



St Michael's Parish Nowra

Incorporates the Church communities of St Michael's - Nowra, St Patrick's - Berry, Sacred Heart - Bomaderry

Mary Help of Christians – Culburra, Holy Spirit - Vincentia & St Joseph's – Kangaroo Valley

Telephone: 4423 1712 Email: office@nowraparish.org.au Web: www.nowraparish.org.au

4th Sunday in Lent (Year A)

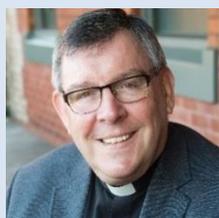
22 March 2020



Each day at his livestreamed morning Mass, Pope Francis has been dedicating each liturgy to people affected by the coronavirus pandemic. **"Let us keep praying together for the ill, their relatives,**

for parents with children at home, but most of all I would ask that you pray for authorities. Government authorities, he said, "must make decisions and many times they have to decide on measures that the people do not like. But it is for our own good."

As we have been expecting, Bishop Brian following much consultation and based on Government regulations and medical recommendations has issued directives that apply to Liturgical celebrations and pastoral ministry within our Diocese. They are very restrictive but necessary in the current environment. With the grace of God and our cooperation there are much brighter days ahead.



Sisters and Brothers in Christ In the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, it is essential that our communities of faith remain calm, ordered and respectful.

By doing this in the face of uncertainty and challenge, we reveal ourselves as bearers of Christ's love in the world. After considering the recent advice from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and direction from the Federal and NSW Governments, the following measures will be in place, effective Saturday 21 March 2020:

- No public Masses will be celebrated in the Diocese of Wollongong.

- All faithful in the diocese will be dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Mass on Sundays. However, parishioners can honour their Sunday obligation by participating in a time of prayer within the home, reading the Scriptures, or watching Mass on television/online (canon 87 §1 canon 1248 §2).

- Mass will continue to be said privately by priests throughout the diocese on behalf of the faithful on a daily basis.

- Churches will, as far as possible, remain open for private prayer.

These decisions have not been made lightly. I understand this news may be upsetting, and I share your sadness. However, it is our responsibility as a pastoral community to put the care of our members—especially the most vulnerable—first. At this stage, the most effective way we can do this is to temporarily suspend public participation at Mass.

Canon Law recognises valid reasons for temporarily setting aside our Sunday obligation and we are following the example of dioceses in Australia and around the world, including the Diocese of Rome. It is important to remember at all times that proper care for oneself and for others reflects the love of God and love for our neighbour. Please continue to pray for those impacted directly by COVID-19 and for the swift development of effective vaccination and medication. The information on the following pages details the latest parish directives from the Diocese of Wollongong regarding COVID-19 and our role in preventing its spread in our communities. We will always act in accordance with the guidelines of health authorities and update our advice as necessary. The parish directives should be considered in conjunction with current government advice regarding indoor public gathering limits of 100 people, as well as hygiene and appropriate social distancing practices recommended to minimise virus transmission, including COVID-19.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK The Sacrament for the Anointing of the Sick will continue. However, for the

protection of our most vulnerable parishioners, clergy have been given revised instruction on how to proceed. Clergy should only visit the sick or infirm with COVID-19 in a hospital or aged care facility if requested by the patient, family or hospital personnel. Clergy are requested to contact hospital personnel to confirm that the appropriate precautions are met prior to administering the sacraments.

OTHER MINISTRIES TO BE SUSPENDED

Communion to the sick and housebound by extraordinary ministers of holy Communion should follow current guidelines set down by NSW Department of Health. Extraordinary ministers of holy Communion must refrain from visiting the sick and housebound who have been diagnosed or suspected of having COVID-19, or if the minister themselves have underlying health issues that may endanger their own wellbeing. All parish meetings are to be suspended at this time.

PASTORAL STATEMENT BY BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD Updated parish directives as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19)

CANCELLATION OF PARISH EVENTS

- **The relics of Carmelite St Therese of Lisieux and Ss Louis and Zelig Martin.**
- **Confirmation Preparation Wed March 25th**
- **Mass with a Difference – Sunday 29th March**
- **Youth Group – Sunday 29th March**



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: **Tin (Tina) Lukoschek, and Graeme Nelson (K. Valley).** Also **John O Shaughnessy & Anne Doolan** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in peace.



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Parish Staff

Fr Patrick Faherty: Parish Priest – 4423 1712

Fr Leo Mifsud: Assistant Priest Nowra – 4423 1712

Fr Tiziano Torresan: Vincentia: 4441 5571

Fr Ronan Kilgannon: Kangaroo Valley

Deacon Peter Presdee: Chaplain to Corrective

Services

Sisters Beverley Caffery and Sue Barker SGS

Mrs Frances Fairs: Catechist Coordinator 44231712

Mrs Michelle Marshall: Parish Secretary (Fri)

Mrs Melissa Mazzo: Parish Secretary (Mon-Thurs)

Parish Office: 4423 1712

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