

KIT @ KIPPAX

Staying Connected while Physically Distant

Tuesday 2 June 2020

Kindness is a Virtue

Like many people my age I dabble in family history and in doing so find stories of people who are unrelated but take my interest. Recently I came across Father Thomas Long who died in 1898, still a young man. He was parish priest in Lewisham in Sydney. In these times when there is so little good news about the Church it was such a joy to read the story of an Irish priest who was so important to the people and to the development of the works of the Church in Sydney – a good man!

After reading his story I began to think about my own experience as a child in Canberra at St Patrick's School, Braddon. I realised what I remember from those years is the Sisters of Mercy's practical kindness. They went way beyond teaching in the classroom to caring for children and through those children their families. Two of the Sisters I recall well are Mother Ignatius and Sister Mary Francine. Strangely neither of them taught me in the classroom. It was wonderful to find that McGilvray House, the old convent, is named after Mother Ignatius.

Kindness seems such an under-rated virtue, yet one that has been so important in my experience of the Catholic Church. The kindness of some Catholic nursing sisters who cared for my mother when she was a child influenced her decision to 'convert' to Catholicism when she married my father.

In the midst of this time of crisis in the Church and in the World, we have been called to be kind to others by practical acts and strangely by isolating from them.

Today's Gospel Mark 12: 13-17



While a lot of focus has been on the protection of the elderly, I hope we as a Church and society do not forget our children need kindness at this time.

Elizabeth McDonald

Xavier Munoz

Fr. Kimi anointed Xavier on Thursday and spent some time with him. I visited Xavier in hospital on Saturday night. He wanted me to tell you how much he has loved St John the Apostle parish and how it has been a large part of his life. He is at peace and ready to join his mum in heaven. The Saturday Vigil mass will not be the same with Xavier not there doing the PowerPoint. May Xavier be filled with God's love and courage as he makes his final earthly journey home to God. Please hold Xavier in your prayers.

Marian England

CHURCH GROUNDS AND GARDENS THANK YOU:

On Saturday 30 May the whole grounds crew turned out to mow and trim the grounds and gardens. On behalf of the parish we thank them for their dedication to making the church grounds look presentable. They can always do with more helpers so if you have a couple of hours spare once a month on a Saturday morning and would like to join a crew please telephone the parish office or complete a Time & Talent form.