

21 August 2020

Dear friends,

Fr Dean and I trust that you are all keeping well and safe during these days.

Last week I walked past a coffee shop in Brighton that had a large calendar painted on the front window, marking off the days until Stage 4 lockdown is over. I think we can all resonate with this!

One of the important ways to navigate these days is to stay close to the Lord. It can be very challenging when we are denied the Mass and the sacraments. However, it is also a time to draw upon our reserves and resources to perhaps pray in different ways.

We are becoming used to participating in streamed Mass (each Sunday at 11am at [www.baysidecatholicmission.org](http://www.baysidecatholicmission.org)) and praying in our own time and way at home. This Sunday Mass will be streamed from the temporary church at Gardenvale. The liturgy guide is attached.

The liturgy guide and prayers and a good range of prayer suggestions and can be accessed at: <https://catholic.org.au/prayathome#Sunday>

We would like to propose another opportunity for us to pray together this Saturday.

### **Saturday Zoom Rosary**

This coming Saturday (22 August) is the Feast Day of the Queenship of Mary. To celebrate this Feast we thought it appropriate that we might pray the Rosary together via Zoom as Mission communities. The link is below; just tune in at **10.30am on Saturday** to join us in asking Our Lady's intercession for all of us at this time.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73743136366?pwd=S1JOR1RuV1lzMlVpcEdBeTM0ckRsZz09>

Meeting ID: 737 4313 6366

Passcode: Bayside

### **Bayside Mission Team**

Recently we met with Pastoral Councils / Leadership Groups / Finance Committees / Safeguarding Groups from different parishes in the Mission. It has been great to see some of you and to hear what you are doing.

We are very keen to 'continue the conversation' and talk about the way forward for us as the Bayside Mission, so we are forming an interim '**Mission Team**' comprised of the Chairs of the Pastoral Councils / Leadership Teams - representatives from each community. We will be meeting this coming Wednesday evening via Zoom and would be grateful for your prayers as we pray and discern the way forward.

We are proposing that this group would also consult and listen to each individual community so that everyone has a voice in this process. We are all in this together, and we need to listen and to pray to the Holy Spirit and each other as we build our new Mission Bayside.

### **Stewardship Team**

Following on from the 'Mission Team', we also propose to form an interim '**Stewardship Team**' to help us with the good stewardship of our parishes. We have invited the Chair of each community's Finance Committee- a representative of each community- to be part of this Team as we discern the best use of the gifts that we have been given in our parishes.

### **Morning Tea / Evening Drinks**

Thanks to those who joined us last Wednesday for our 'meet and greet' time. We had about fifty people join us for morning tea and about thirty in the evening. Our apologies for those who were not able to access the meeting as the incorrect link was in last week's update. For those with more intrepid computer navigational skills, they were able to find us via the website.

We will have another 'meet and greet' session this coming **Tuesday night (25<sup>TH</sup> August) at 7.30pm**. The link is below. I hope that you can join us. Please come along with your favourite beverage and share some time together.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73024565946?pwd=aTNvZ0lZUXo0QXR4K01YMitTSU1UQT09>

Meeting ID: 730 2456 5946

Passcode: Bayside

## Our 'Partners in Prayer'

As parishes in Victoria are largely closed due to the lockdown, and the sacraments are very limited, a group of priests from other parts of Australia have initiated a programme entitled 'Partners in Prayer', where a parish community outside Victoria will spiritually adopt a Victorian parish and ask the parishioners to pray for them during these challenging times.

I received the following message from Fr Paul Nulley PP, from St Joseph's Parish in the ACT. He wanted to be 'partnered' with another St Joseph's parish, and as we have St Joseph's church at Black Rock, his parish has spiritually adopted the Bayside Mission.

From Fr Paul Nulley PP:

***Partners in Prayer:*** *As the people of Victoria continue to struggle through lockdown, and the inability to access the sacraments, including Mass, parishes in other parts of the country have been invited to "Adopt a Mission".*

*St Joseph's O'Connor has adopted [the Bayside Catholic Mission](#), which has brought together six parish communities. I will be celebrating an extra Sunday Mass at 12 noon each week, praying in particular for the needs of the priests and parishioners in the Bayside Catholic Mission. I invite people who wish to participate in this worthy prayer initiative to attend that Mass or devote another prayer moment during your week, such as a Holy Hour or a Rosary, to the people of the Bayside Catholic Mission.*

We are very grateful to the priests and people of O'Connor parish in Canberra. You might like to spare them a prayer in gratitude for their thoughtfulness for us in this time.

## Act of Spiritual Communion

As you participate in Mass on-line, I invite you to make the Act of Spiritual Communion during Mass. You might also like to include this in your daily or regular prayers.

### 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)***

### **Wednesday Night Prayer / 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)

### **Parish Meetings**

In the past week we have met with the administrative and pastoral staff of our communities to get a better understanding of the work that they do for all of us. On Friday we met with the Principals of our parish primary schools and on Wednesday we are meeting with the Religious Education Leaders of the schools also.

Fr Dean represented us at the Brighton Covenant churches meeting last Tuesday, and we have had a number of informal conversations with parishioners and groups over the past couple of weeks.

As we said in our initial Letter to the communities, this initial time of the Mission is one of listening and consulting and praying. We are very grateful for those who have given us the opportunity to listen and to those who have offered very valuable suggestions and advice.

Let's continue to pray for each other in Bayside, and beyond.

May the Lord bless and protect you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ,



Father David Cartwright  
Moderator, Bayside Mission