

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

ABN 56 751 544 850

Telephone: 9366 2146 Fax: 9366 9876

Email: stalbens@cam.org.au

Website <http://pol.org.au/stalbanssydenham>

4 Winifred Street

ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

6th November 2020

PARISH UPDATE 33

Greetings all!

The TV has been filled with the 'waiting game' over the elections in the United States. We continue to have our own 'waiting' – eagerly hoping for much greater easing of lockdown restrictions when the Premier makes the next announcements on Sunday.

In the meanwhile, we are keeping the current arrangements in place for Masses in our Parish. Changes to this will be announced in next week's Parish Letter and on the Parish website.

It looks promising: the daily figures, the larger numbers out-and-about over those summery days earlier in the week. When we take a world view, it continues to be very concerning as numbers increase across the world. Our Parishioners with families and friends in other countries must be wearing that anxiety heavily. We continue to pray for all who are suffering across the world; and for those who are researching for the vaccine; and for those who are taking decisions to guide us through this.

The schedule we are offering in our Parish this coming week is:

- **November 7 (Saturday)** Live streaming of Sunday Mass from Sacred Heart Church at 5 pm. 10 people allowed. By invitation only to families of musicians, lectors rostered for that Mass. No other Masses this weekend.

Our 'Re-opening Team' has met during the week, and we have several scenarios planned so that we can respond quickly to any new restrictions that will be announced.

We will continue to stream Sunday Mass from 5pm onwards each Saturday: on Facebook and YouTube – SHEPARISH .

- Following the Premier's announcements this Sunday and guidelines from the Archdiocese, I will send an email to everyone on this mailing list to tell you of the new arrangements we will be putting in place.

In the lead up to November and our customary remembering those who have died, last week's letter reminded us that the Resurrection of Jesus is our reference point when we reflect on death: "Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free!" Every time Eucharist is celebrated we call out this anthem of hope. Jesus is the model for our lives here, and is also the model for our passing from life here into New Life through our death.

In the gospel stories of Jesus' encountering his disciples after he has been raised into this New Life, almost always he greets them with "Peace be with you". We include that greeting for one another in our celebration of Eucharist, just before we step forward to be given the presence and action of this 'New Life' Christ again for our lives. These two –

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

ABN 56 751 544 850

Telephone: 9366 2146 Fax: 9366 9876

Email: stalbens@cam.org.au

4 Winifred Street

ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

committing ourselves to peace in that greeting and receiving presence and action of Christ - declare who we are: disciples of Christ, renewed in His life, being peaceful and making peace happen – for we are people of Resurrection faith.

In this coming week, Wednesday 11th November, we have Remembrance Day. It began in 1918, commemorating the end of the First World War – ‘the war to end all wars’ as it was named. Such killing, such suffering, such brutality. Which have continued to take on new faces and shapes ever since, enhanced by ‘technology’ and new terrible capabilities for mass slaughter and terrible suffering.

Coincidentally during this week, our Church’s official Daily Prayer has included in its ‘Office of Readings’ selections from that teaching document, *Church in the Modern World*, in which ‘peace’ is the issue. An attachment with this letter includes some of those words; another attachment contains some prayers from ‘Mass for the preservation of peace and justice’.

The coming week is known as NAIDOC Week - National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. This week of commemoration, awareness and education usually occurs in July – postponed like so many other events this year because of the risks with the Virus. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The NAIDOC 2020 theme is ‘Always Was, Always Will Be’. It recognises and celebrates that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the ancient history of this country – a history which dates back thousands of generations.

A great holiday I had was driving to Mildura, then out from there into NSW to Mungo National Park – where the earthly remains were discovered of ‘Mungo Man’ and ‘Mungo Woman’ who had lived there 40,000 years ago. It was a very moving experience. NAIDOC week intends to celebrate First Peoples’ 65,000 plus year culture and connection to this country; Reconciliation Week aims to heal the damage created in the last 250 years. Go to www.naidoc.org.au for information.

You would have noticed over the months of these Parish Letters that I find the articles in the Far East magazine helpful, and quite a number of Parishioners have indicated that, too. This year is the 100th anniversary of that magazine, published each month by the Columban Missionaries, based in Essendon. Fr Tom Cleary from there has been a great friend to our Parish over the years. An attachment comments on the longevity of the magazine.

Our young people in Year 12 and in university are closing in on their final exams: let’s hold them in our prayer - *Bless them with calmness of spirit, hopefulness of heart, and thankfulness for those who have guided them this far: LORD HEAR US.*

Blessings to all, waiting in hope!

Maurie Cooney
Parish Priest