



11 September 2020

Dear friends,

This extended time of lockdown is a trying time for all of us. We are particularly conscious of those in our communities who are on their own, and those who are struggling mentally and in other ways. Please continue to hold each other in prayer and reach out to those in need.

We would have all read the announcements from the State Government last Sunday about the 'roadmap' out. I do confess to being quite disappointed with the timings for opening of our churches. At this stage, it is looking like late November until we can open the doors of our churches for worship. It will be the best part of eight months that we have largely been deprived of the sacraments and physical communities.

Whilst we are trying to make the best of this time with alternative 'meetings' and avenues of prayer and worship, these are in no way any substitute for us. As Catholics we are a sacramental people- we need to see and touch and taste. Insofar as we are deprived of the physical sacraments, we are missing something that is essential to who we are.

We can lament this time, but we can also turn it to a longing and anticipation for the time that we can be together. Please make the most of your prayer time at home; encourage others to do the same; make a Spiritual Communion regularly and use the online resources that we have. These things can sustain us until we can be fed again with the Lord; until we can experience his mercy; until we can be in His presence and in the presence of each other.

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 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time) will be streamed from St Joan of Arc, Brighton.

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

'Looking to the Future' – THIS WEDNESDAY

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 as many people as possible from the Bayside communities to join us via Zoom. Book here:

<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.



Bayside Mission Team and Stewardship Team

On Wednesday evening our Mission Team met for a very fruitful meeting and discussion. Some of the points discussed:

-Feedback from parish groups and individuals and schools

There were some questions and issues raised from the different communities regarding a number of issues. These will be collated and addressed soon.

-Communication

This was identified as a key issue at the moment. We are trying to keep people informed and connected, and it was acknowledged that a good number of senior parishioners do not have online access. A working party was formed to look at the communications issue.

Feedback about St James community meeting

Details below

Youth Mission Team

Some discussion began about the possibility of a Youth Mission Team- a group of young people who might live in our community next year and commit to helping in ministry in the Mission. More details will be provided soon.

Sunday Mass Times

Each member of the Mission Team will go back to their communities with the statistics that we have to begin to plan and suggest ways forward for Sunday Masses going forward. These will be talked about at the next meeting (in 2 weeks) and then a working party to bring them together. Please contact your parish representative with any ideas.

Connecting our parishes and support

Each community was asked to consider one initiative that they might bring to share with the Mission for the coming few months to support each other- some online ideas...social, spiritual, formational.....more details to come next meeting

'Looking to the Future' Forum

Each member of the Team was asked to encourage and bring along as many people as possible for the online Forum next Wednesday night. Everybody is welcome to this time for us to listen, discern and pray about what our parishes are and where we want to be. Please register above- and bring one or two others along!

The next meeting of the Mission Team will be on Wednesday 23 September.



St James Meeting

Last Tuesday night was an opportunity to listen to the people of St James, and to put before them 3 matters: the 'Pop Up' church, use of the presbytery, rebuilding of St James.

After this discussion, and with the review of the Mission and Stewardship Teams, it was decided that the 'Pop Up' church will be discontinued as the rent (48,000 per annum) is no longer being covered by Catholic Church Insurances. If there is another option to celebrate Mass on the St James site, this will be investigated. This was the preferred option if it is possible.

Secondly, the use of the St James presbytery was discussed. No decision on this has been made and a number of options were discussed: leasing, rental, residential and educational. A review of the Mission properties is being undertaken by the Archdiocese and no decisions will be made at the moment.

Thirdly, the rebuilding of the church. Parishioners were invited to offer their thoughts and given an opportunity to be heard. Progress so far: Stage 1 (walls) is complete; Stage 2 (roof)– in progress, hopefully by Easter 2021; Stage 3 (interior) some plans have been drawn and nothing yet finally decided or approved. Fr Dean and I visited the site on Thursday. Discussions will be ongoing with the architects and others. We would please commend this project to your prayers and support.

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)



Safeguarding Committees

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. *This Team will meet on this coming Tuesday at 10am via Zoom* – it is not too late to join us if you would like to.

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.

Thanks to those who have taken time and effort to be with us this week in this time of discernment and trying to plan our way forward. Thanks also to those who are reaching out to those in our communities. I heard this week about a great initiative from the Social Justice Group from Sandringham, in response to the Bishop's Statement on Mental Health – they have established a 'phone tree' and are trying to contact those in care facilities and others in the community to say hello. Each of us could perhaps call one or two others that we know just to reach out in these days.

Fr Dean and I had a nice Zoom morning tea with the secretaries from the communities for 'R U OK ?' day last Thursday. We had a peaceful and productive meeting with the people of St James' community; We had very productive and helpful meetings with the Mission Team and the Stewardship Team on Wednesday and Thursday nights; we had a tour inside the building works of St James' church on Thursday afternoon; we have celebrated several funerals this week, and five planned for next week so far.

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