

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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Fr Fidelis Udousoro

Dear Parish Family,

Each year we journey through the darkness of the cross only to emerge every Easter renewed and re-energised by the promise of new life. However, this year we are experiencing an Easter with a difference: we come to Easter Sunday still very much in the grip of uncertainty. The Coronavirus has impacted us all as we undergo the inconvenient and imposing requirements of social distance and the isolation it entails. It has and will continue to be a demanding time, but vitally important if we are to avoid the horrors that have overtaken other countries.

It would not be so bad if we knew the end point, if there was light at the end of the tunnel, but we cannot predict the path ahead. We sit in the shadow of the cross and wait; frustrated, fed-up and fearful. So it was for the disciples: they had no clue about the resurrection as they watched their friend suffer an agonising death. We do know the truth of the resurrection. We have experienced the cross before and have experienced something of light and peace and hope beyond the cross. Even though these moments of suffering and loss are unwelcome, we have grown in faith and hope and love through them and we can look back on these experiences of the cross with some sense of gratitude for how they have shaped us and taught us about life and love. Let us pray that this experience of Coronavirus will remind humanity of our true nature and teach us new ways of seeing each other, especially the lonely and the powerless in our community.

Our parish life continues despite the restrictions and there are a few developments to share with you. I hope by now many of you are able to be with us on Facebook for the live-streaming of the Easter Ceremonies. In addition, on the Parish Facebook page (@belleriveparish) you will find a new "group" which you can join in order to watch weekday Mass in the parish. Between us, Fr Fidelis and I will offer Mass at 9am on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week if you would like to join us in prayer. Keep your eye on future newsletters for subsequent arrangements for weekday Mass.

Also, there is a table in the carport outside the Parish Office containing some reading material for the quiet days over Easter. The latest editions of "The Swag" and the "Australian Catholics" magazine are both there. In the spirit of self-isolation, I urge you not to make a special trip to get one, but if you were passing by then feel free to pick one up. At the same time, you would be welcome to drop your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes, as well as Parish Planned Giving envelopes in the letter slot outside the Parish Office (not the roadside letterbox please!) Thanks for your on-going support for the parish.

This week Daniel Andrews, the Premier of Victoria said to all victims of child sexual abuse "I see you, I hear you, I believe you". I want to echo this message and offer a word of thanks to those who are able to find the courage to tell their story in the hope of finding healing. The genius of Nelson Mandela's leadership in rebuilding South Africa after the horrors of apartheid was a process that sought truth and reconciliation. The pursuit of justice in an adversarial system only serves to further victimise the victim. By focusing on truth, Mandela's Truth and Reconciliation Commission created the possibility of healing and reconciliation. I wonder if the time has come for something similar in our approach to crimes of this nature?

May the blessings of Easter: joy, peace and hope, be yours in abundance!

Fr Richard

HOLY WEEK Livestream on Facebook@belleriveparish

Holy Thursday 9th April	7pm	Lord's Supper
Good Friday 10th April	10am	Stations of the Cross
	3pm	Commemoration of the Passion
Holy Saturday 11th April	7pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 12th April	9am	Easter Sunday Mass