

Letter to St Patrick's Parishioners

8th April 2020

Letter № 3

Dear Parishioners

As we enter our third week under government and ecclesiastical “lockdown”, we are beginning to see in ourselves, families and others just what we are capable of – in the positive and the negative. There is no need to go into detail here – we know what we are talking about.

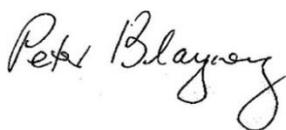
As most of you would know by now, yesterday the High Court of Australia quashed the convictions against Cardinal George Pell. While we certainly condemn abuse of any form perpetrated on children, and the Church must take its fair share of responsibility, we believe justice has been served in the Cardinal's case. If anyone wishes to have a copy of the Cardinal's own statement as well as the High Court's own summary of its decision, let us know and we can forward these to you.

For all of us this will be a Holy Week such as we have never experienced before and (hopefully) we'll never experience again. The celebration of Jesus' path to the Cross and the victory of his Resurrection goes back to the very earliest decades of the Church. We know this is the most significant time for people of Christian faith as we walk with Jesus along that path. We might wonder how we are going to celebrate the Easter ceremonies without being at church. We all have to look at this differently and draw more on our own resources: beginning with our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We began this deep personal commitment to Jesus at our Baptism. That's what we call on now when we cannot come to the church to give full and lively expression to that baptismal faith. We can do this at home with each other just as well. On a practical level, the Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday) will be live streamed from our parish church at 7pm. We will also live stream the Good Friday ceremony at 3pm. I encourage you to pray with us as a family group or on your own. As many parishioners will be “attending” both ceremonies, know that you are part of the parish family of faith all praying together. For various reasons, liturgical and practical, the Easter Vigil will not be live streamed or pre-recorded.

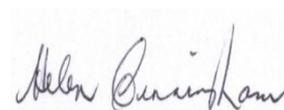
We hope you were able to view and pray along with me last Sunday's Palm Sunday Mass which was uploaded onto the parish website on Saturday afternoon. Our intention is to have a pre-recorded Sunday Mass on the website every week. Check the website regularly for this Mass and a lot of other information. See: <https://guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au>.

For those with the WhatsApp app on your mobile phone, there is a group called “Guildford Catholics” initiated by one of our parishioners. The link is: [https:// chat.whatsapp.com/LxCYnBNeF8X6S5L9WK865K](https://chat.whatsapp.com/LxCYnBNeF8X6S5L9WK865K). Let's keep praying for each other and all those throughout the world suffering under this pandemic.

Yours sincerely



Father Peter Blayney
Parish Priest



Sister Helen Cunningham
Pastoral Associate