



"I am the resurrection and the life." Jn 11:1-45

My dear Parishioners,

Greetings! to each of you and your families. Last weekend probably was the first weekend for many of us, to come to church, and no service. I'm not sure what you felt, but for me personally, it was a struggle. Yet as the day came to a conclusion, the feeling was different, I was getting there, but not yet.

The following day, as further announcements were made by the Government, to which the Church took on board, one of the most difficult situations I had to encounter was to physically lock the Church. It was not an easy emotional feeling. I locked the Church not knowing when I will open it again. However during the week, the positivity and the assurance of faithful parishioners has been a strong source of encouragement, and all that came out was this big thought, "we are all in it together". What a great way of expressing Your faith my dear people. The physical Church building is closed. YES! But **the human church which we all belong to is open.**

My prayers for each of you, your families and your extended families, is that we all strive to be a human church, in all its humanity, struggling to be perfect. Your assurance and re-assurance, "Father, please tell us what we can do?" That is really a big uncertain task you are making a commitment to, in spite of your own struggles. For me, that is your faith in action. Thank you for your generosity, and I pray that you will be blessed in all your efforts to reach out.

In Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation – The Path of Descent: Crisis Contemplation, he quotes Dr. Barbara Holmes: *“During crisis, individuals put to sleep the light of rationality, and descend during dark nights of the soul. As William Shannon puts it, ‘We darken and blind the exterior self and awaken to the inner self as we grow closer to God.’”*

During this time of COVID-19 crisis, “What makes me draw closer to God?” is the question I’m asking, and hopefully you can ask yourself the same. I for sure know that I’m not alone in this, but we all are together “common good”, and I’m sure that is the presence of God in our lives. In the midst of physical isolation, we still can keep in touch through modern communication, that is a plus point in itself, and the very expression of the same is our compassion and concern for the other. In our search for answers, and our quest for true knowledge, we need to pay attention to science and medicine, and less attention to opinion-makers and rumours. Finally, we need to pray, and to pray especially for scientists, medical personnel and politicians. These are wonderful people with a huge job before them. As we pray for ourselves, and our families and friends, we pray too for all who look after the common good.

A Prayer...

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.

By Father Larry Tenis

Prayers assured.

God bless,

Fr Peter deSouza

Please note:

- Anointing of the Sick is available on request, only in case of emergency, please contact the Parish Office.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered to our people, even though it is not possible to celebrate this Sacrament in the closed church. Also note the official government regulation for physical distancing is important.
- Daily Mass at the Cathedral is now available on YouTube. The link can be found on the [parish website](#).
- Resources for Catholics at Home - please find attached a [comprehensive list of online prayer resources](#).
- If a priest is needed in a matter of emergency, after hours or on the weekend, please call 0458 351 843.



Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, let him go free.."
