

St John the Apostle Catholic Community

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.....Forever!



23/03/2020

Dear parishioners of St John the Apostle parish,

The Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn has suspended the celebration of public masses following the Federal Government's decree to close places of worship. This was something that we all knew was inevitable as governments implement ways to keep the population safe and to slow the spread of COVID-19.

I found great comfort in the words of today's readings. The reading from Isaiah (65:17-21) spoke of a new world of joy and gladness. This was not a vision of paradise. It was a vision of the present world renewed.

The people of Israel through exile learned to adapt and to continue living their call as God's people. Though they no longer had the temple or lived in their homeland, they trusted God was always with them, and they lived in hope of returning home.

The gospel from John (4:43-54) was the story of Jesus healing from a distance. Jesus did not have to be physically present to change and restore wholeness to the court official's son. The only requirement was faith.

Like the Israelites, we are being called to live in hope as we settle into life outside of the usual. This is not something we do alone. We are all doing it together and we do so knowing that God is always with us, and that our faith in Jesus can restore wholeness within us when we face adversity.

I am very aware that in times like these, there is a greater need for providing pastoral care and the need for spiritual nourishment. In the coming weeks and months, WE have to be more creative in how we are community and the way we celebrate and share our faith. I used 'we' because it will be our lives and our faith that we will be called to break and to share with each other.

This morning the parish office team met to discuss ways we can continue to nurture and live our faith as community. Before the end of the week, we will send an email with suggestions of how we might do this. We have already received a few suggestions from parishioners. Feel free to share yours with us.

ABN 64 311 064 207 ABN 20 311 706 971

25 Blackham Street, HOLT ACT 2615

Ph. 02 6254 3236

Email. kippax@cg.org.au

www.stjohnkippax.org.au

At this stage, the Archdiocese has informed us that churches can be left open for those who want to use the space for private prayer provided the government directive to maintain social-distancing of four square metres is maintained. Our parish church is open from 8.30am to 5.30pm daily. In keeping with past practice, the interior ambience of the parish church will be presented in a way that reflects the significant Sunday and the changing liturgical season (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, etc). The Archdiocese has not mentioned anything about the celebration of the Triduum. We are currently exploring the possibility of streaming our parish's Sunday mass online. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Be assured of our prayers each day as we ask that you keep us in yours.

In the Heart of Christ!

SJA Parish Office Team (Kippax)

Kimi Vunivesilevu MSC

Michael Nithan Stephan MSC

Marian England

Sharon Greaves