

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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Fr Fidelis Udousoro

Dear Parish Family,

I have to admit that I am finding the celebration of Mass without a congregation to be quite empty. The church community is gathered and formed as the Body of Christ when we celebrate the Eucharist together, and as St Augustine emphasised: what happens to the elements of bread and wine also happens to the gathered community in that we are all transformed by the invocation of the Holy Spirit into the living presence of Christ among us. We recognise Christ present in the Breaking of the Bread, and we are inspired to break and give ourselves in loving service of one another as we give expression to the reality we celebrate: that we are the Body of Christ. The celebration of Mass without a congregation is greatly diminished without you all present as this circle is broken. I know how much you are all missing the experience as well. I draw comfort from the fact that so many of you are tuning in and praying with Fidelis and me through the Mass, but I look forward to the day when we can once more gather together at the Table of the Lord.

There is no shortage of examples of service and self-sacrifice in our community in these times. We honour the sacrifice of the ANZACs and many millions of others who have given their lives in war defending the very freedom we enjoy in Australia today. Lest we forget. We are also very mindful of the four young police officers who gave their lives in service of the community in the horrific accident in Melbourne this week. There are also countless examples, mostly unknown to us, of the doctors and nurses in our community and across the world who have and are giving of themselves in generous and heroic ways. The daily love of parents caring for their children, the dedicated staff in aged care homes, teachers who go the extra mile, the list goes on. We remember and give thanks for all whose generosity and selflessness enriches our community. These are repeated examples of the Eucharist lived out in transformative ways in the ordinary and extraordinary circumstances of our lives. I recall the words of Jesus: "do this in memory of me". Whenever we give, share, break, bless, serve, Christ is made present.

In that same spirit of Christ-like service we highlight the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in our community this week. Vinnies is generally staffed by older volunteers and they are very much in need of support from younger volunteers in order to continue their support to the vulnerable members of our community, especially during these Covid-19 times. Please refer to the notice below if you are in apposition to assist.

Fr Richard

ST VINCENT DE PAUL EMERGENCY RELIEF DELIVERIES

Vinnies are continuing food deliveries to our friends in need across the Parish during the Covid-19 health crisis. Some younger members and staff are providing contactless deliveries to homes, applying relevant social distancing procedures, to assist our friends in need who have requested assistance. We are always looking for new members and this is more relevant during this period of self-isolation of many of our elderly members. If you would like to join in these activities please contact Catherine Beaver 0413308084 (Risdon Vale to Howrah) or John Pullen 0447300487 (Rokeby, Clarendon Vale, Lauderdale)

WEEKDAY MASSES: Tuesday – Friday 9am on the "Weekday Mass" group of Facebook @Belleriveparish