

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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4 Winifred Street

ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

17th April 2020

PARISH UPDATE 4

Easter greetings to everyone!

Yes, it's not over! Our Church has now entered the Easter 'Season' during which we continue to explore the basic proclamation of faith – that Jesus has been raised into New Life. So greetings for continuing 'Easter-ing'!

So many compliments have come in about the quality of the streaming from our Parish churches of the great ceremonies of Holy Thursday-Good Friday- Easter. The way our Parishioners presented their ministries during those ceremonies, and the high-quality production that Parishioner, Brian, sent out was exceptional: thank you so much. We continue to **live-stream Sunday Mass** from our churches, commencing at 5pm each Saturday and available after that. (See an attachment for details, and for other opportunities.)

And Easter Monday – what magnificent weather that gave us. I was out on my bike, and the sadness of the virus situation was there as I rode past playgrounds and parks: empty!

The Gospel reading for the coming Sunday of the Easter Season features Thomas. I think he has been done a great disservice by the tag 'doubting' Thomas. One of the distinguishing features of us human beings is that we have a thirst to know more. Thomas is curious – "what's all this about Jesus being raised to new life?" When during his ministry Jesus had said "I'm going now - you know the way", it was Thomas who responded "We don't know where you're going, so how can we know the way?", eliciting further teaching from Jesus. When Jesus said he was going to Bethany after the death of Lazarus the other disciples discouraged him: Thomas said "Let's go with him!" Thomas is a great model of faith for us, I think: committing himself to the way of Jesus, wanting to know more of the presence of New Life Jesus in and for his own life. He's a great 'Easter-ing' patron.

The 'coming to know and experience more' of our young people is formally underway again with our **Schools and Colleges** entering Term 2. I have so much admiration for our Principals and staffs for the ways they have applied themselves to this way of teaching-learning. And to parents, too! I have spoken with our Principals during the week – they are so committed to continuing to provide great opportunities for our young people.

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Quite a number of Parishioners have rung the Parish Office enquiring how to keep up their **Thanksgiving** contribution by envelope. Thank you: bills keep coming in! You can put envelopes in the letterbox at Sacred Heart (it's secure), or keep them aside until we gather again, or in the new way established this week:

Our banker, Catholic Development Fund, and the Archdiocese have established a way for you to pay directly into our Parish Account – the details are in an attachment to this letter. You need to have a computer to access our Parish website: <http://pol.org.au/stalbanssydenham> .

Our Credit/Debit card contributors continue their support. We have been able to assist some who need to reduce their outgoings by suspending their contributions.

Keep an eye on our **website**, too <http://pol.org.au/stalbanssydenham>. Our **weekly newssheet** is there, and the regular reference to the Readings of the Mass, the Reflection, and the names of the deceased whom we hold in that weekend's Mass.

There is a **reflection** on two gifts of Easter, hope and holiness, in another attachment to this Update - that may be helpful for continuing 'Easter-ing' - take some time over it.

Best wishes to all! We're keeping one another in prayer!

Maurie Cooney
Parish Priest