

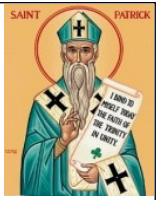
KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus'

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 22nd March 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A

The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1 Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41



Our Mission Statement: *'Help others to recognise, through their experiences, that Jesus who died and is risen is the truth that lights up their lives'*

Our Vision Statement: *'That the parishioners of Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish grow as missionary disciples and live as community in Christ inviting all people into our Parish, welcoming them to our Parish life and embracing the rich diversity of our community'*

ALL PUBLIC MASSES Weekday and Weekend have been SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY



Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ

I have never been able to reconcile the long faces some of us put on in Lent with the prayers of the Church that describe this as 'a joyful season'. The following story takes seriously that laughter is an essential element of our Lenten observance.

Once upon a time in a nice little forest, there lived an orphaned bunny and an orphaned snake. By surprising coincidence, both were blind from birth.

One day, the bunny was hopping through the forest while the snake was slithering along the same path. The bunny tripped over the snake and fell down. 'Oh, my,' said the bunny, 'I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. I've been blind since birth, so, I can't see where I'm going. In fact, I'm also an orphan, so I don't even know what I am.' 'It's quite okay,' replied the snake, 'my story is the same as yours. I've been blind since birth and never knew my mother. Tell you what, I could slither over you, and figure out what you are.'

'Oh, that would be wonderful,' replied the bunny. So the snake slithered all over the bunny, and said, 'Well, you're covered with soft fur; you have really long ears; your nose twitches; and you have a soft cottony tail. I'd say that you must be a bunny.'

'Oh, thank you! Thank you,' cried the bunny in obvious excitement. The bunny then suggested to the snake, 'Maybe I could feel you with my paw, and help you in the same way you've helped me.' So the bunny felt the snake all over, and remarked, 'Well, you're scaly and smooth, you have a forked tongue, you're impossible to pin down and you have no backbone at all. I'd say you must be either a contractor, a consultant or possibly someone in senior management.'

On reflection the Gospel of the man born blind is a joyful one too. Imagine this man's elation at having his sight restored. As the story develops the all-seeing Pharisees move to spiritual blindness by putting on the blinkers of the law. They cannot recognise Jesus or his works of mercy because of their tunnel vision. Jesus doesn't fit their worldview. Meanwhile the blind beggar, who has sight restored, goes on to gain insight about who Jesus is and the way that God works in the world; he begins to see how shallow and pathetic the Pharisees really are.

This Gospel also contains a critical theological lesson: disability and illness do not come from personal sinfulness. It's surprising that we need to keep saying this, but too readily we hear otherwise intelligent and good Christians, for example, telling us that some illnesses have been 'sent' by God as punishment for sins or they wonder what their families have 'done' to deserve disabled children.

It's true that God permits us to live in an imperfect world where we are prone to illness and disability. But that same world gives us the freedom to be creative in the face of adversity, to be compassionate with those who are sick or disabled and free to believe that there is a purpose for each human life. God, the source of all love, does not actively send bad things to us, instead, he is our constant companion in dealing with them; giving us the courage and strength to cope with, and sometimes overcome, them.

The task of this joyful season is to bring our good humour and compassion to bear on the blind spots in our own lives and be on our guard for the times when we are too confident about who God is, how he works or what he can or cannot do. May it never be said of us that we were so consumed by our own religious vision that we missed God's woods for the trees.

Dear Parishioners, It is with sadness that I advise the Coronavirus outbreak has forced the suspension of Holy Mass in our parish and the entire Diocese of Broken Bay.

In this time of legitimate concern for the safety of others, ourselves, the safety of our loved ones and those at the margins of society, we must hold fast to the knowledge that God brings us courage, consideration, generosity and solidarity.

Instead of allowing this moment to trap us in fear and anxiety, we must find unity in advancing all that is good in our common humanity. This means, staying spiritually and emotionally close to one another, in our families, our friendships and our communities. It means we are responsible to create a safe space for everyone.

This is the time to be gentle with one another. For Christians, it is a time to reflect on how Jesus made those struggling with illness a priority. So, this is a time to show compassion to the victims and to those badly affected across the world.

To prevent the spreading of COVID-19, we can still celebrate our Faith within our homes which will effectively become our Domestic Church. We can achieve this by praying the Rosary together, joining for family prayer and reflecting upon the Word of God.

Each parent should be a Catechist for their children.

So, be assured, we are praying for you all and you are in our prayers. We your priests, will still celebrate Mass on our own, however, be assured even though you are not physically present with us, we know that you and we will be united Spiritually.

May the Good Lord strengthen us in this challenging time. We are a people of Hope. Join us online from 11.15am this Sunday for

Mass live streamed via our KCCP Facebook page.

Yours in Christ, *Fr Shaju & Fr Joy.*

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS
and PRAYERS**

**Lent 4th Week
Monday 23/03**

Weekday, Mass of the day
Preface of Lent I-IV
Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday-24/03

Weekday, Mass of the day
Preface of Lent I-IV
Ezek 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-3, 5-6

Wednesday 25/03

The Annunciation of the Lord
Mass of the Solemnity, Gloria, Creed,
Preface of Annunciation
Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10;
Lk 1:26:38

Thursday-26/03

Weekday, Mass of the day
Preface of Lent I-IV
Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday-27/03

Weekday, Mass of the day
Preface of Lent I-IV
Wis 2:1,12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday 28/03


Weekday, Mass of the day
Preface of Lent I-IV
Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-52

**Ku-ring-gai Chase Parish
Remembers & prayers for...**

RECENTLY DECEASED: Greg Cooper, Peter Hanson, Peter O'Connell, Jillian Arthur, Win Colman, Jimmy Fitzgerald.

ANNIVERSARIES: Denis Mulligan, Araceli B. Padlan, Rosalinda de Ramos, Concepcion & Gesmundo Daria, Elde & Andrea Daria, Geoff Warren, Luz Turqueza, Eufemia Tugadi, Rose Hayden, Neville Nicholson, Clem Salmon, Francis, Hilda & Terence Conlon, Dr Michael Way, Dr Frances Maung, Karen Fitzgerald, Bill Colman, Rita McEncroe, Wlodek Pieprzytic,

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Patricia O'Malley, Alfredo R De Ramos, Marie Mickelson, Doug Hawkins, Felicity Fone, Graeme Kachel, Antonio, Anna Nicholson, Pat Bowden, Peter Brooks, Brian Treacy, Erick Enriquez, Charles Abela, Elaine Estrellado, Maureen Sharpe, Eve Davis (baby), Penny Rigor, Jwona Nowak, Irena Fellmann, Elaine Longmuir, Paula McGaulley, Michael Quinn, June Eileen, Patricia Smith (Carlton), Ramona Estrellado, Cathy Gleeson, Rosalinda de Ramos, Jaz Pitts, Georgina Meyers, Angela Smith, Matthew Franklin, Jeanette Bakker, Ewa Rakozy, Jean Cook, Betty Borg, Morrie Ramsden, Brian Neary, Edwina Subramany, Aiko Concepcion, John Buckley, Ellen Asistente, Sam Calacoci, Barbara Jones, Arlene Joson, Kath Lock, Cadia Maestri, Marcelina De Ramos, Matthew Conlon, Patrick Dorahy, John Macy, Tom Dawson, Narelle Cartwright, Mary Fernandes, Patricia Sanders, Monique Leyden, Frederick Novak, Barbara & Maciej Maciejewski, Alfredo De Ramos Sr.

 Heartfelt thanks are extended to the parishioners of KCCP from Rita Hanson and family for your prayers and support following the passing of Peter. **RIP Peter.**

PASTORAL CENTRE

1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082
Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au
Centre Hours: 9am – 3.30pm.

P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082 Phone: (02) 9456 2450
Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp
Parish Priest: Fr Shaju John, OSH Assistant Priest: Fr Joy Thomas, OSH

In these uncertain times surrounding COVID 19 all are being requested to remain calm.

We place our trust in the Holy Spirit to guide our words and indicate as simply as we can, without causing undue reactions or concerns, the current situation in our parish life.

Please note: the details below will be reviewed on a week-by-week basis and it is important that you read the bulletin carefully each weekend for the latest information.

ALL MASSES—PARISH AND SCHOOL WEEKDAY AND SATURDAY / SUNDAY	SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY
Stations of the Cross at both churches	Cancelled
Lenten Programme	Cancelled
Lenten Programme Select Choir presentation	Cancelled
First Rite of Reconciliation	Continues as normal
2nd Rite of Reconciliation	Suspended Indefinitely
Sacramental Programmes—both Reconciliation and Eucharist (watch this space carefully please)	Suspended Indefinitely
Communion to: Christophorus House, Mt Wilga, Regis Aged Care	Suspended Indefinitely
Anointing & Communion to the Sick	As requested
Practises for all Church Choirs (Cherubs, Select, Children's, Cantors)	Suspended Indefinitely
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (The Atrium)	Suspended Indefinitely
First Friday Anointing and Healing Mass	Suspended Indefinitely
RCIA	Suspended Indefinitely
Children's Liturgy	Suspended Indefinitely
Youth Group at St Patrick's and Bernie's Knights	Suspended Indefinitely
Children's Playgroups Paddy's & Bernies Kids	Suspended Indefinitely
Plenary Council 2nd Phase Discernment Group Meetings	Postponed Indefinitely
Bernie's Ladies first gathering for the year	Postponed Indefinitely
Praisefest	Postponed Indefinitely

LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY 18 March 2020

To the People of God in the Diocese of Broken Bay

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The historic and momentous times in which we live have impelled the Australian Government to issue today new preventative measures to limit the transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus as a matter of public health emergency .

A public health emergency of the kind that we are experiencing is a rare event. Today the Prime Minister reminded us that an event such as the COVID-19 outbreak has not been seen for 100 years. Given the directions provided by the Government and after a most careful consideration of the circumstances of our own Diocese and its various parish communities, it is with great regret and a heaviness of heart, that I share with you the following:

Effective from Friday 20 March, in the Diocese of Broken Bay:

1. All public Masses are hereby suspended until further notice. Accordingly, this includes a dispensation for all the Faithful in the Diocese from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation (cc.87 § 1; 1 247).

It will be possible to celebrate the weekday Mass for Thursday 19 March, The Solemnity of St Joseph provided that the congregation does not exceed 100.

2. The celebration of Holy Mass by the priest privately is to continue and may include, if possible, the assistance of an adult minister. Previously scheduled intentions, including the Sunday Mass pro populo may be fulfilled in this manner.

3. The Faithful are encouraged to keep the Lord's Day holy and celebrate Sunday as a domestic church by taking time to pray together as a household (c. 1248 §2).

4. The Sacrament of Baptism: Baptisms are still to be celebrated provided that the number attending does not exceed 100. It is important that thought be given to providing families the option of postponing the Baptism of their child. Those families who wish to proceed with the celebration should be advised to limit the number of family and guests attending (preferably immediate family and godparents only). Baptisms must be staggered so that only one child is baptised in the one event, with the water refreshed for each ceremony.

5. The Sacrament of Confirmation: The Government's announcement today will impact on the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the schedule for the same. I will consider how to attend to this in the coming weeks. All programmes of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation should be suspended until the schedule can be reviewed.

6. Funerals in a church remain possible provided that the number in the congregation does not exceed 100. In accepting bookings for funerals, it will be important that Parishes work with the Funeral Director to so ensure this. The advice is that those attending should be limited to immediate family. Some Funeral Directors are already making arrangements for live-streaming of the funeral so that the number of people in the church is kept to a minimum.

7. Weddings: It may be that weddings be postponed. However, should a wedding proceed it will be limited to the same provisions of no more than 100 in the church.

8. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Our churches are to remain open for the availability of the First Form of the Rite of Confession in the usual way. The Second Form of the Rite of Confession should be suspended during this time.

I am aware that a number of our Parishes have suspended their programmes of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This has been effected in accord with the principles applied to school gatherings. Some of our Parishes, however, have already completed their programmes of preparation and are ready to celebrate the Sacrament. In this event, the following advice is offered:

a. It would be unfortunate, having completed the programme, that the momentum for the celebration of the Sacrament be interrupted.

b. A gathering of people for the Sacrament - in the Second Form of the Rite - should be suspended as it is most likely families will express significant concern about this.

c. As an alternative, children, supported by their parents, might be invited to individual Confession in the church over a period of some hours on a scheduled day, so that the number of people in the confined space of the church is kept to a minimum.

d. If this is not possible due to local circumstances, then the liturgical celebration should be suspended to a later time in the year.

9. Sacrament of Anointing. In the celebration of the Sacrament, priests are given permission to lay on hands by holding them above rather than upon the head. Anointing the forehead is sufficient

10. In respect to the forthcoming Holy Week and Easter Liturgies I am currently considering how best these may be celebrated in the current circumstances and will advise in the coming weeks. I will discuss this with the Council of Priests which is to meet next Tuesday 24 March.

11. As the community of the Church in Broken Bay, I urge you to pray. It has always been our tradition to turn to God in prayer when difficulties arise, especially when a health emergency of this kind effects so many people. I commend to you in a particular way the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Rosary, which is a Marian prayer, has Christ at its centre. When we pray the Rosary, we meditate upon the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. In the words of Saint John Paul II,

"With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer." (Rosarium Virginis Mariae I)

As you pray the Rosary, I encourage you to ask for the grace that we need in our Church and in our world at this time. Be confident in your prayers and trust that the Mother of Our Lord will accompany you and lead you to her son, Jesus. Recall the words from the Memorare prayer, and be inspired not to lose hope: "Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided."

The Rosary is a marvelous prayer that can be prayed alone, in families, or in small groups. Through this marvelous prayer, may Mary's motherly compassion keep our whole family safe from every danger. Through her intercession may all the people of Australia be sheltered from harm. And may people everywhere profit by the voice of Catholics united in prayer.

My brothers and sisters, we are living in uncharted times with implications about which we are uncertain. It is essential that our communities of Faith remain beacons of hope during this difficult and challenging time.

It is important that our churches do not close and that they remain open for prayer and personal devotion. There are many ways by which a small number of people in our Parishes may still wish to gather, remaining compliant with the law - for small group Rosary, for Exposition and Benediction, for the Way of the Cross. Indeed, I encourage small groups to use our churches for prayer, especially on a Sunday when the Blessed Sacrament may be exposed for Adoration, according to the norms governing such a practice.

Our diocesan Office for Evangelisation is currently preparing pastoral resources for use in the face of the limitations for gathering.

It is also important that our Parish offices remain open and be available for our parishioners. It is critical that all our parishes consider the most creative ways by which to retain communication with their people. In naming this emergency, it is essential that each member of the community takes responsibility for maintaining good personal hygiene. It is also very important that those members of our community who require assistance: the young; the elderly; people with disabilities; the poor and the sick; the homeless; are cared for and not abandoned.

(Extract) Fr David Ranson VG gives some clarification to questions from the Faithful below, in response to Bishop Anthony's Letter

I can understand the suspension of Sunday Masses. But why the suspension of weekday Masses? In many of our Parishes the attendance at weekday Mass is less than 100. However, in some it is close to 100 and even more. If one Parish who has over 100 at a weekday Mass, limits this number to under 100, the excess may then look for Mass at an alternative Parish. That alternative Parish may then have to embark on the same restriction as the first. In other words, with a "roll-on" effect there could be the potential for confusion and frustration throughout a whole Deanery. Bishop Anthony has considered that a uniform 'whole of Diocese approach' counters such confusion and ensures that some are advantaged to the exclusion of others.

What if there is a small group that is in the church and they ask for Mass given that the number gathered is so small? Bishop Anthony has suspended all public Masses. If a Mass were to be offered spontaneously to a small group of parishioners, it would quickly become known through the community and confusion would ensue among the Faithful. Again, it is critically important that our pastoral practice during this time does not present as selective or exclusive.

To avoid ambiguity and confusion, we have to abide Bishop Anthony's Decree suspending all public Masses until further notice. If exceptions were to be introduced to this we would contribute to very real confusion amongst our people.

Is it possible for home Masses to be celebrated? It is very important for us to recognise that the ban is on social gatherings. The Eucharist is not banned! The Eucharist will continue to be celebrated – privately by priests, in chapels of Religious Houses and other such contexts which are not open to the public.

Is it possible for a small group of Parishioners to meet for Liturgy of the Word with Communion? Again, it is important to be mindful that it is not Mass that is being banned. If Masses are being suspended in response to the government's restrictions on social gatherings, then all liturgical gatherings should be suspended. It makes no sense to have one and not another. It may be that a select group of parishioners would like to gather for the Liturgy of the Word with Communion but then the risk of elitism would emerge quite strongly. For the reasons indicated above this potentially could become pastorally very divisive.

Can we advertise the Rosary being prayed in the church in place of Mass? Likewise, if Masses are being suspended in response to the government's restrictions on social gatherings, then all advertised liturgical or prayer gatherings should be suspended. It makes no sense to have one, i.e. the Rosary and not the other, i.e. Mass. The advice is not to advertise any gathering in which the number who may present are unknown. The most important thing is to encourage people to come to the church and to pray, especially the Rosary, as Bishop Anthony has urged, or other forms of prayer such as the Way of the Cross. They should be encouraged to come individually or in small informal groups at the time of their choosing. For this reason, our churches **must remain open** from early morning into the evening.

When might the priests celebrate Mass? And may they invite parishioners to this Mass? It will be for the priests in each Parish to determine at what time they celebrate their Mass without a congregation.

Is it possible to record a Mass and have this recording available to parishioners? This is an excellent idea and we are exploring options to be able to provide advice about how this might be effected in the coming days. This would be a very important way to maintain contact with our parishioners and the means by which they might join together in spiritual communion through this period. *

What about Communion to the Sick? Is this still possible? Most certainly. At this time, we must be mindful especially of those who are sick and isolated. Every opportunity should be taken to bring Communion to those who are sick and frail. Both clergy and lay Extraordinary Ministers to the Sick may continue with the practice and procedure already in place in our Parishes. Clearly, there are now restrictions to our access to hospitals and aged care facilities, but those who are homebound must be our particular concern. Viaticum must also be made available to the dying.

In the coming days, Bishop Anthony will provide further advice about the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies and how these might be celebrated in Parishes in light of the suspension of public Masses. He will also detail how the Chrism Mass is to be celebrated and how he will undertake the ceremonies of the Sacred Triduum at the Cathedral.

We have a small parish group that meets for prayer regularly in the church. May it continue to do so? Yes, by all means such groups that will never attract more than 100 people are still able to use the church and indeed are encouraged to do so. Participants' presence is very much at their discretion. Whilst in the church they should apply some distancing and use all the preventative measures against transmission of the coronavirus that have been well advertised.

What will be the financial implications to Parishes from the suspension of public Masses in the Diocese? Given that we are facing the possibility of a six-month term, the Government's restrictions on gatherings will place significant burden on Parishes especially if they are predominantly reliant on collections taken at Mass. The financial sustainability of our Parishes is vital at the service of our capacity to continue our mission.

Parishioners are requested to consider direct-debiting to the Parish for both First and Second Collections.

Bishop Anthony has approved all the advice given here. With the assurance of his heartfelt concern for us all, **Fr David Ranson, VG.**

(* Join us online from 11.15am this Sunday for Mass streamed live via our KCCP Facebook page)

Parish Pastoral Council Elections 2020

Last weekend at KCCP we had our last leg of the PPC Elections. We would like to announce that our new members of the Parish Pastoral Council are as follows:

Asquith end: Chris Smith & Sue Lum Berowra end: Moauli Griffiths & Freda Alaalatoa



Sue Lum



Chris Smith



Moauli Griffiths



Freda Alaalatoa

Emergency sick calls

0468 341 841

(Out of office hours only)

HOSPITAL ADMISSION:

If you are admitted to hospital, please write down your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services.

Be sure to notify the Pastoral Centre if hospitalised and you would like our own priests to attend.