



My dear Parishioners,

In the Ascension of Jesus, this moment in the life of Jesus was significant.

We can identify three main aspects:

1. At the end of his earthly life, and especially of his passion, Jesus makes his triumphant entry into heaven, to sit forever at the right hand of the Father.
2. The time for forming his little community has come to an end, and Jesus sends his disciples out into the world.
3. From now on, Jesus and his followers must relate with each other differently.

The message of the Ascension is clear. The saving work of Christ is now being handed over to the Church (You and Me). The baton is being passed on to us. Just as in a relay race, it is imperative that we do not drop the baton. This is a whole new story of discipleship, not just in a cut copy fashion, but a whole new culture of faith and mission. In other words, the responsibility for passing on the faith rests with us. Let us carry the faith with courage and conviction and let us pass it on to those we meet.

Prayerful wishes on our journey,

Fr Peter D



NSW Government COVID-19 Restrictions from 15 May 2020

Worship and religious gatherings

- A maximum of 10 people can attend a religious gathering, or attend a place of worship for private worship.
- Services can be streamed or recorded to enable people to engage in worship.
- People attending a place of public worship will be required to provide their name and contact details when they enter so that they can be used for contact tracing.

Stay safe

As our community becomes more active and gets back to business, it's important that we:

- follow the NSW rules for gatherings that apply to individuals and businesses
- maintain a physical distance of at least 1.5 metres from others
- practise good hand hygiene
- stay active and healthy
- take extra care if you're around vulnerable people
- get tested if you have any symptoms, even if they are only mild
- stay home until you get the test result, or are medically cleared.

In light of the above current Government restrictions, along with guidelines from Work Health and Safety Australia, I have consulted widely with various groups and councils in the parish, and clergy from other parishes, and am pleased to announce the following:

Private Prayer

Our Cathedral Chapel was reopened on Saturday 16 May for private prayer for a maximum of 10 people at a time. It is necessary for everyone who enters the chapel to record their visit on the sheet provided. Failure to do so, will mean we need to close the Chapel.

Please ensure you have washed your hands before you enter the chapel.

Sunday Mass

There was a general consensus that we should not be in a hurry to open up for Sunday Mass, given that live streaming has worked so well and the restriction of only 10 people for Sunday Mass has limitations. Having to restrict families and other worshippers is contrary to the spirit of our Cathedral community which is open and welcoming of all. Until such time that we can have a larger congregation, let us continue with live streaming of Masses.

Weekday Mass

We will open weekday Mass from Monday to Saturday to a limit of 10 people at the Cathedral.

Mass Schedule from 1 June 2020 (Monday to Saturday):

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| Monday: | 7.00am |
| Tuesday to Friday: | 7.00am and 9.30am |
| Saturday: | 7.00am |

Procedure to attend weekday Mass:

- The day before (or Friday before Monday), call the office to secure your space and register your details.
- Call between 9.45am and 12 midday: 8379 1700.
- Bookings via recorded messages (voicemail) or emails cannot be accepted.
- Calls cannot be taken on the day to attend Mass that day.
- Arrive 15 minutes before the start of Mass.
- Unfortunately, walk-ins cannot be accepted.

Live streaming will continue from the Cathedral for both Sunday and weekday Masses.

Volunteers

We call for volunteers from those attending Mass to assist with the deep cleaning required after each Mass. Please consider assisting us in this important way so that we might respect the rules for health and safety and keep the chapel open for Mass, and advise the office if you are able to help.

Due to current restrictions, there can be no social gatherings on the Cathedral precinct.

In the spirit of Catholic charity and out of our love for one another and our responsibility to all, especially those who are vulnerable, I thank you for your cooperation and support.

Though we have faced some remarkable challenges during the time of this pandemic, the faith and strength of our Cathedral community has been inspiring.

Thank you for your prayer and understanding.

Peace in Christ
Fr Peter

Cathedral Car Park temporary weekday adjustments: If you are visiting the Cathedral on weekdays, Monday 25 May to Friday 5 June, please note that the lower car park is not available. This will allow the primary school to trial drop off and pick up procedures as all students return to school. Thank you for your support and understanding of the situation.

Bishops to entrust Australia to the protection of Mary Help of Christians

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect Australian lives, including their worship, the Catholic bishops will entrust the country to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day.

Mary Help of Christians has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is celebrated on 24 May, which this year coincides with the Feast of the Ascension.

The entrustment of Australia to Mary Help of Christians can therefore take place on the 24th or the 25th of May, the Bishops agreed.

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: Traditionally 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.

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: 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.

National Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June) commemorates two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision. Each year, it is an opportunity to reflect both on how far we've come, and how far we have yet to go on the journey towards reconciliation.

Visit Reconciliation Australia's website for ideas and resources on how any group – no matter how large or small – can get involved.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (24 - 31 May 2020)

The week between the Ascension and Pentecost Sunday is dedicated each year to praying for Christian Unity.

The theme this year is: "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2). It calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action. The international resources for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Church in Malta. The theme remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta and calls us to a greater generosity to those in need.

<https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>