

NSW Government Public Health  
(COVID-19 Places of Social Gathering)  
23 March 2020

### All churches must remain closed.

No Masses or public devotions can be held until further notice.

The parish regrets that, because the government requires the church to remain closed at all times, it is not possible to use the church for private prayer.

### *We Stand Together*

Although we can no longer gather in our parish church to pray together, we join with our sisters and brothers around the world as we pray for all those affected by this pandemic.

We pray particularly for those who have died and for their families; for those who are sick and for all health workers, who are risking their own health for the sake of others.

We pray that people everywhere will support each other in a spirit of good will.

Many families and individuals are facing an uncertain economic future. The need to shut down workplaces has left countless thousands without any income and fearful for their future.

Many others, particularly the older members of the community, are feeling isolated and anxious. If you have older family members or neighbours, take the time to make contact with them. Many are not comfortable searching the Internet. While some are able to connect with family by social media, many others rely on the telephone.

We need to be patient with each other and not take out our frustrations on those who are trying to help us in shops, government offices and in call centres.

It is likely that this situation will continue for several months but it will come to an end. I look forward to the day when we can gather again in St Mary's Church and celebrate our Sesquicentenary year.

*Fr Paul Crowley*

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** It is still possible to contribute to Project Compassion. Envelopes and boxes can be left at the Parish Office. You can also donate by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

Follow us on Twitter   
St Marys@ParishConcord

### PRAYER AND REFLECTION SOME RESOURCES

**WEBSITE:** The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney [www.sydneycatholic.org](http://www.sydneycatholic.org) On the Home page banner for the latest Coronavirus Information click on **More Details**. It takes you to a page that has various links including one for Prayer Resources.

**SACRED SCRIPTURE** Set aside a time each day to read the Bible by taking a book, such as one of the Gospels or the Psalms, and working your way through it together. Pause and reflect on the passage. Use Lectio Divina when reading a bible text – this is explained in **Universalis** (see below) and also on the Jamberoo Abbey website.

**THE ROSARY** is a prayer that a family can easily recite together or can be said by those living alone.

**THE MASS** Watch Mass online or on TV. There are a number of links. Search for: **mass on tv australia**.

**APPS and PODCASTS:** For those with access to a smart phone or a computer, the following Apps and Podcasts may help families and individuals to set aside time for prayer.

**The Examen** is a daily reflection that aims to help us to review how God is present in the ordinary moments of life. It is done at the end of the day and is inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. Search iTunes or other platforms for the following podcasts:

**The Examen with Fr James Martin SJ** This 18 minute Podcast offers a guided reflection from the American Jesuits

**We Wonder Lent** is a 12 minute Podcast offering a daily reflection suitable for children. The one limitation is that it is from America and has references to the American seasons.

**Universalis** is an App that will give you the texts of the Mass of the day and the Liturgy of the Hours (Morning and Evening Prayer). It is available for Apple, Android and Windows. There is a small once only cost to buy the App.

**PRAYER:** There are many different Websites and Apps that offer prayer and reflections. Some are Australian others are from other countries:

**Jamberoo Abbey, Benedictine Nuns in NSW** -

<https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/prayer>

**Pray as you Go** - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> (also an App) offers a daily Scripture reading and prayer

**The God Minute** - <https://www.thegodminute.org/> (also an App) invites us to pause for a minute during the day.

**Sacred Space** - <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> (also an App) comes from Ireland and offers a daily reflection and prayer in a range of languages.