

# SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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## PARISH UPDATE 66

Hello everyone!

'One step at a time', eh? That's the impact of this week's further easing of COVID restrictions. For our Parish activity, we are now permitted to have 100 in our churches. (That's fewer than the overall maximum that was announced – because of the '4 square metre per person' rule and how that applies to the size of our churches.) See an attachment for the ways to book in for Masses (essential!) and to access Mass on TV and online.

For families and others, this easing of restrictions will give a lot of freedom of movement over the next two weeks: I hope you're able to have some enjoyable visits and entertainment to make the most of the extra choices that are becoming available.

The long reach of COVID-19 and the restrictions it has brought have impacted on the Plenary Council for the Catholic Church in Australia, announced several years ago now. You may remember that we wrote in suggestions for the Council to consider – about 1,400 Parishioners took that opportunity. We responded to the question 'what do you think God is asking of the Church in Australia at this time?'

The process of the Council was postponed, re-scheduled and then halted because of various lockdowns across the country – it is intended to be a forum for the whole of Australia. Behind the scenes the agenda for the Plenary Council has been prepared for when it is permitted – because of numbers – to gather. An attachment with this letter lays out that agenda. It is not the usual item-by-item list of matters: rather it is sixteen questions arranged under six headings: Conversion, Prayer, Formation, Structures, Governance, Institutions. The Council will employ the process of 'discernment', responding to the tens of thousands of responses of Parishioners and others. Some of this discernment has happened in identifying in the responses the headings and questions that make up the agenda.

Locally, this is the time of the year when the St Vincent de Paul Society asks for our support for their 'Winter Appeal'. We've had some chilly mornings this week: think of those who have 'slept rough' during it! Given that not many of us are allowed to gather and contribute directly to the Appeal, the Parish will make a donation to the Vinnies from your Thanksgiving contributions: we usually respond quite generously.

In this weekend's Readings the compassion of God, shown so often in Jesus' actions, reaches out to people who have been brought low, 'that they may have life'. An article in another attachment is from the Far East magazine and translates that into 'kindness', bidding us to reach to relate with others with that feeling of God's for all creation: "to be kind to the people we work with and all others in our world is to be missionary".

The two weeks of school holidays starting this weekend usually give many of us a chance for some 'easy time'. Take that opportunity when it comes your way!

Blessings. Keep safe and warm and well and hopeful! Make the most of this next easing of the restrictions.

Maurie Cooney  
(Parish Priest)

**Sacred Heart and Emmaus churches are  
open to a restricted number of only 100  
participants  
in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions.  
- BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL -**

Bookings for all Masses at Sacred Heart are made through Trybooking for a first-come-first-serve basis:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BMKXC>

Bookings for Masses at Emmaus are made through Trybooking for a first-come-first-serve basis:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BMLBL>

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**MASS is available through  
STREAMING and TV**

**Other Options/Alternatives to view Mass**

*Mass for You at Home, (MFYAH)*, is celebrated in St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Wollongong. It shows at 6.00am Sundays on Channel Ten and is repeated multiple times a day on Foxtel's Aurora channel.

This Sunday Mass is also available on demand on Channel Ten's platform [www.tenplay.com.au/mfyah](http://www.tenplay.com.au/mfyah).

This Mass is also available on Wollongong's YouTube channel which can be accessed on [www.massforyou.com.au](http://www.massforyou.com.au) as well as the Diocesan website, [www.dow.org.au](http://www.dow.org.au). There are also links to it on their Diocesan Facebook page and the MFYA Facebook page.

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Channel 31 (usually found at '44' on digital TV's):  
Mass at 11.00am Sundays from St Patrick's Cathedral or **online at:**

**<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>** at 11.00am on  
Sundays and at 1.00pm on weekdays

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Mass continuous daily from Lavender  
Bay Parish, Sydney, **online at:** **<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>**

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