

The Catholic Community of North Harbour

IN THE CARE OF THE AUGUSTINIANS



Cnr White & Wanganella Sts

Parish Priest: Fr Dave Austin OSA

Parish Office: 9949 4455



Year A
5th April 2020



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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE – 'God lives here... the Church in the Family!'



Dear Friends,

What do we most need in these times? I suspect we have much in common – patience, staying in touch, things to do, a hug now and again, a text or call from a friend, our faith, knowing we're still loved, a sense of humour, a fresh way to pray... add your own thoughts to these and share them with those close to you. Above all, let's reach out to others in these ways – our present troubles are not just about us. Everyone is hurting and each needs to be encouraged and to feel safe.

By now it's pretty clear that our world will be different, especially in how we do things, relate to others, and live family life. In coming days, at times it may feel as if our life has stopped – what should I do next? But it's not just about being busy. In a recent interview, Pope Francis urges us not to waste away the difficult days we are living but to attend more carefully to everyday details, since in small things we find our treasure – not an invitation to remain busy but to be more reflective about our living, the things we often fail to notice. The Prior General of the Augustinians in turn urges us to be vigilant '*so that the physical isolation or other measures that are to be taken do not suppose an isolation of the soul.*'

So how are we going with our 'inner work' – care of our *soul, spirit, heart...*? Call it what you will but deep down each of us needs to connect with our heart so that we are not defining ourselves by what we do – a big leap for some of us. I've suggested journaling before as a help, writing our thoughts, often in conversation with God. We could write about, '*the now of my life.*'

And what are we missing most faith-wise? Certainly the Eucharist but also access to our locked churches – a bit like losing one's home, the freedom to call in and light a candle or sit quietly with the Lord. Last week I mentioned this as a *time of reimagining* for us. Being Church has many dimensions, one of which is the '*domestic Church*' or the '*Church in the family*'. When we are together, much of what we do is *eucharistic*, like the first Christian community in Acts 2:

'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... All who believed were together and shared all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.'

There are many parallels in our family times – sharing meals and conversation, friendship, playing, praying and believing together, reaching out to the neighbor who is lonely, showing love in countless ways, being thankful for who we are and what we have. Jesus took on our humanness in the first place and so God is alive in each of us and in our families when we live life well. Human and holy combine in the small things in which we find our treasure. When someone says to me, '*I'm not really religious!*' I often respond, '*Oh yes you are!*' If we're already doing it, let's name it!

Present events may disturb our Faith but that's part of our journey to New Life, the life Jesus shares with us in his Rising at Easter, and... our Faith will grow stronger! And remember:

'Buildings are closed, not the Church. We are the Church... and we remain open in faith, hope and love!'

Fr Dave

A HOLY WEEK REFLECTION— ‘THE MOTHER OF ALL VIRUSES’



Last year in Pastor's Perspective for Palm Sunday I described HOLY WEEK, which begins today, as the 'THE MOTHER OF ALL WEEKS'. One year later and we are trying to cope with the

'Mother of all Viruses' and are reduced to celebrating our biggest Christian Feasts *virtually* via the media. But aren't we lucky to at least be able to do that? Because, fortunately, to say that something is virtual is not to say that it is not real. Last week we Augustinians who are on the Provincial Council had our monthly two-day meeting using the wonderful technological innovation of Zoom. We could all see and hear one another clearly and whenever one person spoke, his image came to the fore in the middle of the screen. This worked well for dealing with the matters in hand but when we broke for morning tea and lunch, we did miss the opportunity to just share and chat and enjoy each other's company. And although Fr Tony Banks has just celebrated his mother Dawn's 90th birthday (Congratulations, Dawn!) through this means and Fran will be having a virtual reunion with the cast of *The Nanny*, it can't of course replace face to face contact. This is the real, especially as I've heard that when 'zooming' you can attach a filter to your lens so that you look like you've just had a total face makeover! Now that is 'unreal' as in the original meaning of that word.

So this year no palm or olive branches – though of course you can pray a prayer of blessing over your own palms at home. Why not? We pray a blessing over our food and company when we say the Grace before Meals, don't we? It's God who does the blessing after all. We don't have to live stream God. He is always REALLY present with us all. So here's a Prayer for you or better still, you can make up one of your own: 'Heavenly Father, be with our family from the youngest to the oldest, lighting up our relationships, sowing grace into our troubled times. Be with our family, weaving love into our work our rest and our

play. May this blessed palm displayed in our home remind us of your gift of peace to our family when the going gets tough. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.'

And the going is tough for many. Just last Tuesday I conducted a funeral service for our parishioner, Anne O'Donnell. May she rest in peace. Only seven members of her family could come to the church. Though the family was deprived of the emotional support of a large gathering, it was strangely a very touching and intimate service involving each one of us present.

Nevertheless, in spite of all the uncertainty around us, today we are beginning the best week in the whole Christian year. Centuries ago, it was called the 'The Great Week'. Nowadays, we Catholics call it 'Holy Week'. In order to help you make it 'holy' the parish is organizing a *streaming* of the liturgies for today, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and for Easter Sunday itself. I know some of our Italian families have those big satellite dishes in their back yards that can pick up the Pope's Masses in the Vatican itself. Keep a sharp lookout for Father Dipi who, as one of the three Augustinian Papal sacristans, is our insider in the Vatican. (He gave me a virtual tour of the papal sacristy the other week....) He was sighted the other Sunday carrying the golden umbrella (ombrellino) over the monstrance being taken to Pope Francis who was standing under Bernini's baldacchino which towers over the papal altar in the centre of an otherwise empty St Peter's Basilica.

Be patient with each other and enjoy this holy time together as a family and remember to make phone contact with those around you who are living alone or coax them out onto their front balcony and give them a wave or yoo-hoo them over the back fence as we used to do as kids to contact old Missus Ash and called to her at her window to come down and pick up her Sunday roast dinner my Mum had prepared for her.

And remember: After the cross comes the Resurrection.

Fr. John

The logo for Project Compassion features the words 'PROJECT COMPASSION' in large, colorful, bold letters (red, blue, green). Below this, the tagline 'GO FURTHER TOGETHER' is written in purple. At the bottom, there is a black and white photograph of a group of children sitting on the ground, smiling and waving their hands in the air.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

DO YOU HAVE PC BOXES AND CASH TO HAND IN?

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at 'lent.caritas.org.au' and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to

Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney NSW 2001.

Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PX Box or cash, please call our friendly team on **1800 024 413**.

1st Reading IS 50:4-7

The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.
Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.
The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me;
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:
"He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,
let him rescue him, if he loves him."

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Indeed, many dogs surround me,
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
They have pierced my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
O my help, hasten to aid me.

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
"You who fear the LORD, praise him;
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

2nd Reading PHIL 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL MT 21:1-11

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her.
Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply,
'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once."

This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:
*Say to daughter Zion, "Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them.
They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them.
The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees
and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:
"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest." And when he entered Jerusalem
the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied,
"This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord





PRAYER REQUESTS

"Come to me! I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28)

ANNIVERSARIES

Joyce Bourke

RECENTLY DECEASED

Francios Marino

Beverly Watson

Louise Remond

Elizabeth Anne O'Donnell

Joan Baldwin

Tom Hukins

Graeme Booth

Kathleen Angelo

Adrian Horan

Miroslava Bricic

For those with ILLNESS

Aurora Kogovsek	Bruno Kogovsek	Daniella Takchi	Cathy Ewing
Elsa Monsour	Irene Martin	Helen Richardson	Irene Hurrell
Stella Brown	Cecily Smellie	Jane Manning	Maria Kogovsek
Norma Kogovsek	John & Joan Killick	Simone Young	Bob McEwan
Christopher Newman	Vincenzo Mandile	Yvonne Hickey	Margot Massey
Justin Torralba	Kevin Smith	Kathy Osborne	Bill Rein

This list will be reviewed every few weeks—contact the office for continued prayers

SAINT AUGUSTINE "What great thing was it to the king of the ages to become the king of humanity? For Christ was not the king of Israel so that he might exact a tax or equip an army with weaponry and visibly vanquish an enemy. He was the king of Israel in that he rules minds, in that he gives counsel for eternity, in that he leads into the kingdom of heaven for those who believe, hope and love." [Tractates]



NEED A PRIEST URGENTLY Please call 0490 898 464

If the matter is not urgent, please contact Priests via the Parish Office 9949 4455.

PARISH REACHING OUT....

Staying in Touch – The Augustinians and Parish Staff are keen to stay in touch. Please contact the Parish Office if we can assist in any way or if you wish to make an appointment (9949 4455). Mobile numbers for Augustinians in the Parish are printed in this bulletin. For emergencies, please call 0490 898 464.

Live Streaming of Masses – From this Sunday, some Masses and ceremonies will be live streamed from St Kieran's Church, including Holy Week ceremonies:

Passion Sunday – Mass at 9.30am

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7.30pm

Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3.00pm

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil – 7.00pm

Easter Sunday – Mass at 9.30am

Viewing instructions: Go to the link to the Parish Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthHarbourCatholic/>

Parish Facebook Group: 'The Vine' – You are invited to join this group of parishioners and members of the Augustinian Order. Just follow the link and request to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CathComNH/>



PARISH CENTRE

Good Friday 11.00am-12 noon

Saturdays 5.00pm—6.00pm

FIRST RITE OF RECONCILIATION



ST CECILIA'S SCHOOL

(enter from White Street)

Good Friday 11.00am-12 noon

MASS AND PRAYER 'AT HOME'

Mass for You at Home – Sunday mornings on Channel 10

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – information online about streamed Masses and prayers on ACBC website in coronavirus portal: www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus

Additional Prayer Resources – Google specific devotions or 'Catholic Prayers'

Reflection Resources – Various resources are available on the net by well-known spiritual writers such as Richard Rohr, Anthony deMello, Joan Chittister, Pope Francis, Monica Brown, Sr Hilda Scott OSB, Teresa Pirola. Please check the Parish website for other links: www.northharbourcatholic.org.au

On this day of great rejoicing,
Lord Jesus Christ, when we welcome
You as our King and Saviour,
We also walk in the shadow of Your cross.
Hosanna! we cry. Blessed are You who come
In God's name to save us. Hosanna!
Strengthen our faith on this Palm Sunday

So that when the time comes
To carry the cross, we might still
Call out with heartfelt praise.
Give us the grace and the courage
To follow You this Holy Week From death to resurrection,
From darkness to the fullness of light.
We need You, Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Hosanna!

Prayer for
Palm Sunday

Fr David Austin OSA Parish Priest 0419 265 317

Fr Paul Maloney OSA Assistant Priest and Prior 0439 595 723

Fr John Sullivan OSA Assistant Priest and Prior 0423 634 029

Fr Senan Ward OSA Chaplain – St Augustine's College

Fr Abel van der Veer OSA Retired 0409 368 449

Fr Peter Jones OSA Provincial—In Residence

Jacky Worthington Parish Manager

9949 4455

Ursula Halloway Catechist Coordinator

9949 4455

Janette Davidson Sacramental Coordinator

0408 866 521

Anne Ross Parish Secretary

9949 4455

Jane Filacuridi Parish Secretary

9949 4455

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NORTH HARBOUR