

We expect that many more people will want to attend Mass than we will be able to accommodate, and therefore people will need to book to attend Mass, and only those with a booking will be able to attend. Only one Mass may be attended per fortnight at this stage, until we ascertain the level of demand.

To book for a weekday Mass or for Sunday May 17th write your name on the list in the foyer of the church. To request to attend Mass on Sunday May 24th contact the parish office on 9410 9000 or chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au. Please wait until you receive a reply confirming which Mass you have been allocated. Entry for Mass will be via the side door on Kirk St and the doors will be closed once the people registered are inside. **Please do not turn up for a Mass unless you have a booking.**

Everybody attending the church must sign in, even when coming for prayer, as this is a government requirement. Please do not attend if you are feeling even slightly unwell. We also recommend that everybody visiting the church install the CovidSafe app on their phone. Distancing of 1.5m meters continues for people not in the same household.

During the next two weeks we will monitor how well people are complying with numbers and distancing regulations, and will we be able to continue, and possibly extend services if we show that we are able.

We will continue to offer a videoed Mass on facebook on Sunday mornings and an interactive Liturgy of the Word on Sundays at 9am until such time as everybody is again able to attend Mass in the church.

- Fr Jim McKeon and the Parish Team.

Click [here](#) to read letter from Most Rev Anthony Randazzo,
Bishop of Broken Bay

WITHIN OUR PARISH

The Funeral Service for Jack Biviano, husband of Rita, will be celebrated in our Church on Monday 18th May and will be available for viewing [from 3.30pm AES, Monday 18th May 2020](#) and can be viewed at any time. The link details are; Jack's private page: www.FuneralVideo.com.au/JackBiviano

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL met again via video conference for our fourth meeting of 2020 on Tuesday 5th May. Over a month has passed since the recent coronavirus pandemic significantly impacted our lives, and we reviewed these impacts and the parish's responses so far.

The parish team are working through the parish database to connect with parishioners starting with the older groups. Our parish website (<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood>) continues to be updated with useful information and guidance for praying at home.

Within parish life, while physical gatherings have had to stop for some groups, communion to the sick continues, reconciliation is available by appointment, and more recently, online mass at Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood has started. Our parish schools have adapted to the changes with home-based learning, and OLD primary school has been contacting and surveying families to understand how students and their families are coping.

Participation with some groups outside our parish also continues. The work with SydneyAlliance has moved online to zoom meetings.

We read and reflected on a kit provided through the Divine Renovation Network 'Helping Catholic Dioceses and Parishes Respond Well to COVID-19'. This reaffirmed our understanding of the importance of messaging, ministry and virtual gathering at this time, as part of our continued parish life and our mission. The PPC will continue to focus and build on these areas in the coming months. Parish Pastoral Council



Donations can still be made online at www.givenow.com.au/cwj and will support our Parish quota.

YOUTUBE: Fr Jim is continuing to do homilies, parish messages and children's homilies on YouTube. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLpbDNqP8u1Wx4Gmo8jJyda> and subscribe to get notifications as each new homily is posted.

MINISTRY ROSTERS: In our present circumstance of having very limited numbers of people at Mass, the existing ministry rosters will remain on hold. If, having registered in the manner described on the front page you are taking part in Mass and you are a Minister of the Word or an Altar Server, you will be welcome to exercise that ministry during Mass. We have not yet made provision for music ministry, and as Communion from the chalice continues to be suspended there will not be a need for Communion Ministers in the short term.

REFLECTING ON THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AS A FAMILY: This week we have included our article for parents to help them reflect on this Sunday's Gospel with their children at home. This article is also available on the Children and Youth Ministries page of our website, along with some worksheets the children might like to complete. Each Thursday we will upload a new reflection for the upcoming Sunday Gospel during this time. Check it out by clicking [Children and Youth Ministries](#).

CHATSWOOD PARISH MASS LIVESTREAM: If you would like to participate in this Sunday's Holy Mass (17th May) in Chatswood Church, go to facebook.com/OLDChatswood, and watch our **livestream at 10:30am**. If you are unavailable at that time, the Mass will be posted on the following youtube channel <https://youtu.be/l990Fxx3lc>

MEETING ROOM BOOKINGS: Meeting rooms are now able to be used again, with strict guidelines from the Government. Please contact Nicole in the Parish Office on 9410 9000 or nicole.gorman@bbcatholic.org.au if you wish to resume your meeting room booking, or wish to make a new booking.

There are guidelines on each meeting room door detailing how many people are able to be in each meeting room at the same time, within the 1.5m restrictions. Each and every person in your meeting, must sign in with name and phone number, as per Government requirements. All the instructions for these rooms are typed up and in each meeting room. Please contact Nicole if you have any questions. *Please help us to follow these strict Government rules, to prevent the spread of Covid-19. If these rules are not followed, we could see the closing of the Church and meeting rooms again, possibly for a much longer time.* Thank you.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS: From time to time I hear Catholics bristle with concern about “religious freedom” (a term which means a range of things to different people) as if the government was moving to inhibit it. I think that this is often an over-reaction to the loss of the privileged place which Christianity has held in western culture.

Commentary in the public sphere from many corners has wondered whether government programs introduced during the corona-crisis may be a trojan horse to implement [insert whatever people fear]. A quick look at what is happening with restrictions enacted in NSW, and their exemptions, might give concerned Catholics some relief. At the height of the restrictions in late March – April all people were asked to avoid going out unnecessarily, however, one of the exemptions was “if you are a priest, minister of religion or member of a religious order, go to a place of worship or to provide pastoral care”. Far from limiting religious freedom this is an explicit recognition of the place and value of religion in society.

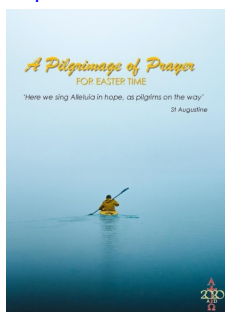
With the lifting of some restrictions on May 15th, announced May 11th, one of the first freedoms has been to allow “religious gatherings/places of worship up to 10 worshippers”.

Let us be glad that we continue to have the explicit support of our governments to live our Christian lives, even though this continues to be restricted by safety measures, and, out of charity, to continue to cooperate with government regulations for the good of all people. – Fr Jim McKeon

WEEK 6 OF EASTER PILGRIMAGE OF PRAYER

Go to:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood/ministries/adult-faith-formation/easter-prayer-pilgrimage>



Read through the Introductory Guide before you begin and have your bible with you.

The Easter Pilgrimage of Prayer is in PDF format so you can print it if you would like to do that. The PDF is presented as two sided A4 sheets. A PDF resource will be posted for

each week of Easter time through to Pentecost. It offers ways to pray during the week with the Sunday readings from the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel. Guides for keeping a prayer journal and other simple prayers are also included.

This time of Easter offers us a wonderful way to enter more deeply into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

If I can assist you with resources please let me know gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au

SOME EXAMPLES OF PASTORAL CARE IN OUR PARISH:

Our faith is such an important part of who we are and how we relate to the world, and each other. So, wanting to stay connected with our Church and support the parish team in its pastoral care ministry, I volunteered to make phone calls to parishioners to check-in with how they were going. What an amazing experience, to not only speak with such delightful people but to be able to show care for others at this isolating time. If this is the least I can do, then not only have I been able to meet someone new but hopefully extend a friendly and warm embrace to someone who may need it. I highly recommend you also becoming part of this important and rewarding outreach within our parish community. Darlene

In a recent homily Fr Jim spoke about reaching out to each other and giving pastoral care to each other to help sustain our community and that we perform pastoral care whenever we offer an act of kindness in Christ’s name to another. Recently, I was given the name of an elderly and unwell parishioner to phone in outreach from the Parish. I phoned the lady, her adult daughter answered the phone, the elderly parishioner was having an afternoon nap. Her daughter told me she had moved in with her mother to care for her. We chatted for a few moments and I offered her the parish phone number and an offer of any assistance we could provide. I asked her to pass on to the parishioner, that we want her to know that even though we don’t see each other we are still connected to each other as the Body of Christ and that we are praying for her. The parishioners’ daughter’s voice softened at my message, she thanked me and promised to pass on my message. Reflecting on this simple conversation in the light of Fr Jim’s Homily, I know this was a moment of Pastoral care (even though I didn’t get to speak to our parishioner). The holy spirit is at work in us whenever we connect with another person. Cheryl

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION will continue to be available on Thursdays at 7pm and Saturdays at 9.30am. With the church again open from this Saturday we will be in the church, but not in the confessional, as this is too small to allow two people 4sqm each. We will try alternative locations in the church, starting with the piety stall this week.

Position Vacant - Director, Office for Evangelisation, Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay
This is a full-time role based at Pennant Hills.

For the full advertisement see the **Positions Vacant** page of the Diocesan website: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/people/positions-vacant>



Forgotten People

In this CoVid - 19 crisis

Stories Gathered by Sydney Alliance

Through the many member organisations of Sydney Alliance, David Barrow the lead organiser, has been able to gather actual accounts of people in desperate circumstances who urgently need assistance.

Many charities, such as Jesuit Refugee Services, are very close to using up all of their financial reserves.

David Barrow has written to politicians asking for financial assistance. This can be very slow to be organised, so in the meantime there are ways that you may be able to assist.

We are very aware that some of you are experiencing financial stress and your constant generosity is always appreciated.

There are three main groups of these forgotten people who are not eligible for government assistance for a number of reasons. These people are:

- ◆ **People seeking asylum**
- ◆ **International students**
- ◆ **Undocumented workers**

One Story

A family in mental health crisis
Mazhar, Nadira, and Khubra came to Australia late last year, and then applied for protection. They contacted charity JRS soon after in severe financial hardship. They were four weeks behind on rent and on the cusp of being homeless.

After an assessment, JRS began supporting the family to pay their rental arrears, but they were nonetheless evicted. Mazhar found casual work in a factory earlier this year and the family informed JRS that they no longer needed any support. The family also managed to sign a short-term lease on a rental property in Western Sydney.

In mid March, Mazhar lost his job and the family contacted JRS again for support. All three family members were experiencing suicidal ideations and a number of mental health crisis calls were made, as well as referrals for longer-term community mental health support. The family still do not have any source of income and are getting by on food bank handouts, emergency relief payments, and odd bits of money from neighbours. The family has an eviction notice that has not yet been withdrawn.

Because the parents have work rights, and the father cannot produce sufficient evidence of his inability to work, they are ineligible for the Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS).

Mazhar, Nadira, and Khubra – real name and contact details withheld

How to Help

Donate directly to Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS). For many people, JRS Australia is the only safety-net. Their clients include children, women and men living in Sydney. Many cannot access Medicare.

Donating to the Emergency Cash Appeal will help replenish the food-bank, pay for urgent medication, rent, support women out of domestic violence situations and assist people who have lost their jobs.

**\$ 40 feeds a single adult
for one week**

**\$70 feeds one family
for one week**

\$350 - \$500 pays for rent

To Donate

**Phone JRS on 9356 388 or go to
www.jrs.org.au**

Donating To JRS Foodbank

If you are interested in volunteering to replenish the JRS Food Bank please contact Gail at gail.gillbbccatholic.org.au or 0417 693 887

We need:

- Parishioners to be collection points for food donations.
- Drivers to deliver food to Hunters Hill parish between 9 to 11am on Wednesdays
- *There is a list of required items to be advertised.*

LAUDATO SI' WEEK

—
CELEBRATION FOR
5TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
May 16-24, 2020



Catholic Earthcare Australia and our partners at the Diocese of Parramatta, the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality invites you to celebrate Laudato Si' week by listening, praying, reflecting and participating in Pope Francis' call to action.

2020 is the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si' - the environment encyclical where Pope Francis calls us to expand our understanding and experience of the interconnectedness of all life. The activities below invite you to join us, for one or more of these fulfilling experiences, with fellow travellers on our ecological and spiritual journeys.

LAUDATO SI' MASS

16 MAY 5:30PM EST

Live-streamed from North Sydney Parish.
www.northsydney Catholics.com/spirituality/liturgymass-on-demand

5-DAY ONLINE ECO-RETREAT

"CONNECTING WITH GOD IN NATURE"
18-22 MAY

Hosted by Campion Centre for Ignatian Spirituality.

www.campion.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/BwGiN-Online-Retreat-2020.pdf

CATHOLIC EARTH CARE PRAYER, REFLECTION AND DIALOGUE

TO CELEBRATE LAUDATO SI'S 5TH
YEAR
21 MAY 2020 11AM EST

<https://caritas.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kceqpqz8sGNFp3NlbCsuTwyHQGT9Zxzf>

CATHOLIC EARTH CARE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION,
DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE.
20 MAY 4PM EST

Countries involved are: Malta, Tonga, New Zealand, Solomon Island and others.

<https://caritas.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtceiqrTMtEtZK5qzPvRnHHXse7KuX4CfU>

JESUIT LIST OF RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND HERE RESOURCES

www.jesuit.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Laudato-Si-week-2020.pdf

17 May 2020 – Sixth Sunday of Easter **Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21**



To prepare: Read the gospel from your bible or bible gateway if you don't have a physical bible. NRSV or CEV versions are good options. Sit with the gospel and think about what stands out for you in this reading. Next, read the background and reflection points to be ready to lead the family prayer time.

Background for Parents

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus is continuing his last supper discussion with his disciples which we began to unpack during last Sunday's reading (John 14:1-12). In this dialogue, He is promising to send them "another advocate" (the Holy Spirit) "to be with you forever."

He assures them that "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." Through the Holy Spirit Jesus is able to remain with his disciples. He further assures them "I am in my father and you in me and I in you." Jesus is inviting them into an intimate communion of love that he shares with the Father and the Holy Spirit (Trinity). We too are called into this same intimate relationship and given the same assurances. We first enter this relationship at our Baptism.

Reading and Reflecting on the reading with your children

- Prepare your prayer space with the help of the children. (See *Setting up a prayer table at home for tips with this.*) Perhaps a picture of the Holy Spirit could be placed in your prayer space this week.
- Gather in your prayer space and light candles
- Invite everyone to close their eyes and silently bring Jesus to mind
- Give a brief background, eg: Today we are going to hear Jesus telling his disciples that, although he was going to heaven, he will not leave them alone. He promised to ask God to send them "Another Advocate" (or helper) to be with them. Who do you think the helper might be?
- Let's listen to what he said.
- Optional: Sing an Alleluia Song to welcome the Gospel
- Read the words of scripture, **John 14:15- 21** - preferably from your bible, slowly to allow the story to be imagined as it is heard.
- Reflect together with some of the following suggestions. Reflecting is a time for listening with your children and exploring together what God is trying to reveal to you.

Reflection

- First ask - What did you hear?
Allow each child to respond in their own words. The ability to do this will depend on the age of your children. Parents can also share but allow the children to go first and tailor your response to the age and ability of your child.

Some points to help guide the discussion You don't need to use all these points, use points that build on the responses the children have already raised. The points in brackets are what we want to lead the children to know- but try asking more questions to guide them – avoid giving the direct answer if possible.

If you did not ask before reading the scripture or the children did not know, you could begin with;

- Who do you think the "Advocate" (helper) Jesus mentioned might be? (discuss, leading to Holy Spirit)

Jesus said, (*re-read Verse 18*) "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." Discuss what an orphan is with the children – then begin with;

- I wonder why Jesus said this to them?
- How do you think the disciples might have been feeling to know that Jesus was leaving them? (discuss)

Jesus knew his disciples (friends) might be feeling "left behind" alone and afraid (like an orphan).

- So how do you think his promise to come to them, to send the Holy Spirit, to stay with them forever, would make them feel? (discuss)

Jesus comes to be with us too in this very same way. God loves us so much that he wants us to always be close to him and Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

- Do you know when Jesus first came to us with the Holy Spirit in this special way? (Discuss leading to baptism).

Some possible further points for older children and teens

Re-read, verse 19 before discussing these points

- Jesus says "the world will not see me, but you will see me..."
- Can we see Jesus? Holy Spirit?
- What does this mean – we will see him? Is he meaning with our eyes or other senses?
- How do we "see" (experience) the presence of Jesus, Holy Spirit, God?
- How do we "see" (recognise) the Holy Spirit at work in ourselves or others?
- How can we be beacons of this Holy Spirit at work in our world? (*Re-read verse 15 & 21 to help discuss this further*).

Concluding the reflection

- Invite everyone to pray. Eg: "Let's thank God/Jesus for what we have discovered from this scripture." (Parents and children can all take a turn here)
- Spontaneous prayer. Eg: "Is there something else you would like to pray for?"
- Snuff or extinguish the candles

Depending on their age, you could also invite your children to reflect further by:

- Looking at baptism photos or bringing out baptism candles, certificates or other mementos. You might like to keep baptism candles on the prayer table for this week ahead as a reminder of your connection to Jesus.
- Making a Prayer Card. Choose a verse or even one word from the parable that your child would like to write on a prayer card. If they are not yet writing you can write it for them, or write it separately for them to copy or trace. The card may be displayed on your family prayer table or a prayer space in your child's room.
- Creative Art - Draw or paint about the scripture reading. When we invite children to respond by way of creative art, it is important for us adults to know that the focus should be on the process of creating art, rather than the product itself.
- Completing the Children's Worksheet available on from the website. This worksheet has been sourced from [Liturgy Help Online](#) which currently has free family prayer resources available during the COVID-19 Pandemic.