

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

14th October

PARISH UPDATE 82

*"The current COVID lockdown means that **our churches will remain closed** for the duration of the lockdown – date and details are not clear at this stage. 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."*

Greetings, everyone!

Now in mid-October, our 're-opening group' gathered during the week to check our procedures and supplies for the time when we will be allowed to gather again in our churches for Mass and other Sacraments. We don't know yet when that will be. Whenever that is allowed, it is sure that it will be a gradual easing of restrictions, just like other times: small numbers permitted to start with – which means booking in advance in order to come; masks; sanitising; keeping a distance from one another. A further complexity this time is with the discussion of 'double vaccination'. Again, there is no advice from government and Archdiocese at this stage about how this will affect entry into churches. The clear advice from the Archdiocese is: "get vaccinated!" (Another 'pop-up' vaccination centre comes to our neighbourhood this weekend: on Friday (16th), Saturday (17th) and Saturday (18th) at St Albans Secondary College in Main Road East. See an attachment with this letter for further details.)

On the anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop (17th October 2010), one of the Sisters has reflected on Mary's approach: "She will be forever a reminder that our nation is at its greatest when we care for all in our communities, especially the most vulnerable", quoting the then Premier of NSW. That speaks of a responsibility that can be applied to the situation of this pandemic and vaccination – caring for the wellbeing of those around us.

The reflection in that attachment draws attention to the continuing process of the Plenary Council. With its face-to-face (by Zoom) first formal Assembly having drawn to a close, the members now go into a phase of review, listening, dialogue, prayer, discernment. They will gather formally again next year. That attachment offers a reminder that "Mary MacKillop did not shy from the challenges of her time. Neither must we. We, too, must inform ourselves and take whatever steps are necessary within our ambit of influence, so that the Church can be recognised as an authentic voice proclaiming the reality of God's Love."

This been the constant call for the Church, hasn't it? Through the Gospels and the other writings of the New Testament, there is the constant call for 'conversion', to be growing and developing in the ways of faith. The Latin phrase 'semper reformanda' is a mantra for the Church, 'always to be reformed'. At the convening of the Second Vatican Council, Pope John 23rd instructed that 'the substance of the faith is one thing; the ways in which we present and live that is another thing. And it is the latter that we must be paying attention to '.

We continue to pray for the work of the Plenary Council – see an attachment with this Letter.

This weekend holds Life, Marriage and Family Sunday. In other years, couples who are celebrating a 'significant' wedding anniversary have been invited to the Cathedral to celebrate Mass together with the Archbishop. Alas, the reach of COVID into our lives!

I like the practical and realistic observations of Pope Francis:

Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops

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

amid lights and shadows. Love can flourish in men and women who try not to make conflict the last word, but rather a new opportunity. An opportunity to seek help, an opportunity to question how we need to improve, an opportunity to discover the God Who is with us and never abandons us. This is a great legacy that we can give to our children, a very good lesson: we make mistakes, yes; we have problems, yes. But we know that that is not really what counts. We know that mistakes, problems and conflicts are an opportunity to draw closer to others, to draw closer to God.

In a less formal way, Pope Francis has also said:

The perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife, and let's not talk about the perfect mother-in-law! It's just us sinners. A healthy family life requires frequent use of three phrases: "May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry" and "never, never, never end the day without making peace."

A Prayer for Married Couples is included in an attachment with this letter.

On my walk the other day, coming from Horseshoe Bend Park to Keilor Village, I noticed a house whose large front window had Christmas decorations in it! Yes, it's ten weeks to Christmas! Then I saw Christmas decorations in Reject Shop. Perhaps I'm a bit slow off the mark!!

Whatever about that, this Sunday's Readings remind us that courage and perseverance are some of the qualities needed to continue living our life of faith. So much impacts on our lives. Much is asked of us if we are truly to be disciples of the Lord. Along with these attitudes, this Word also reflects on 'servant leadership'. This means placing the needs of others before your own desires for notice or authority. The teaching is that everyone in the family can be this sort of 'servant leader' to the others.

If you are considering participating in the Ministries in our Parish when we are allowed to re-open, follow the information and instructions on another attachment with this Letter. (This includes those who have been part of Ministry before – we're starting again with a 'blank page' so that our records are all coordinated.)

As we continue to let our being disciples of Jesus shape our lives in all things, Blessings and Prayers for all!

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)

With this letter come 5 attachments:

#Mary MacKillop reflection

#Prayers – Marriage and Family; Plenary Council

#Ministry recruitment

#Accessing Mass on TV and online.

#Information on 'pop-up' vaccination centre in St Albans

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

MASS is available through

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

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>

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

ABN 56 751 544 850

Telephone: 9366 2146 Fax: 9366 9876

Email: stalbans@cam.org.au

4 Winifred Street

ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

Parish of Sacred Heart/Emmaus

St Albans & Sydenham



Pray—Work—Share
Together

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERING IN THE PARISH

“I would like to participate in the Ministry of our Parish”

PARISH OFFICE

4 Winifred Street, St Albans 3021

Telephone: (03) 9366 2146

E-mail: stalbans@cam.org.au

Website: pol.org.au/stalbanssydenham

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Mobile: 0413 841 936

E-mail: stalbans.safeguarding@cam.org.au

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.

September 2021

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

ABN 56 751 544 850

Telephone: 9366 2146 Fax: 9366 9876

Email: stalbans@cam.org.au

4 Winifred Street

ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

Safeguarding Sunday –September 12, 2021

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Safeguarding and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult.

A significant impact of COVID lockdowns for the Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish has been that we have had to limit severely all our Ministry activity.

When restrictions begin to ease we will be in a position to reassemble our various ministry groups. That will be the opportunity to re-engage with our community in those well-established 'tried and true' ways, to re-form our groups and invite new participation, and to offer 'formation for ministry' as a refresher or an introduction.

To get ready for that, there are some administrative details that we can prepare. It is the policy of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne that *everyone* in *every* Ministry within each Parish must hold a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC).

I invite all who have previously been involved in Ministry and also those who wish to participate for the first time to build up this aspect of our Parish's life again! There is a list of our Ministry areas on the next page.

To ensure that all involved in Ministries have complied with the requirement for holding a Working With Children Card, please complete the information on the attached form and send it to the Parish Office: this will indicate your choice for participation in Ministry.

If you have a WWCC already, include a copy of that.

If you do not have a WWCC, the procedures for acquiring one are on a following page.

When a Card is sent to you, forward a copy to the Parish Office.

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)

September 2021

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

PARISH MINISTRY GROUPS - SACRED HEART/EMMAUS **recommencing post-COVID 2021/2**

SACRED HEART AND EMMAUS AND CANA

BAPTISM PREPARATION

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

COMMUNION TO AGED CARE/NURSING HOMES

COMMUNION TO PRIVATE HOMES

FAIR COMMITTEE

PARISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PARISH SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCILS

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS - Public Schools

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL (participating in the Keilor Downs Conference)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SHOP (St Albans)

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

ALTAR SERVERS

ALTAR LINEN WASHING

CHURCH CLEANING

CHURCH MAINTENANCE

COLLECTORS AT MASS

DIGITAL PROJECTOR Operator

MUSIC AND SINGING in LITURGY

PRAYER GROUPS

READER OF THE WORD OF GOD at

Masses

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

at Mass

EMMAUS

ALTAR SERVER GOWN Washing

ALTAR SERVERS

CHURCH CLEANING

CHURCH MAINTENANCE

COLLECTORS AT MASS

DIGITAL PROJECTOR Operator

MUSIC AND SINGING in LITURGY

PIETY STALL

PRAYER GROUPS

READER OF THE WORD OF GOD

at Masses

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF

COMMUNION at Mass

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



October 11, 2021

Surging wonder and gratitude were unexpected feelings for me when I saw the picture of Mary MacKillop hanging on the walls of St Peter's Basilica on the day of the canonisation, 17 October 2010. World recognition of the workings of God through this woman was an awe-inspiring thing indeed.

In her Ministerial Statement made to the New South Wales Parliament that day, the then Premier, Kristina Keneally, [pointed out](#) that while Mary MacKillop's canonisation was significant for the universal church, it spoke to Australians in particular:

“She will be forever a reminder that our nation is at its greatest when we care for all in our communities, especially the most vulnerable. She will always be known as a great pioneer of egalitarianism, mateship and compassion that we now call a fair go. Her life is inspiring to any Australian.”

In past days the Catholic Church in Australia has been listening in Plenary Council to the voices of those responding to questions about how the Church can be a credible sign and instrument of God's saving work in this country. Like Mary MacKillop in her time, we experience a Church in need of conversion. Mary knew its weaknesses; she suffered under systems that allowed the misuse of power.

More than a hundred years have passed since Mary MacKillop urged her Sisters to look beyond this experience with hope, to courageously become in themselves sign and instrument of God's compassionate love. At the time of the canonisation, Notre Dame de Namur Sister Ishbel MacPherson, a relative of Mary MacKillop, quoted the saint as saying, 'Sisters must be trained spiritually and in worldly knowledge necessary to enable them to take the stand the Church in Australia requires of them' (*Good Works*, Vol. 6, No. 3, March 2011).

Mary MacKillop did not shy from the challenges of her time. Neither must we. We, too, must inform ourselves and take whatever steps are necessary within our ambit of influence, so that the Church can be recognised as an authentic voice proclaiming the reality of God's Love.

Teilhard de Chardin [warns us](#) that the work of God proceeds slowly:

“We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability and that it may take a very long time.”

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

ABN 56 751 544 850

Telephone: 9366 2146 Fax: 9366 9876

Email: stalbans@cam.org.au

4 Winifred Street

ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

Much effort and prayer have gone into preparations for the Plenary Council, and hopes are high. At the same time, unless we tap into the basis of our hope, we will lose patience with elements of Church seemingly resistant to reforms that would enable God's word to speak in the language of our time.

As we recall the universal celebration of what God achieved for the people of our land and beyond through Mary MacKillop, we are reminded to see and hear again God's promise that life comes out of death and that Love's power transforms our lives.

Mary Cresp rsj