



St Patrick's Parish

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Lilydale 3140

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St Patrick's Primary School Ph. 9735 4388

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Francis Denton

Email: lilydale@cam.org.au

Pastoral Worker: Mrs Debbie Edwards

Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob

Pastor Emeritus: Fr John Dupuche

St Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Mr. Geoff Klep

Email: principal@spililydale.catholic.edu.au

4th & 5th April 2020

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD **(Year A)**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

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

All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;

let him release him if this is his friend.

Many dogs have surrounded me,

a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet.

I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,

my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren

and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise;

all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel's sons.'

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

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death,

dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high

and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PARISH PRAYER LIST



Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Carlo Primiero

Sick: Joan Keuken, Angela Del Guidice, Lynne Fleming, Jo Payne, Kim J, Cherie, Izaak, Anne-Maree Sullivan, Jim Reid, Peter & Aurelia Di Ciero, Tony Cunningham, Claudette & Gilbert, Florens, Luigi Mazzotti, Kate, Tim Lawson, John Hopper, Cassandra, Mary and John Hamilton, Carmel O'Healy, Michelle, Pat Robb, Robert Taylor, Nancy Leonard, Brian Walsh, Michael Paola, Barbara De Vincentiis, Emma, Wayne, Julian Monteiro, Dolly Maher, Salvacion Santos, Ricky, Giovanna Zammit, Michael Jordan, Anne Moroney, Catherine Fields, Sam Lawson, Trish Macpherson, Geoff, Grace Quinlivan, Bianca, , Mary Ovans, Stephen, Gael Holliday, Rob Meridith, Bill Meyer, Cathie & Jose Grima, Darren McInnes, Rose Roberts, Roman De Angelis, Tedi & Santi

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You

**are present in the Most Holy
Sacrament.**

**I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into
my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my
heart.**

**I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite myself
wholly to You. Never permit me
to be separated from You.**

Amen.

RECONCILIATION

by appointment

ANOIDING OF THE SICK

by appointment

Marriages: Please give at least six month's notice.

Baptism: Please contact parish office for details.

PARISH OFFICE

Wednesday: 9.00am - 3.30pm
Friday: 9.00am - 3.30pm
Office: 9739 5977
Emergencies: 0448 658 418

PASTORAL WORKER

Wednesday 10.00am- 3.00pm
Friday 10.00am - 3.00pm

COMMUNITY CENTRE BOOKINGS

Phone Parish Office on
9739 5977

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If assistance is required please contact the Lilydale Centre on
1800 305 330
Mon-Fri 10.00am - 4.00pm

CARE GROUP

Ann McCann, Debbie Edwards,
Sharon Jacob,
Contact Parish Office 9739 5977

Open Letter to the Parishioners of Lilydale and Healesville from Fr Francis

To my dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How strange and trying are the times in which we live?! In one week, the Church will enter the most sacred time of the year, as we accompany Our Lord through the Holy Triduum, from the darkness of His passion and death, into the dazzling light of His glorious Resurrection. And yet, we know that this will be a Holy Week quite like any other.

For a priest to begin a new parish assignment on the eve of Holy Week would present a real pastoral challenge even in the best of circumstances. To do so in the middle of a global pandemic with a ban on all public liturgies and sacraments looks to me like a Divine April Fool's Day prank. God clearly has a sense of humour, having me start on 1st April! This is definitely not what I envisaged for

my first Easter in a new parish. Could any of us have guessed even three months ago that the doors of every church in the country would be closed for Easter? I think we are all justified in nursing a little anxiety in these current circumstances. Perhaps you feel overwhelmed by change and uncertainty in these times? Perhaps some of you feel that having to take on the burden of a new priest was the very last thing you needed?!

Understandably, parishioners are always concerned when a new priest arrives. What will he be like? What will he change? Does he understand the way we do things here? All these questions are quite natural, because a parish is a spiritual 'home' - and we don't take kindly to interlopers coming in and rearranging the furniture! But every priest who comes into a parish will bring his own personality: his talents, and (alas) his own short-comings. I beg your forgiveness in advance! Change is always unsettling, but it also provides an opportunity for growth. I am quite confident that God, in His inscrutable wisdom, has chosen me for this parish, at this particular time of crisis. He will want to use this situation to help me grow as a pastor of souls. I pray and hope that God will also use this situation to help each of us more perfectly conform ourselves to the Divine Will. Pandemic or no pandemic, God is still God. He can use everything in His providence to school us in the way of Christian discipleship.

These quiet months ahead will give me an opportunity to settle in and survey the land of these vast parishes, and attend to a range of maintenance and planning matters. More importantly, I will endeavour to make contact with as many of you as possible in this interim period, by whatever means possible. I am eager to meet you, to hear your concerns, share your burdens, and if possible offer real practical assistance.

Without the presence of a visible congregation my work as a priest may seem rather limited. In such times one must remember that the Holy Spirit is the principle agent of 'action' in the life of the Church. The working of the Holy Spirit is not constrained by dint of plague, pestilence, war or famine; on the contrary the workings of God's grace continues in the silence of our hearts whenever we come before God, and call upon him from the depths of our souls. The greatest thing the priest can do for the faithful in such times of trial is to intercede in prayer for his people.

With this truth in mind, today, on my first official day in the Parish I made a solemn act of consecration of the two parishes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In doing so I consecrated all of you and your families, and placed you under the maternal protection of the Mother of God according to the following Act:

"O Immaculate, Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven, we join together as a parish family to consecrate ourselves to your Immaculate Heart.

We consecrate to you all that we are, all that we have, all that we love, our bodies, our hearts, our souls.

To you we consecrate our families, our priests, our religious and all who serve in our parish ministries.

We entrust to you the sick and dying,

and the souls of the faithful departed of our entire parish.

We desire that everyone may come to know you more fully and share in the benefits of your intercession of love.

So that our consecration may be truly effective and persevering, and so that it may bear the fruits of a rich interior life, today we renew our consecrations as Christians through the Baptismal promises.

We promise to follow with joy and humility the truths of the Catholic Church, always showing fidelity to the teaching of the Holy Father, our Bishop and the Magisterium. We promise to show you faithful devotion, to listen to the word of God and to read it attentively, to obey God's commandments, to participate in the feast of the Church, to seek the strength of the sacraments, specially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. We pray that we may always be ready to offer our prayers, sacrifices and sufferings to bring about the triumph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our souls and in those is our sisters and brothers, in our parish and the entire world. Amen"

In writing this letter I want to assure you of my daily prayers. Every day I will continue to offer Mass in the church at St Patrick's where I will bring to the altar the intentions of all the parishioners. I further pledge to you a daily holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament for the sanctification of the two parishes. May I ask, of your charity, for you to pray for me too? Pray that I may be a faithful shepherd of the flock entrusted to me, that I may help you come to know, love and serve Christ more perfectly. I look forward eagerly to the opportunity to be able to meet you, once this becomes practically possible. In the meantime, if there is anything that I and the parish team can do to support you please don't hesitate to get in touch. I look forward to meeting each of you!
Yours in Christ,

Fr Francis Denton
Administrator of St Patrick's,
Lilydale and St Brigid's, Healesville
1st April 2020



From Debbie's Desk
I was able to spend a little time in my garden this afternoon, sun shining, birds chirping, weeds growing, it was just beautiful. An unexpected effect of lockdown, leisurely time in my own home. I have discovered a love for dancing with growing things in my 'mature years', sadly waiting until I am old and stiff to discover my new passion... I am sure I could do wonders as a gardener if I was still sprightly and bendable! The potential was always there for me, but I did not spot it earlier. As we approach Holy Week, to our deep confusion, we can't attend Mass, or receive the Sacraments, and we will not be able to physically gather to worship together as a parish family. To 'miss' the Easter ceremonies is a great, great sorrow for many of our parishioners, as it is for millions around the world who love God, no matter their nationality or creed. We love our routine, and this year, we are denied what we have always previously found so fulfilling. We face the reality of entering into Spiritual Communion with our God, rather than participating in the Holy Week ceremonies in our beautiful church. One of our challenges is to seek out the potential that has always been there, 'unspotted', and to let God do his work in us, even if it is not in the way that we would prefer. We are experiencing personal, serious hunger, an unexpected but precious gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank God, literally, that we are grieving being denied our public worship. It means that our communion in the Lord is real, and deep, and that we are experiencing awareness of his constant invitation to love, encouragement to value his gifts as precious. Our souls stretch for him, yearning for closeness that we can feel, hear, taste, see, and even smell, for we are used to using our senses to love God through our beloved liturgy. As very blessed Aussies, this may be the first time ever that we have been forcibly denied the luxury of freedom to worship as we wish. To satisfy our hunger as best we can, we need to look deeply, beyond what we cannot do, to the possibilities opening before us, drawn by the Holy Spirit to love God in ways that are different to the way we have responded to him in the past. Wisdom borne of pain leads us to untapped potential. As we accompany Jesus this Easter, we have the opportunity to do so personally and intimately, in our own time, in our own homes. From our dining rooms, we know the love of Jesus as he hands his apostles the unleavened bread which is now his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, and we open our own hearts

to receive Spiritual Communion from Jesus himself. Jesus drags his impossibly heavy cross through our hallways, slowly staggering onwards, so close that we can see the sweat and blood dripping from his face. As we sit on our own couches, or lie on our beds, we stand at the foot of his cross, entering into his suffering, seeing the tears of Our Blessed Mother, standing firm with St John, who remains faithful to his friend when others flee, and hearing the sobs of Mary Magdalene, inconsolable in her grief. In the powerful moments of Holy Week, we do not look away, faithfully remaining with Jesus in his Passion. Jesus did not back away from the truth, and neither do we. Our personal prayer may be centred in our homes and in our hearts this year, but our prayers still join with those of millions around our planet. As one people of God, we share heartfelt compassion for our saviour, and together we rejoice in his resurrection, grateful for the gifts God lavishes upon us so freely.

Parish staff are still available by phone to pass on any information you may need, and to care for your family in this time of stress and uncertainty. **Debbie's phone number is 0448 664 731 and Sharon's is 0448 658 418.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO!! As we all go into shutdown mode, social isolation is a real danger. **Please set yourself the goal to ring at least one other person you know each day, to help keep everyone connected.** The sky is the limit when it comes to how many elderly, sick, lonely or vulnerable people you could speak to by phone. Staying in contact with family and friends is Psychological First Aid, and a lot of fun!

THANKSGIVING CONTRIBUTIONS
Your parish still needs your help to survive financially. Please consider placing your donation in the letterbox slot, to the right of the area under the verandah, outside the Parish Office. If you wish to donate via electronic funds transfer (EFT), please ring Sharon on 0448 658 418.

Project compassion boxes can be left at the office on Friday mornings or you can donate directly to Caritas Australia