

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

9th September

PARISH UPDATE 77

Greetings everyone!

*“The current COVID lockdown means that **our churches will remain closed** for the duration of the lockdown – until Friday 24th September. The exception is for funerals, with ten ‘mourners’ permitted. There will be no other activity in our churches over that time. See attachment for information for accessing Mass on TV and online.”*

This weekend marks ‘Child Safeguarding Sunday’. Our Parish’s policy statement in this regard is:

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. The Parish takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and upholds that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult.

This policy statement is on the noticeboards of our churches and on our Parish newsheet and website. I indicate later in this letter that everyone participating in any Ministry in Parishes is expected to sign a ‘code of conduct’ in line with this policy.

We have all become aware over recent years of the abuse of children and young people. As a Priest, I apologise deeply to victims, their families and friends, and to the community, for the damage and loss of life that has been caused by Priests and by our system. May something of the hopeful Spirit of God be able to enter your lives.

Child Safeguarding Sunday recognises that there are risks to our children and young persons’ safety and wellbeing in all organisations. There are Commonwealth and State laws, directives, regulations in place to ensure the best opportunities for our children and young people to grow and develop without anxiety, fear and harm. The Archdiocese of Melbourne has established its Professional Standards Unit. All Parishes are instructed by the Archdiocese and are bound by law to comply with regulations.

One aspect is the ‘Self-Assessment Tool’ by which Parishes will be audited for compliance by external bodies. As well as risks of personal abuse, risks and safety compliance with property regulations are included.

Access to ways of reporting potential and actual abuse are to be available to all. If you have concerns about a matter of potential or actual instances of safety and wellbeing of children and young people, contact Mobile: 0413 841 936 or Email: stalbans.csc@cam.org.au – these are separate from the Parish Office. Matters referred to these contacts must, by law, be forwarded within 48 hours to the Professional Standards Unit.

An example of a change for our Parish is that there are to be separate spaces provided where Altar Servers prepare before Mass apart from the space where Priest, Sacristan, Readers prepare before Mass.

A regulation of the Archdiocese is that everyone participating in Ministry in Parishes is to have a Working With Children Permit. This applies to *every* person in *every* Ministry – there are no exceptions. On this Child Safeguarding weekend, our Parish is re-establishing our records in relation to all our Ministry areas. This is an opportunity to build up our Ministry Teams for the time when we are permitted to engage with one another again, in our churches and in

engagement with one another in Ministry. Many will remember 'Ministry Month' – this is our 'lockdown version' – recruiting Parishioners to our Ministry Teams, and including this new element of Child Safeguarding.

'Ministry' expresses that it is 'we the people' who give life to our Parish.

'Ministry' is our involvement together in the mission of the Church – "to carry forward the work of Christ".

Your participation in 'Ministry' gives life to the gospel of Jesus – being lived in action!

Attached with this Letter is an invitation to participate in Ministry in our Parish. It includes a list of the Ministry areas in our Parish, and details of how to apply a Working With Children Permit. Some Parishioners have previously forwarded a copy of their Permit to the Parish Office: please complete the attached form to indicate this.

This invitation is to Parishioners who have already been participating in Ministry and also to those who would like to commence in a Ministry role.

In the 'how to' process, you are asked to indicate which Ministry area/s you are offering to participate in. There are also details for applying for a Working With Children Check. When you have received your Working With Children Permit+++, send a copy to the Parish Office. Then you will be sent a 'Code of Conduct' to read and then send a signed copy to the Parish Office.

When we are permitted to engage in our Ministry areas, we will gather our Parishioners who have completed this process, and offer some formation for each Ministry, and establish arrangements for re-commencement.

I hope that everyone involved in Ministry before these COVID lockdowns will re-emerge through this process, indicating that you will continue when that is allowed. I hope that others will take this opportunity to join Ministry, too.

Even as springtime continues to show signs of breaking through, we continue to experience that life isn't as we want it to be. I draw to your attention again the services of CatholicCare that may be of assistance:

IS IT GETTING TOO MUCH? CATHOLIC CARE MAY HELP TO SUPPORT YOU

Many families and individuals are dealing with the effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community.

Some have lost jobs and are in financial crisis. Others are experiencing increased anxiety and depression due to social isolation. Meanwhile, couples and families may continue to face relationship issues from prolonged lockdown. CatholicCare Victoria is here to help.

Visit <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/159/covid-19-updates> or contact the head office directly on

(03) 5337 8999 where you can be referred to the relevant branch or team.

This week's Gospel speaks of 'taking up your cross'. We need help for that, and our call as 'disciples' is to help others in that journey, too. Another attachment with this letter reflects this relationship of being disciples of Christ that we are called to.

Keep on keeping on: blessings and prayers for that!

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)

With this letter come attachments –

- *Ministry recruitment process*
- *Article 'Two Hands of God'*
- *Accessing Mass on TV and online*

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

Sacred Heart and Emmaus churches are closed in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions.

**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.

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

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

Mass continuous daily from Lavender Bay Parish, Sydney, **online at:**

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>