

# Caloundra Catholic Parish

We are living in uncertain and uncharted times. We don't know the obstacles or unexpected turns of the journey that lies before us, but, as people of faith, we simply put our hand into the hand of God, and with courage and confidence, move forward. Perhaps this prayer might be our mantra:

## *Prayer for a Pandemic*

*May we who are merely inconvenienced  
Remember those whose lives are at stake*

*May we who have no risk factors*

*Remember those who have no risk factors*

*Remember those most vulnerable*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home*

*Remember those who must choose*

*between their health and making the rent*

*May we have flexibility to care for our children  
if the schools close*

*May we remember those who have no options*

*May we who have to cancel our trips*

*remember those who have no place to go*

*May we who are losing our investments*

*in the turmoil of the economic market*

*remember those who have no margin at all*

*May we who settle in for quarantine at home*

*remember those who have no home*

*As fear grips our country*

*May we be examples of faith and hope.*

*During this time when we cannot physically*

*Wrap our arms around each other,*

*Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our Neighbor.*

*Amen*



**1** Staying connected as a Parish Family will be so important during the days and weeks ahead. It may be hard to imagine what challenges we might face but if you have to self-isolate or find yourself stranded in your home and can't get to a supermarket, call **0408416136** and we will endeavour to bring a food parcel to your front door.

**2** The rhythm and routine of our lives over the days and weeks ahead will be seriously disrupted. We will not be able to gather as a community to celebrate the sacraments, especially our Sunday Eucharist. Importantly, we don't want to become so isolated that we are unaware of the journey of our community. This does not mean that our community ceases to exist or that everything is put on hold until we emerge from this pandemic! You are invited to **join us every morning at 9am for mass via the internet**. Simply go to our parish web page, [www.caloundracatholicparish.net](http://www.caloundracatholicparish.net) click on the link, and be part of the prayer of the Church.

**3** Together, through God's grace, we will emerge on the other side of this pandemic. Until then, let's also keep in contact via our parish web page or head across to our new **Parish Facebook** page (Caloundra Catholic Parish) and like us there.  You will see daily updates.

Finally, in case of an emergency your priests can be contacted via the emergency phone number **0408416136**.

Our Lady of the Rosary will be open daily for private prayer & reflection.

*Fr Peter Brannelly*



19 March 2020  
Solemnity of St Joseph

## TO THE PASTORS AND PEOPLE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

These are anxious times as we enter new and uncharted territory. The spread of the coronavirus is alarming for a generation that has known nothing like it, and it shows how fragile we are. How long it will last we do not know, but almost certainly we are in for the long haul. For all of us, this is a challenge at many levels.

In the Archdiocese there is a daily meeting to address the most recent advice from the Government and the health authorities and to consider its implications for the Catholic community. As a result, we have already taken some decisions to curb the spread of the virus. Now in the light of the latest advice from the Government and Catholic Health Australia, the Archdiocese has come to further decisions. Therefore, the provisions below will now apply and more are sure to follow:

- The celebration of Mass on Sundays (including the Saturday vigil) is suspended with immediate effect and until further notice, and all the faithful are dispensed from the Sunday obligation.
- Priests will continue to celebrate Mass (the *Mass for the people*) on Sundays without a congregation, with people able to follow Masses live-streamed from the Cathedral at [archbne.org/bzw](http://archbne.org/bzw) on Sundays and weekdays or via the Caloundra Catholic Parish webpage.
- As far as possible, churches should remain open to allow private prayer; the Blessed Sacrament might be exposed in the monstrance for this purpose (as long as fewer than 100 are attending and with the usual provisions for reverence and security of the Sacrament).
- Communion to the sick should be taken by priests alone and in general be restricted to Viaticum to the dying, with the current restrictions and precautions to be observed.
- Baptisms, weddings and funerals may be celebrated, but restricted if necessary to immediate family; baptisms and weddings can always be postponed.
- Preparation for and celebration of First Penance, Confirmation and First Communion should be postponed until the pandemic is over.

It is essential in a time such as this to strengthen and deepen our spiritual life, precisely so that we do not “lose sight of Jesus” (Hebrews 12:2). The Archdiocese will do everything possible to assist you with this; and there is an abundance of online resources – including Mass at home – to nourish your faith through this time. As Pope Francis has said, pastors will have to show creativity in ministering to their people; and there are many examples of this around the world, with technology making it less difficult than in the past.

To conclude I offer two prayers which you may wish to pray through this time. The first is one I have written: its words are simple but they may help to guide you in your prayer. May the God to whom we turn in this moment listen to the pleading of our heart and answer as he has so often before, so that love may come from fear, hope from despair and joy from sorrow:

Almighty and all-merciful God,  
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,  
in whom there is no shadow of death,  
save us in this time of crisis;  
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;  
watch over all medical people  
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;  
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;  
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.  
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,  
that hope may never die  
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,  
may shine upon us and the whole world.  
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.  
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

With the blessing of peace,  
*Bishop Mark Coleridge*  
Archbishop of Brisbane