

OUR LADY OF THE PINES CHURCH

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PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

MON: 9.00AM TO 5.00PM

FRI: 9.00 AM TO 3.00 PM

YOU CAN STILL CALL US AT ANY TIME ON TEL: 9841 8354

PARISH PRIEST: FR JERALD CECIL MARIADAS



Our Lady of the Pines Parish is a welcoming, inclusive community that aims to live our Christian faith by example in our daily lives.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

16th and 17th of May 2020 – Year A

My Dear Friends,

Being human, we have within us capacities to love, learn, choose, work and so on. But we need the help of parents, teachers and friends to activate and develop these capacities so that we can reach our full human potential. That is why we need the Holy Spirit and why Jesus promised to ask the Father to send Him to us: "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete – to be with you always; to remain with you and be within you."

To Jesus, real love must be expressed not as sentiment or emotion but as real obedience to God. So, we weak human beings need the daily assistance of a Divine Helper in the Person of the Holy Spirit to practice real love.

We need to be open to the Holy Spirit, our Paraclete. The purpose of the indwelling Holy Spirit is to help us grow towards maturity and wholeness. We all have faults that prevent our growth: blocks of sin and imperfection, blocks due to childhood conflicts, blocks due to deeply ingrained personality traits and habits, blocks caused by addictions, and blocks resulting from bad choices we have made. We all have these blocks within us and they keep us from becoming what God wants us to be. They prevent us from growing into maturity and wholeness.

God, the Holy Spirit, helps us to see the truth about ourselves, to discern the blocks that inhibit our growth and to allow Him to transform us. Like the Good counselor He is, the Spirit enables us to become stronger. The Holy Spirit comes to our aid and gives us the strength to make difficult and painful decisions. The Holy Spirit actually lives in us, and we hear the voice of the Spirit, counseling and guiding us in the way of truth and love. Let us open our minds and hearts to hear Him and to obey His promptings.- Fr Jerald

Resumption of Weekday Morning Mass

My Friends, I am sure that you have all heard by now about the lifting of some restrictions by the Victorian Government. Groups of up to 10 are now able to gather, but strict social distancing rules still apply. In view of this, with effect from the 19th of May, our weekday morning mass will resume. Please see the following table. At this stage, weekend masses are still suspended. We encourage you to attend your own parish for morning mass at this time and to limit your attendance to perhaps only once a week for now, for the purposes of allowing as many as possibly to attend.

Day	Mass Centre	Zoom Video Available
Tuesdays	SSPP	Yes
Wednesday	OLOP	Yes
Thursday	SSPP	Yes
Friday	OLOP	Yes
Saturday	SSPP	Yes

In order to attend the mass , we encourage you to register your attendance via our Try booking site. Bookings will open at 10.00am and close at 6.00pm for the following day's Morning Mass. A Try booking invitation will be sent out by our email system. This Try booking site will only allow 10 people to register on any one invitation. If you need assistance with booking for any of the masses , please let the parish office know. As a requirement of having people in the Church for morning mass, our Mass Captain will meet you at the door to take your details. When in the Church , we ask that you remain mindful of social distancing rules. We also ask , that if you are feeling unwell to please keep safe at home and do not attend. These masses will still be available on Zoom as normal.

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from the Bishops of Victoria. Please have a read.

I am looking forward to seeing some of you next week, when our morning masses resume, and the rest of you via Zoom. I wish you all a lovely week ahead. Fr Jerald

Frank Swan

We are so sorry to share the news with you that Frank Swan, a long-standing member of our Church and Stalwart of our community, went home to God on Wednesday the 13th of May suddenly. At this point in time there are no funeral details to share.

Frank was Chairperson of our School Board, for a great many years Chairperson of our Parish Council and for 10 years Chairperson of Catholic Care. His presence will be sorely missed by so many. We pray for all his family at this time. May his soul rest in peace.

Support of our Parish and Parish Priest –

During the COVID19 period where our congregation cannot celebrate Mass, we would ask you to assist in the financial support of Parish and Fr. Jerald by ensuring your pledged support or your regular weekly contribution is received. You are now able to go our website, and on the home page is a link to CDF Pay. You will be able to make your weekly/monthly donation this way. Please however remember to put your envelope no. or full name down so that we can trace your donation .

Contact the Parish Office for further advice on how.

COVID19 (and beyond) Support

A reminder to all parishioners that the St. Vincent de Paul Society (VINNIES) is available to assist parishioners and the community in need. A phone call to 1800 305 330 Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm is all that is required. Confidentiality assured.



Wednesday 13 May 2020

Members of the Catholic community in Victoria,
The Catholic Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Throughout this situation of the Coronavirus pandemic our prayers and solidarity have been with you all, and will continue to guide the challenging decisions we have been called to make.

Despite the many weeks of worry and social restrictions, we are delighted that as of 11.59pm yesterday, Tuesday 12 May 2020, churches in Victoria may now be open in certain circumstances.

This opportunity for small gatherings and for some quiet moments of prayer in the sacramental presence of Our Lord is a gentle first step in the right direction, and rightly a moment of rejoicing for God's people. We are pleased to work constructively with our communities to make appropriate adjustments. Strict restrictions still govern our actions due to the risks of COVID-19 and we are all being asked to show patience and fortitude.

Each Diocese is communicating with their parishes about how various ministries, including sacramental care, will be conducted in this first stage of the easing of social restrictions. We wish to be fully compliant with the directives that apply across Victoria, so that we ensure the protection of elderly and vulnerable people, and work together for the common good of our communities.

The conditions under which a church can be open include a collection of contact details (for the purposes of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary), strict monitoring of numbers, ongoing hygiene requirements, publicising the scheduled times for private worship, and public worship limited to ten people at a time.

Arrangements for liturgies and access to churches while ensuring these conditions are met will vary, depending on the facilities and resources that are available in each particular community. We recognise that deciding on these arrangements and putting them in place is not straightforward, and we ask for patience and understanding during this time.

(Continued overleaf ...)

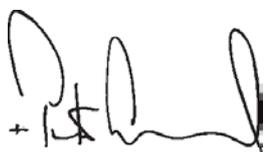
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This new stage of restrictions is subject to changing guidance that we receive from the State Government authorities, and we are advised this will be reviewed at the end of May.

After a difficult time for all of us, including many new pressures on families and great challenges for healthcare and emergency workers, we share in the disappointment that social restrictions are likely to continue for some time.

Nevertheless, we act with one accord in doing what is most prudent and loving for the sake of those most susceptible to the virus. We rejoice that Christ is with us and will walk with us as we begin the long journey out of the current stage of restrictions.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR MA, DD
BISHOP OF BALLARAT



Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



Rev Peter Slater
DELEGATE OF DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR,
SALE

Being physically active during COVID-19



Please note:

- Our temporary revised opening hours of Monday from 9am -5pm and Friday from 9am-3pm
- On all other days the office and Fr Jerald can still be contacted on 0473 873479.

**Prayer to St Joseph –
under whose patronage the Archbishop has placed this time of
crisis.**

St Joseph,

A
PRAYER
to
ST JOSEPH

You were receptive to God working in your life.
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.
You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care:
may your prayers assist our local Church to respond
to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers:
help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity:
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:
may we be mindful of others, particularly the
elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these
difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all
history and every situation: help us to grow in faith
and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE