

Dear Parishioners,

Not surprisingly, the last week has been very quiet in the parish. At this point, the lockdown applies until 11.59 pm on Friday 27th August and so the Parish Office it will remain closed. Call the Parish Office and leave a message if you need assistance.

Some events to which many of us were looking forward have been postponed including Confirmation for the third group of children. Further details will be provided when the future becomes a bit more certain.

Sadly we are unable to gather together to celebrate the Eucharist. This is an immense trial for we who are disciples of Jesus. To not be able to be together to mark the Resurrection is something that rightly fills us all with sadness. Please note that the Eucharist is still being celebrated online.

**Live Stream Mass St. Christopher's Cathedral 11am Sunday**

<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

We are still able to pray and we are still able to develop and nurture our relationship with the living God; the God who calls us by name, the God who knows us better than we know ourselves, the God who knit us together in our mother's womb and the God who wants to be in a relationship with us. This pandemic will end! Our Church will reopen! We will be together again to celebrate Eucharist and to receive Jesus in Holy Communion! *In the meantime, we pray!*

This week I am sure that we have all seen and indeed all lamented what has happened in Afghanistan. The vision of so many people holding onto the side of a plane and the images of those people falling to their deaths is shocking and gut wrenching. With the swift resurgence of the Taliban, one can be left wondering what will happen to that nation and her people. We feel powerless, we cannot do anything in the sight of such horror, and we wonder when conflict in Afghanistan will end. *In the meantime, we pray!*

We also saw this week the awful scenes from Haiti following the earthquake. Cracked and broken buildings, bodies lying in the rubble. Pain and anguish all over our TV sets. Scores of people dead. Scores more injured and homeless. The international community and the Church rallying to help but not before a massive storm came to hamper the rescue efforts. *In the meantime, we pray!*

We pray asking our God to help. We pray asking for an end to war. We pray for an end to the pandemic. We pray that our hearts might be open to help in any way we can. We pray for conversion of hearts and souls. We pray to give thanks for the help already offered. We pray because that is what we are called to do. Most importantly, we pray because we love and when there is not much more we can do, well, we pray! We hold all these terrible events before our Loving God. Our Churches do not need to be opened to pray for these things.

Saint John of the Cross tells us: "*Endeavour to remain always in the presence of God, either real, imaginative, or unitive, insofar as is permitted by your works*". *In the end, our desire for God will surely find expression in our daily lives: "Try to be continuous in prayer, and in the midst of bodily exercises do not leave it. Whether you eat, drink, talk with others, or do anything, always go to God and attach your heart to him"*.

I remind everyone of the National Day of Prayer and Fasting in light of the pandemic. All Australians are called to unite in prayer today 22nd of August. We pray "Lord Have Mercy"

With love.

*Paletasala Leota*

**Quote of the Day**

*Challenges are what makes life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.*

Joshua J. Marine

## **Sacristy & Sanctuary Renovations to St Joseph's Church, Merimbula September-October 2021**

All Sunday Masses will be at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Eden from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October due to the closure of St Joseph's Church, Merimbula for renovations. There will ONLY be Sunday Masses at 8:30am and 10am. There will be no Vigil Mass. This is also dependent on the lockdown easing. Please notify the Parish Office if you wish to catch the bus that will leave from the church in Merimbula to take parishioners to Mass in Eden. Apologies for any inconvenience.

**National Day of Prayer and Fasting** The National Council of Churches in Australia is leading a prayer for our nation this Sunday, where alongside fellow Christians, we can all unite in a prayer for an end to the COVID-19 crisis. Archbishop Christopher Prowse is inviting you to join with him in prayer via live streamed on the link: <https://nationaldayofprayer.org.au/lordhavemercy>. The theme for the event is 'Lord Have Mercy'.

## **The Catholic Mission Appeal**

Next weekend 29<sup>th</sup> August. Your support is greatly appreciated. Call the Parish Office for more information.

## **Lectio Divina**

To help deepen our relationship with the Gospels I will be leading Lectio Divina each Wednesday 6:30pm via Zoom, starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> August. Lectio Divina is an ancient way of praying with the Scriptures used heavily throughout the history of the Church by those living the Benedictine way of life. This is a simple and easy way to prayerfully experience Scripture. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to be sent the link.

## **Rosary Devotion**

Archbishop Christopher invites us all to pray the Rosary via Zoom. All you need are your Rosary beads and your intentions. Every Wednesday and Friday at 4 pm sharp! Zoom Meeting ID: 850 2245 8332 Passcode: 543675

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022458332?pwd=MDZ4ODFhNjlvdnFkd21aVDQzWnAydz09>

## **Covid-19 Vaccination**

Pope Francis urges us to get vaccinated as an act of love: <https://youtu.be/JWf3Ji11EaU>

Some of the things the Pope says are:

- Getting a Covid jab that is “authorized by the respective authorities” is an “act of love.”
- Helping others do the same is also an act of love. “Love for oneself, love for our families and friends, and love for all peoples. Love is also social and political.”
- The Pope noted that social and political love is built up through “small, individual gestures capable of transforming and improving societies.”
- “Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable”
- Pope Francis then prayed to God that “each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love.”
- “No matter how small, love is always grand...Small gestures for a better future.”

## From St Joseph's Safeguarding Promoters

*Safeguarding Standard 3: Partnering with families, carers and communities.* Remember, there are many people in our community who could do with a friend right now and connecting can make you both feel good. Ways to stay connected to your family, friends and others even if you cannot be with them:

- Reach out to call a family member or neighbour who is experiencing loneliness
- Prepare a list of friends to whom you have not spoken for a while and work your way through
- contacting them
- Offer support to vulnerable neighbours by checking on them through a note in the letter box
- Send a motivational text to a friend who is struggling
- Tell a family member how much you love and appreciate them
- Tell someone you know why you are proud of them
- Tell someone you know that you are thankful for having them in your life
- Arrange to have a video lunch with a colleague, friend or family member
- Arrange for a home delivery of a meal or flowers
- Send an inspirational quote
- Call a colleague and ask how they are coping with changes to normal contact
- Send a joke to cheer someone up

## Confirmation

Our Parish's Confirmations were held at St Joseph's, Merimbula on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, August at 10am and 2pm and were happy occasions. Many thanks to our young people and to those who helped make the celebrations on the day so memorable. We still have one more group to go once the lockdown eases.

## Receiving Communion

In receiving Communion, it is not sufficient to perform a soulless, external action. There must be an interior movement of our will which takes us out of ourselves, at least in desire. We are familiar with the fact that Christ 'comes to us' in Communion, but we forget the far more important aspect of this great mystery: in order for him to come to us, we must 'come to him'. We must allow ourselves 'to be drawn to him' by the Father.

That is to say, in our Communions we must try to be conscious that we are *yielding ourselves to the divine action* which draws us into the mystery of Christ.

We are not sufficiently conscious of this aspect of our Communions. We think of them perhaps as ritual acts of devotion with which we seek to please God, to offer him homage and gain merit for our souls. These things are true indeed. But let us look deeper, and we will discover that we are face to face with the mystery of God's love for our souls. We are confronted by our own ineffable and mysterious personal vocation to become 'other Christs'. We face the fact that this Communion is a sign that *we belong to God*, that we are *his possession*, his chosen ones, and for that reason he comes to us and gives himself to us as our possession.

We also think far too little of the fact that in Communion we are freely uniting ourselves with the supreme designs of God's will for ourselves, committing ourselves in the highest and most perfect sense to his all-wise Providence, and carrying out the purposes of his love more fully than could be possible in any other way. We are not only performing a supremely pure act of adoration of the divine Being, but much more entering into the plan of God's will to "re-establish all things in Christ" – *Merton, The Living Bread*.

## Communion Ministry to the Sick

It is becoming difficult for priests to bring the sacraments to those who are ill. I want to remind everyone that the Holy Father granted a plenary indulgence to the faithful in just these circumstances. The gates of God's mercy remain absolutely open to us in these difficult times. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions. 0435036236

## How You Can Contribute To Your Parish

Thank you to those parishioners who have setup regular contributions to our parish. This is a great support to our clergy and church. Please consider if your household can afford to contribute– any amount would be greatly appreciated. Those who are envelope-planned givers can easily transfer to electronic payments. If you would like to set up an electronic payment which will cover both your first and second collection donations please email the Parish Office – [pambula@cg.org.au](mailto:pambula@cg.org.au) or call 0435036236 and Alicia will assist you.

## Dynamic Catholic, Alive: We Will Serve the Lord

In the last chapter of the Book of Joshua we read, “*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*” How many of us wish that we could go back in time and be better spiritual leaders for our families when our children were younger? Too many of us think that it is too late to start. But all is not lost! Start now, be the spiritual leader you were called to be. Share the joy of your Catholic faith with others, especially your family members.

You are invited to look through the following faith development and liturgy resources, then read, listen to, or watch what you can and find yourself interested in. In the process, may your faith in God grow in you, and give you joy. Over time, additional resources will be added.

- Theologians in Conversation (45 videos)  
[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=Theologians+in+Conversation](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Theologians+in+Conversation)
  - Theologians in Conversation - Where are we in Liturgical Scholarship?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0Bi3bFoEi8>
  - Theologians in Conversation - Sacramentality  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRQWIS4LTs4>
  - Theologians in Conversation - How do people perceive the liturgy?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwq2g6z1P8w&list=PLFC4121E00BB41795&index=5>
  - Theologians in Conversation - How to renew the liturgy post Vatican II  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFU3PT1j86A>
  - Theologians in Conversation - Catholicism and others  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LycF1WKjg4&list=PLFC4121E00BB41795&index=13>
  - Theologians in Conversation - Celtic Christianity: Myth and Reality  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlh6yirUcPo&list=PLFC4121E00BB41795&index=42>
- Catholic Theological Union (some paid, some free material) <https://ctu.edu>
- La Croix International (online publication, \$US 39.95/year, \$US 69.00 for 2 years, free trial)  
<https://international.la-croix.com>
- Liturgy Resources, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle  
<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-resources/>
- Today's American Catholic  
<https://www.todaysamericancatholic.org>