



St Michaels Community Groups

Newsletter - keeping our parish community connected

2nd/3rd May

Greetings from the parish centre. This is now the fifth newsletter we have sent you since our churches had to close their doors.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE PARISH?

Masses are being offered each day by our priests for your intentions. They would welcome your requests for special intentions for people you know need prayers.

Zoom meetings are in fashion now with Nowra Community group. Our IT skills are being greatly enhanced. Some other local community groups report they are ringing around to ensure bulletins are being received by parishioners.

We even hear one of the local Men's Shed groups is meeting regularly via Zoom. Being in our 80s' need not inhibit us!

Is St Vincent de Paul ministry still functioning?

Yes indeed! Although all stores in the parish have had to close for the time being, in line with Govt. restrictions re social distancing, members of our local conferences are still taking requests by phone and responding to needs for assistance. Contact Number: 4421 0390

Parishioners who are more isolated at home, who normally receive a visit and Holy Communion, are being phoned regularly so they know they are not forgotten.

Our residents in aged Care facilities are specially isolated by having limited or no visits from family. They need the support of our prayers. A card in the mail to someone you know could be a gift to them.

The staff of these centres, some of whom are parishioners, are working under greater pressure than normal. How might we express our support and prayers for them?

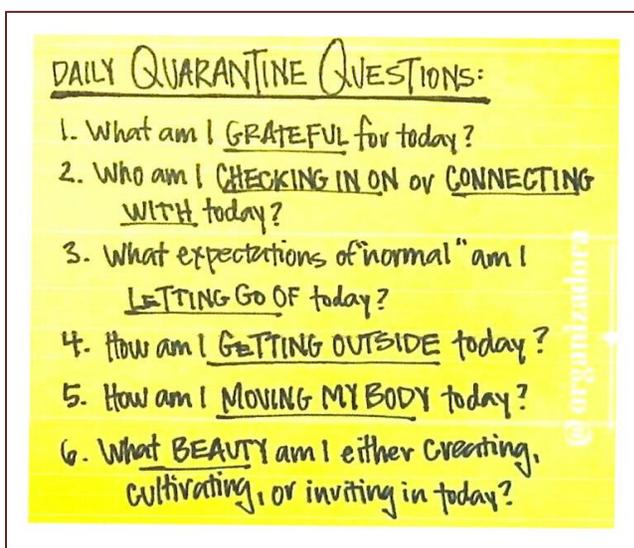
The teaching staff of our schools are doing a mammoth task of adapting their programmes and methodologies to on-line learning. There is much activity on our primary school campus again this week, as a significant proportion of students are opting for school attendance. They also need our encouragement, our support and our prayers.

Faith Circles: we wonder is anyone availing themselves of this Diocesan resource? It lends itself well to private reflection on the Sunday Gospel and also to two or three people connecting by phone or other social media for some simple faith-sharing.

If you can't access this from the Diocesan website and would like a printed copy, please let us know and we will provide for you.

Maybe this is a good time to stop and review how we are coping with this time of isolation?

- What practices are making this a positive time for myself and others. e.g. One parishioner reports:
"I have tried to make at least one phone call a day to someone beyond my family and friends. I try to think of someone who is more alone or isolated than I am."
- What are some of the blessings I have discovered in this time?
- What am I learning about myself and others?
Maybe you have a good news story to share with us in a few sentences.
- *We would love to hear from some parents about what you have been learning by supervising your child's on-line learning at home!*



Our intention in writing this newsletter is to keep us connected and engaged with one another. Some parishes around the country are not even receiving a parish bulletin during this shut-down time. We hope these services are helping to keep you connected and supporting your prayer at home.

A message from our SRE Co-Ordinator Frances Fairs

The Catholic Parish of St Michael's Nowra sends its best wishes to the children & families who participate in SRE in our local public schools.

Simple to follow, **work from home Catholic SRE lessons** are available online at the following link: www.ccdwollongong.com

For up to date parish information and fun activities and videos for the whole family, please follow our Facebook page: [@nowraparish](https://www.facebook.com/nowraparish)

Not online? Let us provide you with printed parish bulletins, newsletters and children's activity sheets. Ph: 44231712.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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