

My sincere greetings to the people of God in Boonah and beyond,

Thanks so much for the many kind replies and positive messages sent back last week. I really appreciated it and was so pleased as your pastor that it found a welcome place on your Sunday. It was also superb to reconnect with some people from parishes I had previously served in who I had not been in touch with recently.

Again, if you know someone here or beyond who would like to receive our message, please pass this on to them. If they would like to be added to the 'list' please let me know. Thanks!

1. Here are the readings for this Sunday for adults and for children. Thanks to our local Liturgy Brisbane for these:

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

1. During the week at the parish property I found four dead birds: a crow, two maggies, and lovely grey bird. Two had died near the garage, one near the cement seat near the tree on John St and another just this morning (Sat) near the church steps and tree on Church Street. It was quite unreal and distressing for myself. It seems they were poisoned. I have learned another two dead birds were also recently found on our property and kindly folk removed them. Thank you. I will contact Council on Monday but wanted to bring it to our local attention. If you see anything odd like this, please contact me.

2. Watch Mass online – join our Cathedral parish for a live broadcast from St Stephen's Cathedral 12:30pm weekdays, 8am and 10am Sundays at www.archbne.org/bzw. We can also watch an earlier Mass recorded on the same website.

3. Thanks to parishioners and parish friends who have made their weekly financial offering and gift to the parish. Our bills, like yours, keep coming in despite many of us necessarily restricting our activity. The details of the account and bsb is found on the parish website on all of the stored newsletters. For those who may not have given electronically before, you choose TRANSFER from your account to ours. Muchas gracias.

4. Here is a challenging and thoughtful article from Fr Tom O'Loughlin from the UK. Tom was a guest in the Church of Brisbane last year. He is a fine priest scholar and a great bloke. Enjoy:

https://international.la-croix.com/news/celebrating-together-during-the-crisis/12094?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=01-04-2020&utm_campaign=newsletter_crx_lci&PMID=66f9028fa09aa9a55f1465a20160a9ba

5.
[X]

We pray for all across the world who are infected, all who have recovered and those who have treated them, and for those who have died.

We can also pray for all here and across the globe who are responding to this public health reality with open and generous hearts. For those who are less generous at this time, we also pray for them.

6. The Francis Chronicles 2 April:

[X]

and from 31 March:

[X]

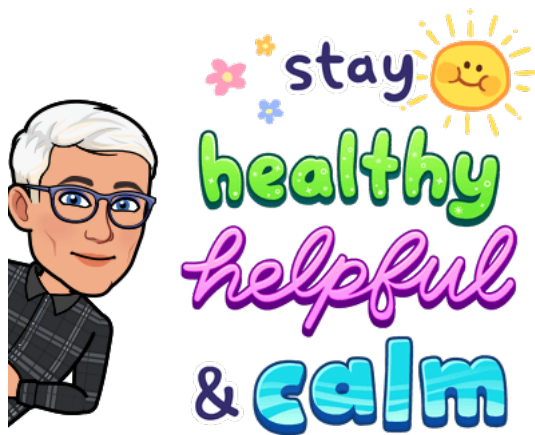
7. Our Parish Pastoral Council executive will meet next Monday via Zoom technology. Please email agenda items to the parish email address. Thanks.

8. Smile!

[X]

9. I wish you all a safe week ahead. Stay in touch with your loved ones, enjoy this time as a 'break away' from the usual pace of life, discern what is necessary now and into the future when we can move around freely, implement all the current laws and rules for the common good of all in the community, work well from home, and look forward to the Three Days of Easter.

10. From the poet Anna McKenzie:



Starting Over

And so we must begin to live again,
We of the damaged bodies
And assaulted minds.
Starting from scratch with the rubble of our lives
And picking up the dust
Of dreams once dreamt.

And we stand there, naked in our vulnerability,
Proud of starting over, fighting back
But full of humility
At the awareness of the task.

We, without a future,
Safe, defined, delivered
Now salute you God.
Knowing that nothing is safe,
Secure, inviolable here.
Except you.
And even that eludes our minds at times.
And we hate you
As we love you,
And our anger is as strong as our pain.
Our grief is deep as oceans,
And our need as great as mountains.

So, as we take our first few steps forward
Into the abyss of the future,
We would pray for
Courage to become what we have
Not been before
And accept it,
And bravery to look deep
Within our souls to find
New ways.

We did not want it easy God,
But we did not contemplate
That it would be quite this hard,
This long, this lonely.

So, if we are to be turned inside out,
And upside down,
With even our pockets shaken,
Just to check what's rattling
And left behind,
We pray that you will keep faith with us,
And we with you.
Hold our hands as we weep,
Giving us strength to continue,
And showing us beacons
Along the way to becoming new.

We are not fighting you God,
Even if it feels like it,
But we need your help and company,
As we struggle on.
Fighting back
And starting over.