

# SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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## PARISH UPDATE 56

Hello everyone!

Have things been quieter in your life this week? That's the way it has been around the Parish, I've found. Yes, our Schools and Colleges are on break. And people who aren't directly connected with schools say 'It's school holidays!', and seem to go at a slower pace. Quite a number of our Parishioners have taken the opportunity to go away, even interstate!

There has been some activity, however. A few of us gathered and 'reviewed' our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter ceremonies. That may sound a little 'mechanical'. Our discussions were more about – 'what did we learn about the way we do things that we'll note for next year?' For there will be another Lent-Holy Week-Easter in 2022 - whatever shape that takes. This year's ceremonies were affected by the restricted numbers permitted to be in our churches; last year's were in empty churches apart from the five required 'for the conduct of the ceremony'. What will the rest of 2021 and 2022 give to us? An attachment with this letter starts with a somewhat sombre reflection on the experience of Holy Saturday (between Good Friday and Easter), coming to a strident proclamation of the significance of hope in our lives: different from fantasising about possibilities, rather keeping on when keeping on seems daunting!

Another activity in the Parish Office during this week was the preparation of the next round of Thanksgiving Envelopes which commence on the weekend of 15-16 May. They will be mailed next week. Envelope contributors and those who support this aspect of Parish life through Direct Debit, Credit Card, CDFPay are gratefully acknowledged! Our regular expenses for the first three months of this year were \$79,000. We met them all – well done, and thank you! Our Parish Finance Committee meets later in the month, to keep an eye on our progress.

Those in Sacred Heart church for last Saturday's 5pm Mass spontaneously gave hearty applause to our 'streaming technician', Brian, who has given us 55 weeks of that great service. We are not able to continue in that same way. A worthy alternative, I think, is that the Diocese of Wollongong (New South Wales) has taken on the production of the former Channel 10 'Mass for you at home'. The quality is much better than many of the other services that are available – almost as good Brian has given us! Access it at [www.massforyou.com.au](http://www.massforyou.com.au). The Mass is celebrated in St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Wollongong. It also shows at 6am Sundays on Channel Ten and is repeated multiple times a day on Foxtel's Aurora channel.

Fr Tom Cleary was a great presence amongst us for the Holy Week-Easter ceremonies at Emmaus, and again with us last weekend – thank you. He returns during this coming week, with Fr Peter Hudson, to assist with the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with young Parishioners of Sacred Heart School – this is another 'catch up' from COVID's cancellation of the 2020 programme. Give a place this week in your prayer to these young people and their families as they move further into the life of our Church, coming to know the great love of God for them, and indeed for us all.

Peter Hudson and I resume our 'alternating pattern' for weekend Masses this week.

Yes, the Schools and Colleges re-gather next week. 'Stay on top of it', won't you!  
Blessings for continuing Easter-ing!

Maurie Cooney  
(Parish Priest)