



ST MATTHEW & ST VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH SOUTH BELCONNEN

ARANDA MASS CENTRE: 7 BINDEL ST
PAGE MASS CENTRE: 12 CHEWINGS ST

Two Articles from Beth Gibson, Parish Safeguarding Volunteer

Safeguarding older people in our parish

As our ACT community prepares to celebrate Seniors Week in the last week of March we are mindful of the many older people in our own Parish.

Some of these people have been here since the two previous Parishes were established, and greatly supported the building of each church and the nurturing of their accompanying communities. We are forever grateful for their generosity and faith that has formed the foundation of our Parish for so many years!

Many of our older people are independent and active, while others are more frail and require care and support in their own home or in residential settings.

The current Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is reminding us that, sadly, there are some older people who are experiencing 'elder abuse'. This refers to the mistreatment or exploitation of an older person by someone they know and trust. It may be intentional or unintentional, and can happen in a residential setting or the person's home.

If this is happening, help is available through the Older Persons ACT Legal Service (OPALS) on 02 6243 3436 or opals@legalaidact.org.au, or 1800ELDERHelp (1800 353 374).

In our Parish, we need to be mindful of our older people and always seek to welcome them, include them, and reach out to them with respect and care. Just as we need to listen to the voices of children and young people, so we also need to listen to the voices of our older people.

ABC program - Revelation - priests who have abused children

As many of you will be aware, the ABC has started showing a series called 'Revelation', which has 3 episodes exploring the issues around the sexual abuse of children at the hands of Catholic clergy. The series is based around interviews with priests who have been found guilty of sexually abusing children. There are interviews with other relevant people as well.

It will no doubt be a disturbing series to watch, but may help us to have some insight into the mindset of these criminals, and the culture that enabled them to commit their crimes, and to be protected.

The actions of these criminals have impacted the whole Australian community, but especially their victims, the victims' families and friends, and the broader Catholic community.

Through our safeguarding standards and practices, our Parish is taking responsible steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, in our community.

It is a responsibility we all share as members of this Parish.

In fact in the ACT, all adults are required by law to report any suspected sexual abuse of children and young people.

If you have any concerns about the safety of children, young people or vulnerable adults in our parish, now nor in the past, please contact Fr Simon or Beth Gibson through the parish office, or you can contact Maria Hicks at the Archdiocesan Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding on ipss@cg.org.au or 02 6239 9806.

Together we will continue to ensure our Parish is a safe and welcoming place for everyone, where all ages are celebrated and cared for.

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR FINANCE COUNCIL ARTICLE & UPDATED ARCHDIOCESAN PROTOCOLS COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

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The Parish **Finance Council's Capital Plan** included consideration of options to reduce the Parish's energy costs and environmental footprint. Accordingly, the installation of a **solar electricity system** on the roof of the Orana Centre has been considered. Installation of the panels this year has become feasible following the generous donation from a parishioner and an anticipated ActSmart solar rebate. As a result, a 20kw solar system can be installed for a net cost to the Parish of about \$15,000. It is expected that savings from the solar panels and other initiatives to reduce energy costs will result in this expenditure being recouped in two or three years. The installation is a demonstration of the Parish's commitment to sustainability and the future ongoing savings will enable Parish funds to be directed towards further important pastoral activities. As there is limited time for applying for the ActSmart solar rebate, a final decision will be made in the coming week. If you have any comments or questions about the installation of the solar panels, please email Bernard Williams (bernardwilliams@bigpond.com) by **Tuesday 24 March**.

Updated Archdiocesan Protocols

Eucharist

1. Remove holy water from fonts.
2. The faithful are asked to sit 1.5 metres apart, except for immediate family.
3. No touching at the sign of peace.
4. Priests, Deacons, Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to sanitise their hands **before** distributing Holy Communion and **after** distributing Holy Communion.
5. Holy Communion in the hand. No Communion on the tongue.
6. The Sacred Host, **not** the Precious Blood, is given to the faithful.
7. Recommended method of collecting monies: The faithful to place money in baskets placed around the Church at the offertory. Money placed in bags by those wearing gloves. Counted 24 hours after the event, with sanitisation of hands before and after.
8. No Communion to the sick in hospital, aged cared facilities or private homes to those who have *COVID 19*.

Visits to the Sick and Elderly

9. Encouraged in private homes if they are not in isolation.

10. Visits to hospitals and aged care facilities are discouraged, except for immediate family.

Funerals and Weddings

11. Funerals and Weddings not to exceed the government requirement.

Anointing of the Sick

12. To be given in hospitals, aged care facilities and private homes by priests following *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)* protocols.

Baptism

13. Celebrant to ensure he sanitises his hands immediately prior to the pouring of water and immediately after the anointing with the oil of Chrism.

Penance

14. First rite of penance should be conducted in the confessional behind a screen or only if the penitent is 1.5 meters away from the priest. If the penitent is under 18, confessional door is to be open.
15. Second rite of penance is suspended.

First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

16. Suspended until further notice.