

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

18th November 2021

PARISH UPDATE 87

COVID-SAFE RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN EASED.

COVID restrictions now allow our churches to be open for Mass, “with no capacity limits or density limits”, everyone to be ‘fully vaccinated’. Bookings are no longer required.

As well, there is an extra Mass with those of ‘unknown vaccination status’, limited to 50 participants, at Sacred Heart at 6.30pm on Saturdays. Bookings are required at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMKXC>

Everyone is to record their presence (by QR or manually).

“Masks are required indoors only in limited settings”. Our churches are not listed as a ‘limited setting’.

See an attachment for information for accessing Mass on TV and online.

Hello everyone!

It was lining up to be a busy week in the Parish: Mass with the Year 11 students at Catholic Regional College Sydenham, and commissioning them into Year 12; and four gatherings for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time with young Parishioners. All that had to be postponed because of COVID in both places. So a frantic search for other available dates in the diaries that already have a spread of activity listed in them.

How do our families and Schools and Colleges manage this – again!!

And then the easing of restrictions announced today – see the announcement above for the impact that has on our Parish Masses.

We have further gatherings for the Sacrament of Reconciliation already scheduled for next week. And also Masses for First Communions on the next two weekends.

Our young Parishioners’ preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us all an opportunity to wonder about our sin ... and God’s love. For that is the reference point in the Sacrament of Reconciliation – God forgives!

That is God’s approach to us when we sin. The Gospel story about the Forgiving Father and the two sons is well known - how he welcomed both sons, different as they were from each other. That is repeated in teachings, parables and actions across the gospels. For example think of the incident where Jesus intervenes and gives another chance at life to the woman whom the others were ready to stone.

This is what forgiveness does - it gives us another chance at life: and God does that for us!

What title would you give to this statue on the front of the cathedral in the French city of Chartres?

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It could be titled 'forgiveness' I thought. On further examination, it is in fact titled 'creation'! Yes, God's forgiveness of us re-creates us. And that is who God is, says Jesus, who came 'that we may have life'!

"We may not be able to forgive ourselves, others may not forgive us, history may not forgive us. But God does – and not conditionally! It is not only if we have first shined and combed ourselves and put on our best suits and made ourselves respectable enough to appear in God's present that He does so. God does it anyway.

We are weak and fallible and selfish and perverse in some proportion. If we have to get all of that right before God accepts us we are without hope. But we are people of great hope!"
[Vincent MacNamara in The Truth in Love]

A further question is 'are we willing to do that for others, ready and able to forgive them?' We pray in the Lord's Prayer "forgive us as we forgive others". Lindy Chamberlain writes 'If we want to be happy, we need to forgive' – see attachment with this Letter.

(We will be having two gatherings of Advent Prayer and Reconciliation before Christmas. The Sacrament of Reconciliation–First Rite has re-commenced on Saturday mornings at 10.30 in Sacred Heart church.)

Did you notice that last Saturday was 'World Kindness Day'? We need a special day to remind us to be kind?? A couple of weeks ago the weekend gospel reminded us of Jesus' saying that the greatest commandment is that we 'love God with your whole heart and soul and mind and strength, and love our neighbour as ourself'. Perhaps calling us to consider 'kindness' is a way to put some shape on that 'love one another' commitment. There is a reflection on that in an attachment with this Letter.

This weekend's feast is that of 'Christ the King', who preached that "the Kingdom is very close to you" - perhaps as close as our being kind to one another and the whole of creation!

The paperwork required to recommence our involvements in the Ministries of our Parish is included as an attachment again. With some more Parishioners able to gather last weekend for Eucharist, quite a number of 'expressions of interest' have come in. There's room for more!

And another attachment reminds of opportunities for accessing Mass on TV or online. However read the announcement at the start of this letter – our churches are open!!

Best wishes and prayers for all!

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)

*With this letter come 4 attachments: #Lindy Chamberlain on forgiveness #On kindness
Ministry recruitment # Mass Schedule and Accessing Mass on TV and online.*

The schedule for our Masses weekend (20/21 November) is:

SACRED HEART:

5pm Saturday (fully vaccinated)

6.30pm Saturday (vaccination unknown): Bookings are essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BMKXC>

7.30am Sunday (fully vaccinated)

10.30am Sunday (fully vaccinated)

EMMAUS:

6.30pm Saturday (fully vaccinated)

9.00am Sunday (fully vaccinated)

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The schedule for our Masses this weekend (20/21 November) is:

Sacred Heart Church Saturday 5.00pm (Full Vaccination Required)

Sacred Heart Church Saturday 6.30pm (Unknown Vaccination status)

Sacred Heart Church Sunday 7.30am (Full Vaccination Required)

Sacred Heart Church Sunday 10.30am (Full Vaccination Required)

Sacred Heart Church Sunday 9.00am POLISH (Full Vaccination Required)

***Emmaus Church* Saturday 6.30pm (Full Vaccination Required)**

***Emmaus Church* Sunday 9.00am (Full Vaccination Required)**

See below for information for accessing Mass on TV and online:

Mass for You at Home, (MFYAH), which up till now had been produced in the studios of

Channel Ten, now has a new base in the Diocese of Wollongong (NSW). The Mass 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.

Importantly for those who have become used to Mass being ‘streamed’, this Sunday Mass is also

available on demand on Channel Ten’s platform www.tenplay.com.au/mfyah.

The 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 the Diocesan Facebook page and the MFYA Facebook page.

Channel 31 (usually found at ‘44’ on digital TV’s) 11.00am Sundays from St Patrick’s Cathedral or

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

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Sundays

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

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If we want to be happy, we need to forgive (Lindy Chamberlin)

Published: June 15, 2012



I am often asked why I am not angry and bitter about what has happened in my life. This is the way I look at it, writes Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton in *Aurora*.

We will be betrayed in life and it is not always intentional or personal. Sometimes it is because our expectations are unreasonable. It isn't easy to remain calm when everything goes wrong. We need to know when we are knocked down that it is important not to stay down.

When someone does something nasty to us or makes a mistake, we need to rub it out, put it behind us and carry on, not rub it in until it is a permanent stain on everything we do, think and are.

Mother Teresa is reported to have had these words on her wall: "People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred: forgive them anyway." If we have faith in God and in ourselves, nothing can permanently affect us.

Resentment, hatred, anger and emotional hurt can all be justified at times. However, the cost of *not* forgiving is far too high. Bemoaning what we don't have, or what we want to change, means we can't enjoy fully what we do have.

No matter how much we read or are told that we need to forgive, it is simply academic, and is of little use unless we know how to go about it, and are ready to do so. We hold on to the past unless we can see something better in the future.

When we are still hurt and angry over what has happened to us, we tend to use anger as a suit of armour to shield ourselves from the possibility of any further real or imagined hurt. Eleanor Roosevelt wrote, "Anger is only one letter short of Danger."

We want rectification, which is often impossible, so we channel our frustration into anger. Until we see another way to move ahead, we at least feel like we have some control while we make angry plans for revenge or restitution. We are not really in control. It is the anger that controls us. We cannot move forward in this state, but can make everything worse.