



4 September 2020

Dear friends,

As we pass the one month anniversary of our Bayside Mission, there is a lot of news to pass on and to talk about. Please take some time to think about and pray about the matters that Fr Dean and I place before you for the flourishing of our Mission. A number of the things we'd like to bring to your attention are below:

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Chat with Parishioners

Thanks to those who took the opportunity to meet with us last Wednesday morning and evening. We were very pleased to spend time listening and talking to parishioners from our communities from 10.30- 12.30 and 6-7.30pm. Despite the limitations of Zoom, we appreciated the time and the conversations.

Mass Online

We are being spiritually united each Sunday at 11am at www.baysidecatholicmission.org and praying in our own time and way at home. This Sunday Mass (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time) will be streamed from Sacred Heart, Sandringham.

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

Bayside Mission Team and Stewardship Team

This coming Wednesday and Thursday evenings we will meet again with our newly formed Interim 'Mission Team and Stewardship' Teams. Thank you to those who have offered their comments and observations so far. One of the things that we are discussing, and asking our communities to discuss, is the future planning for Masses and sacraments in our communities.



'Looking to the Future'

Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm

We would like to invite you to join us in a time of prayer, discussion and thinking about the future and role of our parish communities. The evening (Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm) will be facilitated by Lorraine McCarthy, (Team Leader, -Animating parishes) from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

A TryBooking link is below to register for the night (no cost!), and we invite anybody from the Bayside communities to join us via Zoom.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BLJDX>

This will be a time for us to listen and think about the place of the parish community and how we can best live out our faith in this time. Please come along and listen to Lorraine who has much parish experience in many places and is generously sharing her time and thoughts with us for this Mission.

Mass Attendances and Future Planning

Today I am sharing with you some statistics that were shared with the Mission and Stewardship Teams at our last meeting. These statistics detail the latest Mass count numbers that we have (based on May 2019) and the latest Census data that we have. These statistics present us with a reality and an opportunity.

Imagine for a moment that we had a 'blank canvas'- no existing timetables or commitments. What would we do? It is our hope and prayer that you will think about our present reality, and consider how we can form something meaningful for the future flourishing of our Mission in Bayside: a structure that helps us give more energy to 'Mission' than 'Maintenance'.

Gardenvale

Catholic Population	3,400
Catholic Families	1,302
2019 Mass count	202
Church capacity	300*

Ricketts Point

Catholic Population	4,392
Catholic Families	1,727
2019 Mass count	234
Church capacity	(Black Rock 350*, Beaumaris 300*)

Brighton

Catholic Population	2,174
Catholic Families	848
2019 Mass count	273
Church capacity	250*

Hampton

Catholic Population	1,984
Catholic Families	724
2019 Mass count	95*
Church capacity	175*

Sandringham

Catholic Population	2,580
Catholic Families	970
2019 Mass count	256
Church capacity	300*

TOTAL MASS COUNT FOR BAYSIDE:

1,060

*Approximately



In looking at these statistics, there are a few things to consider:

- Post Covid, the Mass count is likely to be less than current.
Some people will be afraid to come out or mix with others
Some will have fallen away from the habit of Mass
Age, ill health, fear or other human and spiritual factors

-Many people will be used to 'their Mass' (and 'their seats' !). We need to recognise that there will be some pain and change involved for people.

-If we looked at the total Mass count (1,060), and the size of the churches that we have, how many Masses do we really need?

-A few less Masses will also build a sense of community; enable better and richer and more resourced liturgies.

-Travelling to a different place may be a consideration now.

'Do I have a devotion to a time and place or to Jesus and the Mass?'

-How do we support people and communities when change becomes necessary?

It is not just change, it is Mission! How can we do the best with what we have? How can we 'best' invite others into what we have?



St James Parish Meeting

Tuesday 9 September, 7:30pm

As I mentioned last week, and to several people in conversation this week, I am very keen to listen to the parishioners of St James. This coming Tuesday night we will have a Zoom meeting for the St James parish; all parishioners of St James are invited.

As I have said previously, I am happy to listen to your thoughts and ideas, in charity and respect for each other. Our Catholic Social Teaching reminds us of the dignity of the human person, and I know that this will be the tenor of our conversation on Tuesday night.

In particular, we need to discuss the temporary church (the 'pop up') at the St James site. We are currently paying a very great deal of money for this, which is not being covered by insurance any more. We need to discuss this and explore options for the time before completion of St James.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BLJDY>

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

Safeguarding Committees

The week of Sept 6-12 is Child Protection Week, and there are some helpful resources for your information and personal formation at www.melbournecatholic.org.au

The parishes of the Bayside Mission are committed to creating and maintaining safe and nurturing environments for all young and vulnerable people.

We plan to begin to coordinate a Bayside Safeguarding Team with representatives of each community to formulate combined policies and procedures, thus saving time and work for each individual community. Some parishes have Child Safety Officers already, and one has a Safeguarding Committee. In the first instance, the Professional Standards Unit of the Archdiocese will convene a gathering of existing parish coordinators, and anyone else who would like to be part of this new Team.

If you are interested in being part of the new Safeguarding Team for Bayside, please email us at Bayside@cam.org.au and we will pass on your name to be invited to the initial meeting.



Fathers Day

Blessings to all Fathers and special carers on this day, and we remember in prayer those who have gone before us in faith. May St Joseph, intercede for them all!

Thank you to those who have offered their support and advice over the past month since we have been here. We are especially grateful to the parish staff of the different communities who have been such a great support to us over these weeks.

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