

# SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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## PARISH UPDATE 59

Hello everyone!

Into May, when the weather will turn towards winter! And in its early weeks celebrating Mothers' Day. Our families take their own unique shapes, they have their own various experiences of joy, hope togetherness, pain, failure, fear. Amongst all that, days like Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day remind us to find hopefulness and thankfulness, and to share those blessings. It's important to take the opportunity to look around our family and be thankful for those who love us, guide us, model for us, shape us, encourage us in our hopes, put so much into becoming 'the best me'.

Amongst some prayers and reflections, I noticed these:

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*I said a Mother's Day prayer for you  
to thank the Lord above  
for blessing me with a lifetime  
of your tender-hearted love.  
I thanked God for the caring  
you've shown me through the years,  
for the closeness we've enjoyed  
in time of laughter and of tears.  
And so, I thank you from the heart  
for all you've done for me  
and I bless the Lord for giving me  
the best mother there could be!*

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*There is but one and only one,  
Whose love will fail you never.  
One who lives from sun to sun,  
With constant fond endeavour.*

*There is but one and only one  
On earth there is no other.  
In heaven a noble work was done  
When God gave us a Mother.*

Forty-four of our young Parishioners are telling us that the Holy Spirit has come to us to reassure us of God's continuing love for us, and to strengthen us with that for life. They celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation during the week, or had the Confirmation they shared at the time of their Baptism blessed and renewed. This Holy Spirit is for our lives day by day.

A reflection in today's Prayer of the Church says:

"The difference between Christians and the rest of humankind is not a matter of nationality, or language, or customs. Christians do not live apart in separate cities of their own, speak any special dialect, nor practise any eccentric way of life. ... They pass their lives in whatever township each one's lot has determined, and conform to ordinary local usage in their clothing, diet, and other habits.

Nevertheless they exhibit some features that are remarkable, and even surprising."

*(Letter to Diognetus, mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century)*

Yes, it's here and now in our present circumstances that we 'live life': the Holy Spirit blesses us to do that in the Way of Jesus Christ!

Our 'Child Safeguarding Officer', Mary Farrugia has commenced in the Parish Office – six hours on Fridays. An early task for Mary is to ensure that everyone involved in Ministry in our Parish has the required Working With Children Check, and for those in some specified categories the required Police Check.

Mary is trawling through our records, and will be contacting Parishioners to ask for copies of these documents for our files, and to offer assistance in acquiring them if needed.

Then we can start to compile rosters again for our Ministry areas. This is not so straightforward given that we still are limited to 190 in our churches, and that the Aged Care facilities are being properly careful about admitting visitors to their places.

However the project is underway!

The new set of Thanksgiving Envelopes come into use this weekend. I renew my thanks and that of the Parish to all who are continuing to support our financial situation. As you would know from your homes, expenses can show up unexpectedly. An example of that is for the Parish Office/House/Presbytery. Several doors along the east side of the building are jamming, and cracks are showing in the walls and ceilings. The problem seems to be that we need to re-stump a large part of the building. We have called for several quotes and have called in the Archdiocese's Building Advisory Service. This will be a major cost item!

Best wishes to all! As we continue in Easter season, don't let that renewal slip away – blessings for continuing 'Easter-ing'!

Maurie Cooney  
(Parish Priest)