



25 September 2020

Dear friends,

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 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time) will be streamed from St Mary's church, Hampton. I know we are all grateful to those from our local communities who help with the preparation and streaming of the Sunday Mass. Although very occasionally there are some technical difficulties, we are still able to 'virtually' participate in Mass from the Mission. Although we are not seeking to compete with a Hollywood production, and the quality may not compare with commercial television, we are grateful that our communities can be joined by the generosity of the gifts of those in our communities.

The liturgy guide and prayers and a good range of prayer suggestions and can be accessed at:

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

Looking at the Parish Forum

Some people have asked for copies of the presentation that Lorraine McCarthy made to us on Wednesday 16 September. We are endeavouring to obtain these for you.

Mission and Stewardship Teams

Our **Mission Team** met last Wednesday evening. To recap, the Interim Mission Team comprises representatives from each community in the Mission, usually the Chair of the Pastoral Council or Leadership Team, along with Fr Dean and myself. Some of the items discussed were:

Parish Groups

We are looking at a way to share what is happening in each community- perhaps a 'Directory' or listing of each of the groups in the different communities so that we can get to know each other and be connected through common ministries and offer opportunities for others to be involved

Safeguarding

The Professional Standards Unit of the Archdiocese is assisting each community in forming a common Code of Conduct and ways of monitoring Working with Children Cards and lists of volunteers. This joint group is a real concrete way that we can say lots of work and time by coordinating our efforts in a shared approach.



Youth Mission Team

We spoke about the possibility of the Mission hosting a Team of young people for a year to offer their gifts and presence in our communities. It is proposed that they would live in one of our parishes and assist in some ways, while working or studying during the week.

Communications

Fr Dean presented some ideas from the Communications sub committee which looked at how we are trying to engage with people during this time, as well as using other means to promote the Gospel message.

Mass Times

We considered all the suggestions that were offered by individuals and their communities and groups. Most suggestions had a similar focus, and these will now be collated by a sub group of the Mission Team; considered and presented at the next meeting in two weeks and then presented to our communities to look at.

Our ***Stewardship Team*** met on Thursday night. Top recap, the Interim Stewardship Team also comprises representatives from each community in the Mission, usually the Chair or a representative of the Finance Committee or Stewardship Committee. Some of the items discussed were:

- The engagement of a Mission Business Manager to support and advise on the use of the gifts and assets of the communities. This person will be starting in the next week or so.
- The payment to the Archdiocese of the Quota and the ability of the communities to pay.
- The issues of the transferral of school governance
- The role of the parish Finance Committee and its obligation under Canon Law to exist
- The establishment of the Mission Safeguarding Committee and the Audits of some parish properties to ensure compliance with all regulations.
- The need for transparency in financial reporting to our communities
- The need to help and support communications with our communities



‘Meet and Greet’

Thanks to those who took the time to join us for more ‘meet and greet’ sessions last Tuesday morning and evening. It was good to meet some of you for the first time, and others again.

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)

Parish School Governance

On Wednesday morning Fr Dean and I attended a Zoom session with priests from the southern area of the Archdiocese about the future governance of our parish primary schools. As you may be aware, there will be some major changes in the governance of our schools, with the Parish Priest no longer being the employer of the staff and not having direct responsibility of other administrative matters. This will come under the purview of a new company, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) with the Archbishop as the Chair. The parish will remain that owner of the property and land and a lease agreement will be signed to allow the use of the property to MACS.

This does represent a major change in the governance structure of our parish schools and the role of the priest. As these changes are finalised, we will keep you informed.



In the coming week we have Zoom sessions booked with the Child Safety Officers and Safeguarding groups of our communities; a Zoom meeting with our St Vincent de Paul Conferences and our parish secretaries and pastoral workers.

This week we begin our eighth week in the Bayside Mission, and slowly we are all getting used to things being a little bit different, and also beginning to see what possibilities are merging. A lot has happened in eight weeks !

We know that this new way of our communities belonging to the Bayside Mission will take some getting used to, and we are learning to adjust to things not being always as they were. This is also true in society and the world at this time. Change is not easy, especially when it comes to something that we hold very dearly- our faith and our parish communities.

We have been really encouraged and supported by those who have supported and guided us over these weeks, and those willing to advise, listen and walk with us on this pilgrimage.

Perhaps St Paul in Sunday's second reading gives us a little bit of encouragement to continue this work of unity in mission and growth:

.....be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first, but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus... (Phil 2:2-5)

Please pass on this email to anyone else you know who might not be receiving it and encourage them to sign up on the website. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Cartwright", is located below the text "Sincerely in Christ,".

Father David Cartwright
Moderator, Bayside Mission