

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

ABN 56 751 544 850

Telephone: 9366 2146 Fax: 9366 9876

Email: stalbans@cam.org.au

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

4 Winifred Street

ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

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PARISH UPDATE 68

Hello everyone!

Numbers permitted into our churches have been raised to 190!! Relieved and thankful that this increase is now allowed, we still reach forward in frustration and anticipation that we will be permitted full capacity some time soon. Stories from around the world and across Australia bring confusion to the question of 'the best way forward'. 'Get vaccinated' seems to be sure advice along the path to something like 'normal'.

In last week's Letter I mentioned the number of funerals in the previous week. As it has turned out, we have had two funerals this week, and are preparing for two more next week. Across recent years the figures show that we have around eighty funerals each year. They are always gatherings of great prayer and hope, sadness and thanksgiving.

One aspect of being part of funerals over the years is the stories that are told of people's lives. In our Parish there are so many stories of people who literally have built Melbourne. They have toiled hard in factories, in construction, in community-building, in family development, in civic life, in growing cultural life. And, of course, in the development of our Parish. One of our funerals next week will honour the founder of the Green Gully soccer club in the 1950s, for example.

As a Gospel passage chosen for many funerals says, "There are many rooms in my Father's house!" Yes, there's room for every one of us in the eternal life of the kingdom of heaven! That's what the incarnation of Jesus, Son of God, and his resurrection demonstrate for us – all who are part of the human life of which Jesus is part (you and I) will be part of the new life of Resurrection that God calls us to and empowers us for!

Along the way, as this weekend's Readings will remind us, our role is to 'carry forward the work of Christ' in the situations that we are part of here and now. If we haven't got around to that yet, when will we? If we're not doing that here, where will we do it? That's the call that is directed at us in the Liturgy of the Word this Sunday.

One aspect of Parish life that is re-opening is the RCIA process – the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. On next Tuesday 13th June at 7.30 in Sacred Heart church, the first gathering of this next round of the process will commence. It commences as an 'enquiry process' for those who are considering that they might become part of the Catholic Church – from another religion, from no religion, and from years of inactivity after having been baptised as Catholic. Share this information with anyone you know who may be interested.

In my reading this week I came across the brief attached article on St Joseph in which, amongst other points, the work of those who have sustained society during the pandemic is acknowledged. It recognises Joseph as 'a model to follow': he is faithful, he listens, he follows through, he is present. In her reflection on St Joseph, Mary MacKillop wrote of St Joseph's courage, his quiet humility, and his noble heart.

Best wishes and blessings to all! As Schools return and a bit more structure comes back into all our lives, let's be faithful, listen to God and to one another, follow through on what we value, be present to the Lord and to one another!

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)