

HORNSBY CATHEDRAL PARISH

Letter from Fr Peter de Souza

26 April 2020



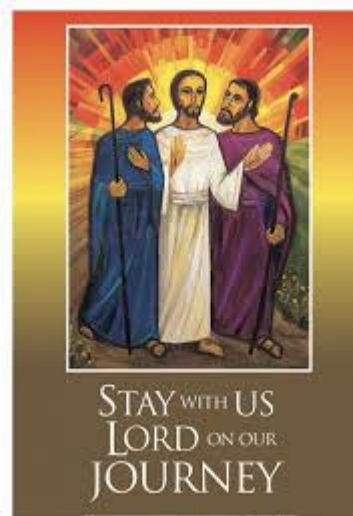
My dear Parishioners,

The Emmaus story is like a gospel within the gospel. It is such a rich lesson that it serves as a summary of our own recognising and loyal bonding with Jesus Christ. For the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Cleopas and his wife, perhaps?) the future looked grim and uncertain. It now becomes clear that they hadn't grasped some unwelcome parts of what he had said to them. His passion and death came as a brutal shock, which they could not connect with the healing, inspirational figure they had known. "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." How well we can empathize with this disappointed pair, because mostly, we too tend to pick and choose the parts of his message that please us and fail to take seriously other words of the Lord. Luke's account of the disciples on the road should speak to us today in a special way: one of the big challenges for us is handing on the faith, helping people encounter the Risen Lord. It is a way and an encounter.

And finally, Jesus reveals himself powerfully and creatively in the Eucharist, in the breaking of bread. Having dined with him, they were filled with new energy and enthusiasm, to share with others what they now knew about him. "That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem" where "they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread".

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

With prayerful wishes on our personal road to Emmaus,
Fr Peter de Souza



Introducing Fr Biju Mathew

I, Fr Biju Mathew, was born on 7th March at Nadavayal, Wayand Dt Kerala India. My loving parents are Mr Mathew and Mrs Mary Koikkattil. I have three sisters and two brothers who are in different walks of life. My schooling was at St Thomas School, Nadavayal. After the 10th class, I joined in the minor seminary Mount Mary College, Mananthavady. Further studies in philosophy were at St Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor and Theology at Dharmaram College, Bangalore. I was ordained to my home Diocese of Mananthavady on 30 December 1996.

My maiden appointment was as Assistant Priest at St George Church, Kallody. Moreover, I had the opportunity, by the grace of God, to immerse in varied pastoral activities at different Parishes such as Nilambur, Mannuvayal, Chulliode, Valad, Valiyakolly, Puzhamudy, and Chithragiri. Apart from the parish activities, I was sent by the Bishop to do the Bachelor of Education in my first year of Priesthood at the Government Institute in Mananthavady. Meanwhile, I took the degree of Masters in English Literature from Loyola College, Chennai. Soon after, I moved to the office of the Principal at De Paul Public School, Kalpetta and Sacred Heart Higher Secondary School, Kayyunnai along with Parish activities until I came to Australia.

On 17 March 2020 I came to Australia and entered quarantine as per the Government policy at Davidson and moved to the Frenchs Forest Parish with Fr Jose Philip which was my first appointment at the Diocese of Broken Bay. On last Sunday, I arrived in this parish, where I received a warm welcome by Fr Peter and Bro. Roger. Thanks for everything. I pray that I can see you all after this strange occasion.

Fr Biju.

Mass schedule:

Daily Mass is live streamed at 7.00am.

Sunday Mass is live streamed at 8.30am.

ANZAC Day Mass on 25 April 2020 will be celebrated at 9.30am.

The YouTube link can be found on the parish website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/hornsby

Please note, DO NOT come to the Cathedral during these times.

Thank you for your understanding.

May I request that you stay tuned with us during these times. Your family Church is a continuation of our joint celebrations “gathering of families”, ‘The Body of Christ’.

Please remember in your prayers, those who are sick, those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur during this time. May I request you to keep all those who are struck with the virus, those tested positive and those in isolation in your special prayers.

Note of Gratitude to all those Parishioners and non, who send us emails, letters and Easter wishes during this time, thanking us for being what we can best be. Thank you for appreciating the honesty we bring forth. I would also like to say a big thank you to all those who are financially contributing to Parish Life, even as each of you come to terms with your own struggles. Your generosity is tremendous, and while I thank you, I assure you of my prayers too.

Cathedral has been gifted. On behalf of all our Parishioners, I express my deepest gratitude to two Families of our Parish that have supported us with their generosity of Solar Panels for production of electricity. This has been a long time happening, finally we got there. That is our big bit in helping our planet. Your generosity, and blessings goes miles ahead. Thanks once again, and we pray generous blessings on your families.

Our Congratulations and blessings to Beena and Jose CV on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. May the goodness of the Lord surround you and your family and thank you for what you generously do for our community. It’s a special blessing for us all.

Month of May is around the corner. Traditionally, it has been a month dedicated to praying the Rosary in our homes and communities. May I request you in your families to do the same, and entrust our intentions of our Families, Communities and Nation into the care of our Blessed Mother.

Prayer Resources for Catholics at home is available on the Diocesan website:

www.bbcatholic.org.au/news-events/covid-19/prayer-resources

A good article for reading and reflection:

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/big-questions-the-pandemic-our-mission-and-the-new-evangelisation/>

The Charitable Works Fund – Thank you for your continued connection

We are so grateful to our community who demonstrate their love for their neighbours by generously supporting the Charitable Works Fund.

The CWF is still working by providing the funds to ensure our trained CatholicCare Pastoral Care Practitioners are available by mobile phone for those in hospitals in our Diocese. With restrictions on visitors, Pastoral Care Practitioners are needed more than ever for the patients, their families and the staff in the hospitals in our Diocese.

The CWF is still working by providing the funds to create online resources for students in public schools in our Diocese to receive Catholic Special Religious Education Classes. This vital ministry will assist parents at home continue the valuable faith formation to Catholic students in the public schools in our Diocese.

The CWF is still working by assisting St Lucy’s School and St Edmund’s College care for students with special needs who are still attending providing additional funds to two schools with students with special needs.

The CWF works every day by providing funds to those who are deaf or hard of hearing through the Ephpheta Centre.

When you give to the CWF, you can be assured that your donation is working for the faith and the people of the Diocese of Broken Bay. Donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible. www.givenow.com.au/cwf

“We’d like to say thank you”: <https://youtu.be/NIVvTxTsDTw>