

14 August 2020

Dear friends,

Fr Dean and myself hope and pray that you are all keeping safe and well during these days. They are indeed challenging days for all of us in Melbourne, and beyond.

### **Staff Zoom 'cuppa'**

Last Friday morning we had a Zoom 'cuppa' to meet and say hello to the staff from the Bayside parishes. It was nice to say hello and spend some 'virtual' time with each other. We shared for about an hour what we do in our different communities.

I shared with the parish staff that they are very much at the 'front line' of our work as communities of faith, and particularly in this time, it is great to see the things that our communities are doing to try to stay in touch and to reach out and support those in need or those who are feeling vulnerable at this time. Our communities are blessed to have such dedicated staff and volunteers.

### **Parish Meetings**

Over the evenings of this week Fr Dean and I spent time on Zoom meeting with the Parish Councils and Finance Committees of the communities just to say hello and meet some of you. Thank you for your welcome and taking the time to 'meet' with us.

### **Morning 'cuppa' and evening drinks**

When a new priest arrives in a community we would usually have a time to get together for a morning tea or a supper together. As we can't do this in person, we will try to do it 'virtually' next Wednesday (19<sup>th</sup> August). Anybody from the communities in Bayside are welcome (and indeed encouraged!) to join us next **Wednesday at either 10.30am or at 7.30pm**. Bring along your 'cuppa' (or alternative beverage, depending upon the time!) and we will spend some quality screen time together. We may not be able to compete with Netflix or Stan, we simply only want to see, listen and talk to you to say 'hello'.

The Zoom links to join us are below or can also be accessed on the website and Facebook page:

#### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>, August, 10:30am**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76447626154?pwd=UVZjMnhK0VYU01taktYWFdZVmxqdz09>

Password: Bayside

#### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>, August, 7:30pm**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77934831222?pwd=RjlHajFuOFI6dXlRckt6N2VOQVR5Zz09>

Password: Bayside

### **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

This Saturday (15 August) is the Solemnity of the Assumption, a Holy Day in Australia. At 12 noon we will stream Mass for the Assumption from St Mary's Church, Hampton. Please join us in prayer this day to ask Our Lady's intercession for our nation at this time. You can participate in Mass at [www.baysidecatholicmission.org](http://www.baysidecatholicmission.org) or on the Facebook page: Bayside Catholic Mission.

### **Sunday Mass**

This Sunday at 11am Mass will be streamed from Stella Maris church, Beaumaris. We look forward to praying with and for you on Sunday (as we do pray for you every day!). Sunday Mass will be on the website and Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Attached to this letter is an excellent resource prepared by the Australian Bishops to help us participate in online liturgy, and with some reflections, and suggestions for personal prayer. It can also be accessed each week at:

<https://catholic.org.au/prayathome#Sunday>

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

As we cannot yet still receive Holy Communion at Mass, we are all encouraged to make a 'Spiritual Communion', particularly when participating in streamed Mass. You may also like to make this part of your daily and family prayers at this time.

#### **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

*St Alphonsus Liguori, alt. (1696-1787)*

### **'Reach Out'**

It is very heartening to hear of the ways that people are supporting each other during these times. Some of the things like dropping in bulletins in letterboxes, telephone calls, shopping for others, emails and text messages are some of the 'safe' ways that people are being supported and trying to stay connected. Thank you for what you do to reach out and support others in our communities, especially those who are lonely or feeling vulnerable or afraid at this time.

Don't forget that even the briefest contact goes a very long way. Think about those who you would usually see at Mass each week (or daily) and maybe reach out to them with a quick call. The generosity of one small call may make someone's day!

## Family Prayer

As a small way of being spiritually united as members of the Bayside Mission, we are suggesting that each family or household might pray this prayer each Wednesday night. As we do this, we unite ourselves spiritually with our fellow parishioners, and all people of goodwill, in our communities as we pray for each other.

### IN THIS CHALLENGING TIME

Lord Jesus Christ, our true physician and healer, be merciful to us and bring us your aid in these troubled times. Heal all our sickness and every affliction of your people. Drive out our infirmities of soul and body; free us from all disease and especially from this pestilence.

We place in your gentle Heart the elderly, the frail, people with disability, children, young people and families, our indigenous peoples, those who are poor, lonely and isolated. As you walk with us, free them from fear, and give them patience and hope together with our loving care.

In your mercy deal also with the causes of our pitiful condition, that in curing our lack of faith and spiritual weakness, you may also remedy our bodily ills.

We place our trust in you, the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

From [www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au)

Fr Dean and I hope to regularly keep in touch with you via a weekly email, and via the Bayside Mission webpage and Facebook Page.

Thank you for your welcome to us in the past week. We look forward to engaging with you in the weeks and months to come. Please be assured of our prayers for you, as we humbly ask your prayers for us.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev David Cartwright  
Moderator, Bayside Mission