



LAZARUS – TO RISE FROM THE DEAD

Well what a week it has been for us all! During these times our Church is quite practical. We are not expected, and indeed are excused from attending Sunday Mass. We are not expected to place ourselves in harm's way. We need to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. We also have a responsibility to the broader community, to ensure this virus is contained by restricting our own movements. Today's Gospel reading is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. It's an important reminder for us to have hope.

As you are aware, all Masses and liturgies at St. Pat's have been cancelled. The Church is not open, even for private prayer during the day. We find this strange and difficult – but perhaps it poses a good awakening for each of us to realise, to what extent, I truly am part of something much bigger than myself!!

Times like this makes us realise how important COMMUNITY is to the Christian life. Community and Communal Prayer. As your priest, part of my essential role is to continue saying the Mass, and to offer those Mass intentions for each and every one of you here in the parish of St. Pat's, for our country and for the world. Prayer is so powerful – if only we can tap into it. As your priest, my obligation to you, is to continue to say the Mass daily (albeit alone). That said, even I have found saying daily Mass on my own a bit tough this week – for the community of prayer, especially and most importantly for the Mass, is part of our Catholic DNA!! But we plough on, knowing that God affords us help, protection and strength – praying also that God is able to be with our medical personnel and first responders, the sick and infirmed and marginalised during these times especially.

Whilst we are unable to attend the Eucharistic Communion of the Mass physically together, let us resolve to pray together at this time. **I commend each one of us to try and pray daily, as a Community of Faith, the Our Father and the below Prayer for a Pandemic**, which was forwarded to me. Our Sunday Communion has changed, but we need to see our sense of Community and faith, to be people in the image of Jesus Christ, as remaining strong and unbroken.



PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC (*Cameron Bellm*)

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May those who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
Preserving their health or making the rent.

May we who have the flexibility to look
After our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear and anxiety may grip us
Let us choose love.

At this time when we cannot physically
Wrap our arms around each other,
Let us find ways to be the loving embrace
Of God to our neighbours. Amen

Let us continue to pray for each other, for our world. **Fr. Tom**

PRAYING AT HOME

In staying at home, we are encouraged to continue prayer and reading of the Bible, on Sunday's especially. Good prayer websites include:

- www.pray-as-you-go.org;
- www.thegodminute.org.

There is also the ability to watch daily Mass online, via the website:

<https://www.Northsydneycatholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand>.



Sunday Mass can be viewed on **channel 10 at 6am Sunday mornings**. Family members may like to consider recording this for our seniors to watch in their homes.

PASTORAL HELP

In these times especially, please let the parish know if you, or anyone you know, needs assistance with food, a prepared meal, shopping, or general welfare.

The distribution of the Sacraments (anointing of the Sick/ baptism/ etc), will still be available in emergencies only.

Please call the Parish on 9743 1017 if you require ANY assistance.

EMAIL DETAILS FOR RECEIVING THE PARISH BULLETIN

For the foreseeable future, we will be seeking to keep in touch principally through email distribution of the parish bulletin and the parish website.

If you wish to receive the bulletin by email, please email the parish at parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au – advising that you would like to receive the bulletins.

If you **DO NOT** wish to receive the bulletin by email, please respond to the email you receive, advising via the parish email (parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au), that you wish to be taken off the list.

DISPENSATION FROM ATTENDING MASS

I remind all parishioners, that during this time, the Archbishop has granted **all Catholics a dispensation from the Sunday obligation of attending Mass** (see Catholic Catechism #2180 & #2181. The Catechism specifically provides that the faithful are obliged in our Sunday obligation, unless excused **“for a serious reason (for example illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor”**).

At this time, we as Individuals are asked to consider our own health, both our potential to infect others and our susceptibility to infection. **We should avoid any unnecessary group gatherings as far as possible, and conduct ourselves in strict accordance with the advice of the Government and Health Authorities.**