

HORNSBY CATHEDRAL PARISH

Letter from Fr Peter de Souza

17 May 2020



My dear Parishioners,

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si': on Care for Our Common Home". In his catechesis, Pope Francis said Earth Day is "an occasion for renewing our commitment to love and care for our common home and for the weaker members of our human family. As the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us, we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst."

<http://www.catholicnews.com/>

Common Prayer for the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si'

Laudato Si' week, 16-24 May 2020

<https://laudatosiweek.org/>

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your own image and made us
stewards of all your creation.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.
Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs
not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future
generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources
that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being
left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into
hope and fraternity so that we may experience a true
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the
consequences of this global pandemic,
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that
are needed in search of the common good,
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all
interconnected and interdependent,
Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of
a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,
we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reflecting on the readings of this weekend: Jesus offers us clear instructions to enable us to be faithful to God's will. It summarises what is required in order to live a wholesome life that reflects God's truth and beauty. Its purpose is to rid our lives of selfishness and self-centredness so that we can learn to put God and other people first. When our consciences are formed by Jesus' teaching, we know the difference between right and wrong. Living according to his teaching ensures genuine happiness in this life and eternal happiness yet to come. "If you love me you will keep my commandments." (Jn14:15)

With prayerful wishes.

Fr Peter D

In the light with the opening announced by the government, we are now in Step 1 of the proposal:

1. **Our Cathedral Chapel will reopen this Saturday for private prayer.** People will be able to come again to the church to spend some quiet time, though we are limited to a maximum of **only 10 persons** at a time in the building. Your visit to the Chapel is to be recorded only for COVID-19 purposes. Please bring your own pen to fill in the details.
2. **About Celebration of the Mass:** In the coming days, I might have a clear picture as to how we can worship in our limitedness, and we will have information on how people will be able to attend a Mass over the next several weeks or so. Keep in mind the various requirements by law: of health, hygiene, physical distancing and the limited number of 10 which includes the altar server. At the same time, our Catholic responsibility for one another.

May I request you all **if you are unwell (even with the mildest symptoms) or with pre-existing health conditions, please do not come to the Cathedral.** I'm sure the Lord will understand the same.

3. **There will be no social gatherings at the Cathedral.**
4. **Our live streaming will continue from the Cathedral both Sunday and weekday Mass.**

I am also looking for **Parishioners who will come forward to volunteer** in maintaining the hygiene, as well as to record Parishioners coming in and out of the Chapel.

Remember we are all in this together. **Our winter is still not yet done with**, if we have to maintain our Catholic Charity, we are called to be **Responsible too**. I'm hoping that a number of volunteers will come up to support the same, please call the office with your details and availability for the same.

Thank you for your understanding.
Fr Peter.

Welcome back to our Students and their Families, coming back to face-to-face classroom instructions. I just love to hear you say once again, "Good morning... May Christ's peace be with you..."

Month of May has traditionally 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.

Please remember in your prayers, those who are sick, and have died recently and 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: The Cathedral has received a donation for two transmitter packs for our microphones. Our gratitude to those who have helped us with the same. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated. May the Lord continue to bless your families and intentions too.

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 our own struggles. Your generosity is tremendous, and while I thank you, I assure you all of my prayers too.

Mass schedule: Daily Mass is live streamed at 7.00am. Sunday Mass is live streamed at 8.30am.
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'.