

Tuesday, 24 March 2020



Dear friends

Once again I find myself writing you a letter – the 3rd in 3 days. With the letter I wrote on Saturday regarding the suspension of Masses I said the church will remain open for prayer. Sadly, with the latest news from the Government, even having the Church building open is no longer an option. I was very saddened by this news, as the church can be a place a peace and refuge for people in need of prayer and support. However, given that this is now the case, we must abide by these laws.

So what can we do. For those of you on the internet, I will be posting updates on our website and Facebook page and with some help hopefully posting a reflection/homily for each weekend. I will offering Mass most days in private but especially on Sunday, and may be able to video the Mass and put it on either YouTube or Facebook. I am not the most technical when it comes to this. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website www.waverleycatholic.org.au .

I would encourage you all to find new ways to pray. The weekly Scripture readings are published each week in our bulletin with the hope that people can read and pray with these readings each day. One family has already messaged me today to say they prayed a family rosary last night, this would be something I would really encourage. You may wish to pray the Franciscan Crown – which is our Franciscan Rosary – 7 decades with the following titles, (you may recognise them as these are paintings that adorn our parish church).

The Annunciation; The Visitation; The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ; The Adoration of the Magi; The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple; The Appearance of Christ to Mary after the Resurrection; The Assumption and Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven.

I offer you the same advice as is suggested by health authorities - **people should avoid public places and reduce any non-essential movement outside the home**. This is especially true for elderly people and those with various health conditions.

I will be available as usual to assist in any way so please contact me if you need me. Sometimes it is easier if you have a mobile phone to contact me via text. I can often view texts and reply faster than having to check my voicemail, if I don't answer I will try and be more regular in checking voicemail. With this in mind I am happy to publish both my office and mobile numbers, but I ask that you respect these numbers and not pass them on to others without my permission. Direct office number is 9389-9328 (this diverts directly to my mobile, but your number does not automatically come up, so please leave a reply number). Mobile 0415-077-353. Whilst I would like to see people “pop-in” for a chat/coffee/prayer, I'm also conscious that the Government is encouraging us to restrict our movements and contact with people. The more we follow this advice the quicker (and with less deaths) we hopefully will be back to normal. I encourage you to keep active also, if possible, go for walks but best to keep your distance from other people though, wash your hands thoroughly and try to avoid touching surfaces where people may have sneezed or coughed. I even found myself yesterday trying to avoid holding on to escalator rails whilst shopping. As one parishioner keeps advising me “wash your hands and **don't touch your face**”

It is a challenging time and I pray that we all care for one another in the true spirit of service, following Jesus and St Francis and St Clare. Please check in on your neighbours especially our elderly parishioners. Generally, look after each other

J. Berni