

## Letter to St Patrick's Parishioners

28th April 2020

Letter No 6

Dear Parishioners,

It is six weeks since lockdown and other government restrictions have come into force. This, as we know, was due to COVID-19, and was an attempt to halt its course. Here in Australia, at this present time, this seems to be occurring.

It has been a struggle for many people to be hopeful during this time of Pandemic. As Christians, disciples of Jesus, the Holy Spirit empowers us with the gift of Hope. Pope Francis talks of “the contagion of hope”. He also said, ‘The proclamation of hope, new life and victory over death, through the dying and rising of Jesus, should be ‘a different contagion,’ a message transmitted from heart to heart, for every human heart awaits this good news.’ We can be ‘carriers’ of hope and bring light into the lives of others. As St Paul writes in his letter to the Romans 5:4-5 ... *suffering brings patience, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

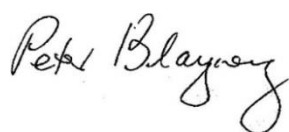
There are many ways we can be ‘carriers’ of hope. It would be good to share how each of us, through others, has been ‘infected’ with hope and, in turn, how we have ‘infected’ others with hope. Sharing our anecdotes/stories would be a way of connecting with and encouragement of one another. If you are willing to share in this way, please send your story to the Parish Office email: [admin@guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au](mailto:admin@guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au). This is a way of witnessing to the life of Jesus in our parish family. We will include the stories in the weekly letters we send you. The contributor will be acknowledged. If you do not wish to be acknowledged, please let us know.

This time of lockdown is very difficult for many people, especially grandparents who miss their grandchildren and for the grandchildren who miss their grandparents. Technology provides connection via internet, yet the human angle is missing. Yes, you are able to see and talk with each other; however, the warmth of touch is missing. It is very difficult to hug someone through a screen! We look forward to the time when families can come together again. This applies to our Parish Family. We miss you; and borrowing from St Paul, we thank God each time we think of you; and when we pray for you, we pray with joy.

As we continue our journey during this difficult time, let us remember that when the world is suffering we need to pay attention to those who live alone, to the poor, the homeless and refugees and asylum seekers in our midst.

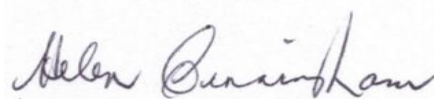
Let us continue to pray for each other and all those throughout the world suffering through this pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



Father Peter Blayney

Parish Priest



Sister Helen Cunningham

Pastoral Associate