

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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4 Winifred Street
ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

25th November 2021

PARISH UPDATE 88

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’ – evidence to be shown in the foyer. 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>

For all Masses, 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!

Last week’s Letter anticipated what a busy week it was shaping up to be. Then I was notified by the Department of Health that I had been in a place where a Covid-positive person had been! I was required to have a test and isolate until a negative result came through – which it has. In the meantime, that meant reorganising the weekday morning Mass, the visits to the Schools to participate in the children’s final preparations for their first experience of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, an event at one of our Colleges, two funerals that were scheduled, and missing the final meeting of the Federation of Catholic Regional Colleges. The busy week became chaotic for 24 hours, and then strangely quiet for another day! People around our Parish and Schools and Colleges, and Fr Gerard Keith at Resurrection Kings Park were so ready to ‘step up’ and adapt – thank you!

I really regretted not being able to be part of the final meeting of the Council of the Federation of our Catholic Regional Colleges. With the expansion that has happened towards and around Melton, and the building of a new campus of CRC Melton (at Cobblebank), that area is developing into its own identity, moving beyond its identity within ‘the Federation’. The four other Colleges – St Albans, Caroline Springs, North Keilor, Sydenham – now make up ‘the Federation’.

At the same time, the governance of Catholic education throughout the Archdiocese has been transferred to MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools), with new structures, relationships and systems introduced. A new body is being formed – the School Advisory Council (SAC) – for the Federation, with further local SACs to follow. Melton has already had its first meeting of its SAC.

The Parish Priests’ report to the final meeting of the Council says:

The Canonical Administrators are admiring and grateful for all who have participated in the many forms of the Federation of Catholic Regional Colleges over the past 40+ years. Members have been instrumental in establishing and growing this fine network of exceptional Colleges in order to provide the finest of Catholic education to the Catholic families in this area. All members across the years are to be commended for their involvement! They can be rightly proud of their roles in this ministry of the Church.

The final meeting began with dinner at Quatrefoil Restaurant at CRC Sydenham – a fitting festive setting!

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The Season of Advent opens for us this weekend, heralded with its purple features and the Advent Wreath. This year it is one day short of the longest possible Advent because of Christmas Day being on Saturday – plenty of time to reflect and pray ‘in an Advent way’!

This week’s ‘Advent clip’ from Joan Chittister’s Ancient Practices:

Advent is about learning to wait. It is about not having to know exactly what is coming tomorrow, only that whatever it is, it is of the essence of sanctification for us. Every piece of it, some hard, some uplifting, is a sign of the work of God alive in us. We are becoming as we go. We learn in Advent to stay in the present, knowing that only the present well lived can possibly lead us to the fullness of life. (60)

‘Joyful’ throughout – unlike the ‘purple season’ of Lent – Advent customarily offers opportunity for us to include in our prayer the Sacrament of Penance. Our Parish has recommenced the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance-First Rite at 10.30am each Saturday in Sacred Heart church.

We will also have “Advent Prayer and Reconciliation” on Wednesday 15th December at 7.30pm in Emmaus church, and on Thursday 16th December at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart church – these Prayer Services will be followed by the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance (First Rite)

With this Letter come two Advent attachments – one explores the colours and symbols of the season, the other reflects on the challenge to acknowledge the Season while everything else is building up pace.

In other attachments we continue to invite you to consider involvement in one or more of the Ministries of our Parish; and there is information on opportunities for accessing Mass on TV or online. However read the announcement at the start of this letter – our churches are open again!!

Best wishes and prayers for all! In a special way for our young Parishioners and their families as they join in several Masses to share the Meal of Eucharist for the first time!

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)

With this letter come 4 attachments: #Advent –colours and symbols # Building up to Christmas through Advent # Ministry recruitment # Mass Schedule and Accessing Mass on TV and online.

The schedule for our Masses weekend (27/28 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)

9.00am- Polish (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 Sundays

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