

# *The Barra*

**Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook**

**5th Sunday of Lent –Year A**

**28th & 29th March 2020**

Dear brothers & sisters (Parishioners).

We are bound by the circumstance of the Covid-19 and not able to join in the Eucharistic Celebrations as a worshipping community and are asked to be in Social Isolation. It is important that each of us journey together in our common effort to face this difficult challenge that is before us. Let us develop a sense of prayerful solidarity with our local faith community and the whole body of Christ.

Canon 1248:2 says: “If it is impossible to assist at a Eucharistic Celebration, either because no Sacred Minister is available or for some other grave reason, the faithful are strongly recommended to take part in a Liturgy of the Word, if there be such in the parish Church or some other Sacred Place, which is celebrated in accordance with the provisions laid down by the Diocesan Bishop: or to spend an appropriate time in prayer, whether personally or as a family or, as occasion presents, in group of families”.

In this regard Masses will be celebrated in private in St. Finbar's Church everyday. Masses are celebrated with each of you though you are not physically present. I request everyone of you to be in Communion with each other and let us spend an appropriate time each day in personal prayer and encourage you to develop a special time of prayer together as a family.

Let us place our trust and confidence in the Lord. The Lord is with us. As we move closer to the Sacred Paschal Triduum, let us remember that after Good Friday comes Easter Sunday.

We keep the church open for personal prayer during the day. We will resume our normal church activities as soon as the circumstances allow us. Meanwhile I request you to pray the prayer below everyday and continue our effort to care for one another.

God Bless you all and Keep you safe.

Father Jolly Chacko/ Parish Priest.



## PRAYER

Dearly beloved God our Almighty Father,  
Cleanse the world of all our errors,  
Banish Covid-19,  
Drive out our fears, anxiety and worry.  
Keep us safe from hunger, sickness and loneliness.  
Unlock prisons, loosen fetters  
grant safety to travellers, pilgrims return.  
Comfort the mourners  
Listen to our cry in tribulation.  
God of Mercy and Compassion in you we trust,  
Hope and place our Love.  
Have Mercy on us and the whole world. Amen

*The Parish Office will be closing for the time being until further notice. In case of emergency you can ring Father Jolly on his mobile 0417 541 637.  
Praying to God to keep you all safe and healthy.*

***Daylight Savings Ends on Sunday the 5th of April, please remember to put your clocks back one hour.***

# CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SACRAMENTS

Prot. N. 153/20 (THE ROMAN CURIA)

## DECREE In time of COVID-19

During this difficult time through which we are living because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and considering the impediment to the community celebration of the liturgy in church as per the direction of Bishops for their territories, a number of queries have come to this Congregation concerning the imminent celebration of Easter. In this regard, the following general indications are offered along with some suggestions for Bishops.

- 1 – **Concerning the date of Easter.** Easter is the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The Easter Triduum is celebrated over the arc of three days which is preceded by Lent and crowned by Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time.
- 2 – **The Chrism Mass.** Having evaluated the concrete situation in the different countries, the Bishop has the faculty to postpone it to a later date.
- 3 – **Indications for the Paschal Triduum.**  
Wherever the civil and ecclesiastical authorities have put restrictions in place, the Sacred Triduum must be celebrated in the following way:

Bishops will give indications, which have been agreed with the Episcopal Conference, so that, in the Cathedral and parish churches, though without the physical participation of the faithful, the Bishop and parish priest(s) can celebrate the liturgical mysteries of the Paschal Triduum. The faithful should be informed of the times of the celebration so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. In this occasion, the means of live (not recorded) televisual or internet broadcasts are helpful.

The Episcopal Conference and individual dioceses will see to it that resources are provided to support family and personal prayer.

**Holy Thursday.** In Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible, the priest(s) of the parish can celebrate the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The faculty to celebrate Mass on this day in a suitable place, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests. The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose is to be omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should instead pray Vespers of the day (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

**Good Friday,** in Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible, the Bishop/Parish Priest will celebrate the Passion of the Lord. In the Universal Prayer, the Bishop will see to it that there is a special intention for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pg. 314 n. 13).

We value cost and care as much as you do



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## Easter Sunday

**The Easter Vigil:** Is to be celebrated only in Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible. At "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium" the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is lit, the

procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows. The "Liturgy of the Word" then takes place. For the "Baptismal Liturgy" the "Renewal of Baptismal Promises" alone is necessary (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pg. 371, n. 55). The "Liturgy of the Eucharist" then follows.

Those who have absolutely no possibility of uniting themselves to the Paschal Vigil celebrated in a church should pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Decisions regarding monasteries, seminaries and religious communities shall be made by the Diocesan Bishop.

Expressions of popular piety and processions which enrich the days of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum can be transferred to other suitable days in the year, for example 14 and 15 September, according to the judgement of the Diocesan Bishop.

By mandate of the Supreme Pontiff, for the year 2020 only.

From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 19 March 2020, on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.

Robert Card. SARAH  
Prefect

□ Arthur ROCHE  
Archbishop Secretary

## LITURGYHELP.

### Personal and Family Prayer.

In this time of crisis, we are providing Catholics with access to a range of resources for personal and family prayer. In particular, we hope that Catholics in social isolation can gain a sense of prayerful solidarity with their local faith communities and the whole Body of Christ. Feel free to print resources and give them to your friends, family and community, particularly those who do not have access to the internet.

For help, ideas and updates, follow us:  
[facebook.com/LiturgyHelp](https://facebook.com/LiturgyHelp)

**DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA**  
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**Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45; Eucharistic Prayer 2**

### *Reflection on the Gospel*

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John.

Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief.

The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.



*Reflection by Greg Sunter*

#### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Patrick Hanson, Patricia De Mattia, Ken Moore, Maureen Purcell, Veronica Blair (Marg Holden and Bly Miers Mother), Merle Catlin (Margaret Richard's Mother), Jim Barrett, Anthony Campbell (Alison Howard's Brother), Hilary Doyle, Denis (Mick) O'Sullivan, Robert Carey (Ann Keating's brother) and Joyce Slyney.

#### **PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:**

Maria Macri, Eugene Daley (Margaret Rivas' Friend), Ryder Lopez, Rev. Max Barrett (CSSR) (Jim Barrett's Brother), Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Pam Clyne, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Elise Doyle, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Sophie Hollies, Colleen Nolan, Michelle Anthony and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

#### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:**

Rosemond Coughlan, Cecil Luczak, Harold Gapps, Monica Barron, Mary Dutfield and Marjory Plevy.

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