



28 August 2020

Dear friends,

Thanks to those who joined us last Tuesday night for another of our 'meet and greet' sessions. There will be more opportunities for us to do this in the future, until we can 'really' meet each other (and enjoy a 'real' morning tea and supper together!).

We are becoming used to participating in streamed Mass (each Sunday at 11am at www.baysidecatholicmission.org) and praying in our own time and way at home. This Sunday Mass (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) will be streamed from St Joseph's, Black Rock. 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>

Weekday Mass

I know that a good number of people are used to attending weekday Mass. When we are denied this we certainly feel the absence of the Lord and of each other. Weekday Mass communities become very much like a small family and we share in each others' lives. Don't forget to pray for these people you would normally see, and to reach out by calling them to say hello.

There are some options for weekday Mass online that you might like to use:

St Patrick's Cathedral (Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne YouTube channel) at www.cam.org.au at 1pm each day.

Eternal Word Network from USA: www.ewtn.com

Bayside Mission Team and Stewardship Team

Last Wednesday and Thursday evenings we met with our newly formed 'Interim Mission Team' and 'Interim Stewardship Team'. These were representatives from each community.

The current members of the Interim Mission Team are:

Carole Chen (St James/St Joan of Arc), Kevin de Souza (Nazareth), Kristin Allen (Sacred Heart), Michael Staunton (Nazareth) and Shaun Le Grand (St Mary).

The current members of the Interim Stewardship Team are still being finalised as some were not available last week. This meeting on Thursday night was therefore only a brief 'get to know you' until this group is formed.

The discussion at the Mission Team was very fruitful and we will meet again in two weeks. The members of the Mission Team will now come back to their individual communities to share some of what we talked about and to hear your thoughts.

Attached to this letter is the copy of some comments that I gave at the Team Meeting which formed the basis of our discussion.



St James Rebuilding Project

At the end of Mass last Sunday I made some comments about the rebuilding of St James' church. I am aware that this project has a great deal of interest in the community and there is a lot of emotion and feeling attached to this project.

As I said last Sunday (the comments can be viewed at the end of the 11am Mass at www.baysidecatholicmission.org), whatever we do going forward must be done in charity in speech and action. There will be things that some people disagree with- we can agree to disagree but love each other in Christian charity.

As I said last Sunday, I am keen to listen to the parishioners of St James- it is your heritage and patrimony, as well as everybody's gift to future generations.

With the current restrictions, I think the best that we can do is via Zoom, but we will see what happens in the next few weeks. In the meantime, I would ask the parishioners of St James to talk with each other; spread the word so that we have some people to listen to and talk to when we gather. Hopefully we can do this in the next couple of weeks.

Support of our Communities

Thank you to those who generously support our communities with your prayers and financial support during this time. As our normal sources of income (our collections) have stopped, we are extremely grateful to those who continue their contributions. Whilst Masses and sacraments have stopped, the bills have not!

If you would like information about direct debit options, please contact your local parish office:

Brighton@cam.org.au (St James and St Joan of Arc)

Hampton@cam.org.au (St Mary's)

Sandringham@cam.org.au (Sacred Heart)

Rickettspoint@cam.org.au (Stella Maris and St Joseph's)

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

St Joseph's School, Black Rock

The process for the interviews for the new Principal of St Joseph's school is well under way and hopefully would be completed within the next month. Thanks to the school community for your patience, and please keep this process in your prayers.

Spring Ember Day

Several years ago, the Australian Bishops decided that the Church in Australia should observe the First Fridays in Autumn and Spring each year as special days of prayer and penance (sometimes called 'Rogation Days'). The Bishops highlight these days for us to:

- Seek God's blessing of favourable weather and a fruitful harvest from the land, interceding in times of drought or flood (or bushfire or pandemic!)
- To recall the justice of God's kingdom, with attention to those peoples devastated by famine and exploitation.
- To focus on the environment and our stewardship of the world's resources.

On this Friday, you might consider some extra prayer or a small act of penance for the needs of all people, our nation and world and to give thanks for what we have.



Social Justice Sunday

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2020-21, [To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today](#), has been released ahead of the Church's Social Justice Sunday, celebrated on August 30 this year. Given the challenges our country and world are facing due to COVID-19, the issue of mental health is very much front and centre for many people. The Statement challenges everyone – individuals, schools, parishes, communities, policy-makers, governments – to take an interest in the issue of mental ill-health.

The full document can be accessed at:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2020/07/03/social-justice-statement-2020-21/>

Parish Meetings

Our 'meet and greet' sessions over the past couple of weeks have been a good time to (virtually) see each other, share with each other and ask any questions.

Last Wednesday we met with the Religious Education Leaders of the schools in the Mission to thank and encourage them in the great work that they are doing. We all know that our school staffs are doing amazing work at the moment to help our children and families with remote learning.

We have also had a meeting about the St James project, some meetings with staff and we have celebrated three funerals for people across our communities.

We are aware that some people have some things that they may like to talk about with either Fr Dean or myself privately; or simply to have a chat together or to say hello individually or as a family or a household.

To facilitate this, we are both setting aside some time next Wednesday for 15 minute blocks of time for those who would like some time with us individually.

Next Wednesday 2 September 10.30 – 12.30 and 6pm- 7.30pm

The link to 'book' a time is on the website and you can either 'see' Fr Dean or myself.

www.baysidecatholicmission.org

Just like booking a doctor's appointment, but no Medicare card needed, and no cost!

A zoom link will be sent in a confirmation email.

Please pass on this email to anyone else you know who might not be receiving it. I know that not all parishioners have their email addresses registered with the parish. Please pass on the news to anyone you know.

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

Sincerely in Christ,

Father David Cartwright
Moderator, Bayside Mission