

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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PARISH UPDATE 54

Greetings everyone!

We're being jolted into sharp awareness again, aren't we, with news of COVID cases in Queensland and NSW. As we move into the central feasts of our year – Holy Thursday-Good Friday-Easter – I grimly remember our experience of Holy Week 2020: the only people allowed in our churches were the 'celebrant team and the technician', a total of five. With numbers still limited this year – 170 in our churches – it is still a grim experience, isn't it!

Our people want to gather in Holy Week-Easter prayer, thanksgiving, and worship. Once the essential bookings were opened, all availability in our churches was booked out. The Ceremonies will be streamed - go to 'sheparish' on YouTube and Facebook: Holy Thursday at 7pm onwards, Good Friday at 3pm onwards, Easter Vigil (Saturday night) at 7pm onwards.

An opportunity that still exists for gathering over these days is our procession of **Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning, at 11am, on 'the oval' beside Sacred Heart church (St Albans).**

To allow this: ***bookings are essential***; you will be 'signed in' as you arrive; there will be sanitisers in many places, and 'marshals' with reminders to maintain the appropriate social distancing.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Bookings are essential:

go online to <https://www.trybooking.com/BMKXC>

OR

go online to <https://www.trybooking.com/BMLBL>

With this letter is a selection of prayers that may be helpful for your prayer over these days – see attachment.

There is also an attachment of a different sort – part of a letter from the Vicar General of the Archdiocese that was sent to Priests during the week. As well as wishing us well for Easter – people and Priests – he alerts us to significant changes in the structure of the Archdiocese that are being considered. It makes rather 'arresting' reading.

Wherever you are over the next few days – at home, away, in your personal prayer, in a church - may you feel the blessings of God.

May Holy Week-Easter celebrations renew us all in our journey of shared faith!

Maurie Cooney
Parish Priest