

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 20

Sixth Sunday of Easter

17 May 2020

Last weekend, during our first livestreamed Mass, the parish Facebook page was overwhelmed with encouraging comments and views. In all these, I saw Christians who allowed feelings of hope and spiritual contentment. Thanks to God, who made it possible through the instrumentality of our members for us to livestream. We remain ever grateful to those who gave their time and talent to bring Mass to our Parish.

The need to stay connected is very self-evident after last Saturday. However, the truth is online masses are not the same as a face-to-face community celebration. One reason is that we, priest and laity, may lose sight of raising our eyes to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and become self-conscious of the camera and wanting to celebrate perfect rituals. Instead, the overriding mission at this time is to focus on the Real Presence of Jesus as we approach some great solemnities in the coming weeks.

Therefore, in preparation for these special Solemnities which knit together the web of faith found in our parish community, we shall Livestream via Facebook, by God's grace, these consecutive solemnities. These Masses include Ascension of the Lord [24th May]; Pentecost Sunday [31st May]; Most Holy Trinity [7th June]; and The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ [14th June] respectively. We hope to invite one family to each of these masses while maintaining social distancing. They will do the readings for that weekend.

It is because of this interweaving of these solemnities that it becomes helpful here to say a bit about the Gospel for the Sixth Weekend of Easter. Here Jesus is preparing us for the birth of the new Church of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. First, we must love His commandments which are not a burden but designed to make us happier than we would have been if they were not there. It is the Holy Spirit dwelling within us that helps us see in the commandment of Jesus to love optimism despite the pandemic. Jesus is shaping us for the helper, the advocate who is coming not as some Person, but as God's abiding presence who moves and lives in us whenever we stay tuned to Christian life and prayer, in recognition of others gift and appreciating people when their expressions of their love of God are visible.

Remain Blessed in the Lord.

Fr Christopher

See over page for an update from our Parish Council Chairperson



National Volunteer Week 18-24 May 2020

We are blessed at St Thomas' with wonderful volunteers who we've missed during this time of isolation. Special thanks to those who have helped with live-streaming Mass, delivering newsletters, decorating the church & attending committee meetings.

Dear Lord, As we commence National Volunteer Week, we pray for all those who serve as volunteers within the Church and wider community; and have stood ready to assist in different ways in the face of the COVID19 pandemic: that their generous service reveals the compassion and mercy of Christ to those for whom they care. Amen



Online Mass has been a beautifully meaningful, deeply moving, and spiritually fulfilling experience!

Elizabeth

As part of the Archdiocese of Brisbane's new 'Small Blessings' campaign, Elizabeth has shared how online Mass has been a real blessing to her during these days of isolation.

You too can share your small blessings at <https://bit.ly/2WeCx2l>

REACHING OUT

We have a generous supply of grocery items kindly donated by our parish and school communities. We will be donating some to the Faith Works Uniting Community Pantry at Norman Park. People can take what they need from the pantry at McIlwraith Avenue (near Bennetts Rd), so spread the word.

Otherwise, please contact the Parish Office for assistance if you - or anyone you know - needs support.

"Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter" ~ Brian Solis ~



We remember in our prayers

The sick: Betty Bendel, Jim Paterson, Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Matilda Elisabeth Swain, Joan Burlew, Betty Smith, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Olive Kiely, Sue Douglas, Jim Clifford, Tom Grant and Lauren Balcombe, Fr Ted Houlihan, Lola Radford & Sonia Mendez, Fr Ron Mollison, Cletus Obi, Mark, Trish Buckle, John Willacy

Recently Deceased: Russell Lea, Tom Killian, Sr Eleanor Parker Olsh, Rosemary Suter, John Mercer

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Blue Smith, Peter Ryan, Margaret Murray, Benjamino Giacomodonato, Anthony Volmer, Beryl Robinson, Justin Cosgrove, Gordon Bissett, Les Bertini, Savatore Vitale, John Leahy, Aileen Cokayne, Fr Bob Mitchell, Rita Leslie, James O'Connor, Darcy Dickson, Dorothy Vaughan, Marie Fitzpatrick, Mary Rafferty, Suzanne Ballinger, Geraldine Simento, Irene Matthews, Michael O'Connor, Des O'Toole, Sid O'Toole, Joseph 'Gerry' Cremin, Mona Costa, Margaret Simson, Bill Collins.



UPDATE FROM PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

What a joy it is to be able to connect! On the eve of Laudato Si' Week honouring the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home, we are reminded that "everything is connected." During these extraordinary times, Catholics everywhere are uniting to grow through reflection and prayer, preparing for a better future together. As people in all communities are calling out for hope, it is our faith that lights our way.

Please know that you are never alone! You are in our thoughts and prayers and we are eagerly waiting to...See you! Chat with you! Connect with you! Your PPC along with Lisa, Father and some other motivated Parishioners are trying new ways to keep us connected. I felt that it might be a lovely opportunity to let you know what we are up to.

- ♥ We have been keeping contact with the Archdiocese to deliver the most up to date news. No church gatherings just yet...sadly! However, Father has been recording masses, even going "Live"!!! He is a natural! Thank you to the Duncan family!
- ♥ A small group of volunteers have been delivering newsletters, bookmarks, bottled holy water, well wishes and big smiles to the elderly and vulnerable in our parish. Thank you ladies you are treasures!
- ♥ Lisa is doing an amazing job on the website where you will find a beautiful prayer wall you can add to at any time! We are now on Facebook too - a wonderful way to join others and share our joys! Check out the St Thomas School Dance Troupe!
- ♥ Father has been contacting and keeping contact with parishioners via phone with a few hospital visits. We are trying very hard to connect on a Wednesday night via zoom...IT can be very challenging!! Please keep trying we will get it right soon!!
- ♥ Our Care and Concern ladies have been connecting with parishioners and doing check ins.
- ♥ Some of our ministry groups have been meeting online via zoom and we are grateful to our Finance Team who are keeping a close eye on our financial story. We are very thankful to those who continue to "give" to ensure we are able to be there for you when we get through these unprecedented times. When are looking at some new initiatives on planned giving which we are excited to introduce to you soon.

It is during the month of May that we reflect on Mary and her special qualities of compassion, strength, determination, love and kindness. I find myself pondering staff, parents and students of our much loved St Thomas' School. We welcomed back lovely and no doubt lively Preps and Year One students this week and offer special blessings for the incredible work of the staff. We "Thank you" for your strength, courage, energy, compassion and love.

Lastly I invite you to join in bringing solidarity to our world in a shared moment of prayer at noon local time on 24 May by reading a common prayer (attached). Catholics from all across the globe will be united in spirit because "everything is connected." How lovely it would be to do this in your garden or where you hear the birds sing. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Peace and blessings, *Caroline Sarra*

Thanks for joining our first livestreamed Mass last weekend. It was great to feel connected to our church and parish. We will be live-streaming more Masses, starting with the Feast of the Ascension on 24th May. Time to be confirmed. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details

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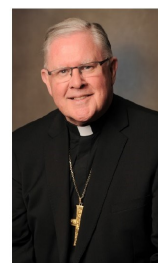
Remember to visit our website for many ways to stay connected and live your faith at home, including the weekly Sunday Readings:

www.camphillcatholicparish.org.au
(click on the Stay Connected button)

The month of May is dedicated to Mary. Please enjoy this reflection on Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.
[CLICK HERE](#) to view.



NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020
VOLUNTEER
CHANGING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES. **WEEK**



It's hard to know what the church and society are going to look like when we emerge from the COVID-19 restrictions.

The one constant throughout our pre and post-pandemic worlds, however, will be the volunteers who remain at the heart and soul of what we do.

As we prepare to celebrate a National Week in your honour, my thanks goes out to all the volunteers, wherever you may be offering witness - in parishes or prisons, hospitals, courts or respite and drop-in centres.

In spite of the many challenges posed by this medical crisis, you still stood ready, in ways both creative and courageous, to continue outreach on our behalf and for that the Archdiocese is indebted to you.

Without you we couldn't do or be what Jesus Christ calls us to do and be.

Most Rev Mark Coleridge
ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

