



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS Chatswood Catholic Parish

Palm Sunday – 5 April 2020 – Year A/2

WITH OUR LADY OF DOLOURS
WE PRAY FOR:

Recently Deceased:
Elizabeth Blyth



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

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chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

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

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What is the parish doing now that the church building is closed? Many people are asking us this. There are three main things we are doing.

The first is to offer you resources for your prayer life electronically, including materials for children ([ways to pray at home for children](#)), [homilies on YouTube](#), and [ways to pray at home for adults](#). In the weeks after Easter we'll have some new online prayer and formation possibilities.

The second is that we are reaching out to contact people, primarily by phone and also in person where possible. Over the coming months our clergy and pastoral staff will be phoning as many people as we can, and then following up with helping people with their needs. In the past week dozens of outreach calls have led to people requesting anointing of the sick, reconciliation, counselling by video call, and a delivery of milk to somebody who is housebound.

To do this we're working off our parish database, but we know that this isn't always up to date. You might like to complete the [census form](#) by clicking here, and to deliver, post or scan it back to the parish (PO Box 1446 Chatswood or chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au) so that we can update your records and not miss you.

Do contact us if you are in need.

Thirdly, the ordinary parts of the life of the parish are continuing. Children made their first Reconciliation last week (see over page). We continue to offer Reconciliation at the usual times (see over page). Baptisms are continuing with 5 people as per government regulations for weddings. Preparation for baptisms and for weddings continues. Fr John and Deacon Kevin each celebrated funerals last week (with ten people or less). We continue to meet people seeking a reference for enrolment at a Catholic school (Contact Bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au). And behind it all, the usual finance, safeguarding, maintenance and compliance functions continue in the usual way.

Ways to pray: Try <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> which has gentle guided prayers and meditations on each day's scripture readings.

Hope in a challenging time: Last week Pope Francis gave an address and blessed the world online from an empty St Peter's Square. Pope Francis said "[This is a time] of our judgment: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others." This is still early days in what the Australia Government has said may be many months of "hibernation", but the way we live our lives now may be an opportunity for us to be purified and strengthened when life returns to normal.

Daily Mass Online - Hornsby Cathedral Parish - Daily Mass on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf17i14XB9TsVBrLvQ>

WITHIN OUR PARISH

IS THE HONEYMOON OVER?

While many people are enjoying working from home and seeing more of their family, experts are warning that there may be an increase in domestic violence in the months ahead as couples spend more time together and experience financial pressures or loss of freedom. Even in healthy marriages some cracks may appear when the familiar routines and external supports disappear. Smart Loving Breakthrough is a three hour online course which can be done by a couple who are experiencing challenges, or by one spouse on their own if the other doesn't want to participate. See <https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>. And also contact your parish team if we can lend a listening ear or a helping hand.

PROJECT COMPASSION – 'GO FURTHER TOGETHER'

Thank you for supporting Project Compassion 2020 COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life-saving.

DO YOU HAVE PC BOXES AND CASH TO HAND IN?

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at "lent.caritas.org.au" and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001. Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash, please call our friendly team on 1800 024 413.

SRE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



The Catholic SRE teachers from the parish miss our lessons with the children and would like them to know we are praying for them and their families that God will look after them and accompany them through these times.

As Christians, we are mindful of the joys of Easter. Please be assured that we will keep your families wrapped in prayer during the Easter season.

Our Parish community wishes you a blessed Easter; one that will bring hope to the people of Australia and the world.

For home schooling and family resources visit :
<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/parish-community/ministries/ccd/curriculum/classroom-family-resources>

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation continues to be available on Thursday nights 7pm – 8pm and Saturday mornings 9.30am – 10.30am. As we cannot use the church due to government regulations, we will use the St Peter meeting room across the road from the church. There will be parking available and signs pointing the way. The St Peter Room is approx. 20 square meters and the priest and penitent will sit 1.5 meters from each other. Reconciliation can also be by appointment at other times.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS!

Here in the parish we are working to find good resources to help you enhance your family prayer life at home. A great Sydney based resource which is perfect for use at home is called 'CathKids'. They are offering free access to their activities for Sunday readings and family prayer until the end of June this year. To sign up click on:

<https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>



First Reconciliation Congratulations



Last week 54 children in our parish celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time, at individually booked times under the verandah of the parish meeting room area on Kirk St.

The children and families were keen to celebrate this sacrament as was evident in the feedback from parents and the smiles of delight from the children after their reconciliation.

With several changes to venue, format and then even rain on the Wednesday, we pressed on and were blessed with a beautiful celebration of God's healing love for each child. So much so, that Fr. Jim commented that we might offer reconciliation in this way for the children in future. **Some feedback from parents...**

Thank you so much for keeping it all going through these tough times. It was so lovely to have such a joyous and welcomed distraction in a week with not too many other good news stories. And we will never forget Daniel's reconciliation.

I think it was beautiful and personal and more meaningful to have done it this way with the kids. ...less focus on the "building/institution" of the church and more focus on the personal experience of Jesus and talking to him wherever we are!