

27<sup>th</sup> March, 2020



My dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am sure by now you are all aware of the latest advice pertaining to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the restrictions imposed on us.

It is with great sadness that we are all to refrain from receiving Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, wherein we find joy, peace, healing, comfort and closeness to Him. Many people are distraught at the loss of the Sacraments. It's an eerie feeling for a priest not to be a part of these graces in the lives of his people. I would like to assure you that Our Lord has not abandoned us. He is very much present with us in our journey during this very difficult time. So, trust and hope in the Lord.

The office has completely shut down but I've been swamped with more calls, emails and individual meetings than ever as well as needing to find the time to implement 'creative' ways to stay in touch, support, pray with and encourage parishioners.

Our number one priority at this moment is to ensure the safety and health, spiritual and mental wellbeing of all our parishioners and visitors. Please know that the decision to suspend Masses and all religious meetings and gatherings does not come lightly. This decision has been taken with a very heavy heart. Furthermore, we have been directed to keep our churches closed 24 hours each day.

Parishioners may follow parish updates online on the Parish website [www.cg.org.au/pambula](http://www.cg.org.au/pambula) and Archdiocesan updates on <https://cgcatholic.org.au>

And there are also several options for viewing Masses and Services.

1. On The Catholic Voice website [www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)

beginning at 6am daily

2. On the website for the Archdiocese of Melbourne  
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or  
[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)

Daily Mass is streamed at 1pm and then available as a recording on demand until 1 hour prior to the next 1pm Mass. On Sundays the 11am Mass is streamed and is also available as a recording on demand.

These Masses allow us to unite spiritually in the celebration of the Sacraments. Above all, we unite in prayer, asking the Lord and His Blessed Mother to guard and watch over all of us in this time of uncertainty. We pray especially for our parishioners and families at this difficult time, asking for the strength and consolation of God's healing grace. Let us show, at every turn, that even amidst widespread uncertainty and death, our “first priority” is truth and eternal life.

I have attached a list of Daily Readings and Reflections for your own spiritual benefit and I personally encourage you all to unite with me in prayer through these tough times. The Mass is the heart of our life together as Catholics. It is certainly a source of sorrow that none of us are able to attend Mass together because of the health crisis threatening our nation and the world, but I would ask you to unite with me when I offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in private. Spend some time each day in personal prayer and continue to maintain your Lenten discipline of prayer, fasting, and works of mercy. During this pandemic we have an opportunity to pray more and to ask for the intercession of Our Lady and Patron, Mary Help of Christians.

**You are not alone and we can survive this together .....but we need to work together We need to support each other. We cannot do this alone. IDEAS ONLY!!!!!!**

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with

you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” — Isaiah 43:1-3

Pray for an end to the spread of the Coronavirus!

*Mary Help of Christians! Pray for us.*

*St Joseph! Pray for us.*

*St Peter! Pray for us.*

*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop! Pray for us.*

*St Corona! Pray for us.*

Fr Paletasala Leota  
Parish Priest