



Jesus said 'Come and see'..... John 1:39-41

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH MARAYONG

Parish Vision Statement

We are an active and welcoming Catholic community,
where people of all ages draw closer to God.
His love is expressed through each one of us by prayer,
liturgy and reaching out in service to one another.



FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT

Please visit our Parish Website: www.standrewsmarayong.org.au Year A: Vol.45 No.17

28th / 29th March, 2020

PARISH STAFF:

Monsignor Ron McFarlane
Father Florito [Flor] Apalias
Father Luis Herrera
Maria Hyson
(Sacramental Coordinator)
Michelle Sultana &
Joe Clemson
(Office staff)

PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: 9622 0817

Fax: 9671 7971

40 Breakfast Rd, Marayong 2148

[PO Box 4345]

Email Address:

saapm@bigpond.com

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9.00am to 4.00pm

After hours phone: 9676 7960

PRESBYTERY:

41 Breakfast Rd, Marayong

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

- Saturday: 4.30pm - 5.30pm
in the parish office
- Anytime by arrangement.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sunday
of each month by arrangement

Please book for Baptisms
with the Parish Office.

PIETY STALL:

By asking for an appointment
at the Parish Office.

FR. BYRNE CENTRE:

(Parish Meeting Rooms)
38 Breakfast Rd, Marayong.

PARISH SCHOOLS:

ST. ANDREW'S PRIMARY

www.standrewspsmarayong.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Yvette Baird

Phone: 8869 6700

Address: 36 Breakfast Road
Marayong 2148

ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE

www.standrewscmarayong.catholic.edu.au

College Principal:

Stephen Kennaugh

Phone: 9626 4000

Campus -

JUNIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 7-10)

Address: 116 Quakers Road
Marayong 2148

SENIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 11-12)

Address: 50 Breakfast Road
Marayong 2148

MASS

Live Streaming Daily

Sunday 9:30am

Mon~ Sat 10:00am



<https://bit.ly/SAAPM>



PLEASE FOLLOW [LIKE] OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Moving forward in these uncertain times we are looking at using more social media as a communication channel for parishioners. To receive updates and notifications you will need to follow / like our Facebook page which can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/>

WAYS WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER: For those who are computer literate we are able to share information via our webpage and through the parish bulletin published online. We are also able to share the daily Mass through our Facebook page and through YouTube.

However, there are some people who do not have access to a computer or electronic device and it is important that we do try to support them. It would be of great help if you do know people who fall into this category that you let them know copies of the bulletin and prayer resources for Holy Week are available from the parish office. Taking this one step further, it would be great if you could collect them from the parish office and give them to your neighbours, relatives or friends. I believe this is particularly important for those who are housebound due to age or infirmity.

Msgr Ron

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you have not filled out a Registration Form, please do so as soon as possible and return it to the Church or Parish Office. Forms are available at the back of the Church.

If you are a new parishioner, we ask you to complete a Registration Form, and return it to the Parish Office.

Bulletin Highlights ...

- ♦ BISHOP VINCENT'S PASTORAL LETTERS
- ♦ COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE
- CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR PARISH
- ♦ LIVE STREAMING MASS DAILY
- ♦ PRAYER TO MARY DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

From Monsignor Ron ...

In this weekend's first reading we are presented with the prophet Ezekiel, known as the prophet of Hope whose mission was to give God's message to an exiled people living in Babylon. The vision of the valley of dry bones actually summed up the mission of Ezekiel. He was to inject a new spirit into the downhearted people to help them recover their faith and hope in God. This is something that we need to do at times. We will experience times of questioning, even times of doubt, as well as times where God seems to be so distant from us. It is then that we need to learn from Ezekiel that God never deserts us and in fact lives within each one of us and comes to us through every person in our lives. I would suggest that these difficult times and these times of questioning are really an invitation for us to make a new beginning and start living more as adult Christians.

St Paul stresses the importance of this by reminding us that we all will experience death which is simply part of the human condition. The point he is making is that death is not something to be feared but should be seen as the beginning of a new life. In fact, that is not even totally accurate because we have already been redeemed by Jesus and all we have to do is to cooperate by striving to allow ourselves to be Spirit-Controlled, Christ-Controlled and God-focused.

This idea is further developed in the story of Jesus and Lazarus. As we know, Lazarus had died but in the story, we discover the theme of resurrection. Even though Lazarus would eventually die once again, this miracle is important because it is a teaching on resurrection, resurrection as it applies to each and every one of us. Lazarus is the representative of all those whom Jesus loved and all those for whom Jesus came into the world. Jesus is resurrection for all of humankind. This reading stresses the fact that Jesus is the source of life for us, but more than this, he is the pathway to eternal life. As Jesus said in his lifetime, and this is a

message that applies to all of us: "I am the Light of the world, the Water of Life, the Way, the Truth, and the Life and I am the Resurrection." As we approach Holy Week and Easter, we should ask ourselves:

- What are we doing for eternal life?
- Are we open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- Do we live our life with Christ?

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE PARISH:

While this could be potentially a difficult time for all of us as our country deals with this coronavirus, it could also be potentially very difficult for the parish. Insofar as possible I would ask you to continue to support the parish either by direct debit, credit card or by using the tap and go which is near the front door of the Parish Office. Your support is always much appreciated.



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

"Given that non-essential gatherings of people more than 100 have been directed, as of 19/03/2020, by the Federal Government not to take place and on the advice of the Permanent Committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Bishop Vincent with the Diocesan Curia have on the 20/03/2020 made the following determinations which applied from last weekend and will be reviewed pending further advice from government and public health officials.

Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta are from 20 March 2020 dispense from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice. (Canon 1248 paragraph 2 and Canon 2181)."

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Vincent 23/03/2020

Prime Minister Scott Morrison last night, Sunday 22 March 2020, said that churches, religious gatherings, and places of worship are to close by midday today, 23 March 2020.

These new rules must be adhered to and there are no exceptions to these rules. In an emergency, clergy are encouraged to assess the individual matter and act prudently. Further instructions for clergy will be issued via an Ad Clerum later today.

As the Diocese of Parramatta has previously indicated, fines may be enforced against organisations and parishes that do not enact these new rules.

Public Masses (both indoor and outdoor), baptisms, funerals and weddings must now cease. Also affected are church buildings, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for prayer and religious services.

I understand this new directive will be deeply troubling and upsetting to many Catholics. However, we are in a pandemic and we are actively working with the relevant authorities to ensure the health and safety of our people.

As a reminder, Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta are from 20 March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (Canon 1248 §2 and Catechism 2181.)

Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen: Pastoral letter to the clergy, religious and people of Parramatta during the coronavirus crisis 25/03/2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of us feel powerless in the face of this corona virus pandemic. We see in a devastating way how widely a virus spreads person to person and the immense damage it is doing to our community.

We are indeed living in a time of great crisis locally and globally. So, it is only human that we will experience considerable fear and anxiety.

However, as people of faith in Jesus of Nazareth, we are called to place our trust in our God who promises to be present with us even in these times of great suffering and sickness.

Even in his seeming absence, we still place our hope in the One who loves us tenderly and with great mercy. And so, as responsible citizens and faithful Catholics, in solidarity with our wonderful doctors and health professionals, our first rule must be: "Do no harm."

That means not doing anything that might spread the virus to others with whom we live in community. We need to listen to our medical experts and not to conspiracy theorists who use any crisis to profiteer or stir up hatred and division.

We must also comply with the directives of our government authorities for the sake of the common good. The gospel calls us to practice such solidarity in these difficult days.

As many of you already know I have issued a statement which involves the closure of churches and the curtailment of our regular worship practices until this crisis abates.

Please adhere strictly to these directives that I have given. Further updates can be found here: www.parracatholic.org/covid19 as the situation we are in is so fast changing and complex.

All of us in the Diocese of Parramatta must follow these guidelines without exception, so that we can be like St Joseph: 'Protectors of Life'.

Becoming 'Protectors of Life' will certainly demand of us sacrifices. Let's especially not forget the suffering in our midst: the elderly, the weak, the disabled, the homeless, the unemployed et cetera. Let us not forget vulnerable groups and communities: the indigenous, the asylum seekers in detention, prisoners et cetera. Then there are also those whom the Catholic Church through the traditional Lenten Project Compassion supports.

In previous ages before germs and viruses were understood, people blamed strangers, Jews and 'outsider's' for sickness. Anyone who was different could be the target of people's fear.

So, let us in these days be especially mindful of caring with compassion and charity for any persons in community who are on the 'margins': be they the aged, the chronically ill and all those living in poverty and isolation. Let our love for them be real and concrete.

May we also use these days to deepen our prayer and spiritual lives. Even as we mourn our losses, Pope Francis encourages us, "Let us call upon him today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty." (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 259)

So please visit our diocesan website at: www.parracatholic.org/covid19 for some good and helpful information about how we can follow this path of deeper prayer. It includes online liturgy resources for personal and family prayer and various options for viewing Mass on-line and meditating on the daily scripture readings.

The coronavirus crisis strikes fear and anxiety into people across the globe. It also reveals deep cultural prejudices and divisions against the elderly, the weak and even those of certain race and ethnicity.

Our faith makes us step beyond these human boundaries. It expands our horizons and pushes the limits of our capacity to love.

Through the example of Jesus, we are called to embrace those vulnerable in our society and reach out to them. It is not the time to look after ourselves only but to care for others, through our prayers, acts of kindness and deep communion with them.

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

Given at Parramatta on 25 March 2020 - The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
 O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of all People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
 Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

continued..... **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update**

- PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR PARISH**
- **FUNERALS:** funerals are still available with a small number of attendees (maximum 10 people). For the moment, we will simply have a graveside service or use the crematorium chapel with a small number of mourners (very immediate family) and schedule a Memorial Mass when the current crisis is declared over.
 - **WEDDINGS:** marriages are permitted to take place, but the instruction is that only 5 people can be in attendance
 - **BAPTISM:** it is suggested that baptism of infants and not take place at this time. This can be negotiated with the priest. If we do have a baptism it will be a shortened version with only the parents and child to be baptised present
 - **PENANCE:** we cannot use the Church for the Sacrament of penance; however, we can use the Piazza area or when circumstances allow, like at weekends, the parish offices.
 - **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** this sacrament is still available as needed.
 - **HOLY WEEK:** the ceremonies will not be available with congregation. It is anticipated that all Holy Week Liturgies will be live streamed from the Cathedral with Bishop Vincent.

Sunday	
5th Sunday of Lent	29
Monday	
	30
Tuesday	
	31-Mar
Wednesday	
Fr Dave Hume's Birthday	1-Apr
Thursday	
Commemoration of Saint Francis of Paola, hermit	2-Apr
Friday	
First Friday	3-Apr
Saturday	
Saint Isidore, Bishop, Doctor	4-Apr

LiturgyHelp - Personal and Family Prayer.
 In this time of crisis, we are providing Catholics with access to a range of resources for personal and family prayer. In particular, we hope that Catholics in social isolation can gain a sense of prayerful solidarity with their local faith communities and the whole Body of Christ. Feel free to print resources and give them to your friends, family and community, particularly those who do not have access to the internet.

To access these free resources, go to: liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray (login / register as a new user)

Mass live stream from St Andrew the Apostle Parish:
 You will be able to find this on our parish website: www.standrewsmarayong.org.au
 you simply tap on the Facebook logo or go to YouTube. These Masses will be at 10 AM on weekdays and 9:30 AM on Sunday. You can access them whenever you wish to do so at your convenience.

- Other Live streaming of Masses and Liturgy Resources**
- Mass live stream from Brisbane <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast/>
 - Daily Mass from Cath News live stream <https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews/featured>
 - Daily Mass Readings <https://universalis.com/mass.htm>

During the week prayers have been requested for ... Joe Austin, Anunciacion Cabral, Esme Elefante, Mary Grace Fagela, Josefina Flor, Gloria Fortu Sr, Francisco Gonzales, Vasant Kakodkar, Terez Lazaroff, Mario Mabagos, Librada P. Macabulos, Reolito L Macabulos Sr, Beryl, Dawn Metcalfe, Antonio G. Nalapo Sr, Tomas Nazal Jr, Fausta G. Paule, Francesca Pecora, Jean Samut, Poppy Ruth Simpson, Alina Santo Tomas Smith, Jane Anthony Therese, Joseph Phuc Tran, Peter Vaughn, Victor & Maryanne Vella, Aeldred & Riolen Weber, Stella & Felic Zammit, Collins & Quinn Family, All Souls in Purgatory Please remember in your prayers