

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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Fr Fidelis Udousoro

Dear Parish Family,

What a different and unusual experience of Easter that was! It felt more like a rehearsal than the real thing as we prayed our way through the Easter ceremonies without a congregation. I hope those of you who managed to watch from your homes felt a sense of the journey we shared with Jesus, and that you have felt some of the peace and joy of the Risen Christ in your hearts and homes this week.

As I said at the Easter Masses, a huge vote of thanks to Rachelle Smith who responded to the call and put in hundreds of hours over the weeks leading up to Easter to try and make the "Easter on-line" experience as good as it could be. We will continue to benefit from her expertise in the weeks and months ahead. Thanks also to those who were able to participate as readers, to Lachlan Marsh for his wonderful singing on Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil, and to everyone else who contributed even in small ways to make our Easter celebrations everything they could be.

This situation we find ourselves in is not going to end soon, though. We are challenged to find ways to sustain our sense of wellbeing as individuals, families and community. I for one am enjoying catching up on some gardening and office jobs that had been on the to-do list for a while. When these run out, I have a backlog of reading which I have been hoping to get to, but it is contact with you the parish family, and the children of our schools that I miss the most. The question I must ask myself and I encourage you to ask yourselves prayerfully too, is: "Where is God in this experience?" "What is God inviting me to consider during this fallow time?" The doors of our homes are closed, but not the doors of our hearts. Let us allow the Risen Lord to stand among us with his gift of peace, and to send us out as people of forgiveness as the people "who have not seen and yet believe". Normality and routine are totally upset by the events of these times, but the life we have "through his name" is never richer!

May the blessings of Easter be yours in abundance.

Fr Richard

Weekday Masses streamed live on Facebook (@Belleriveparish)
9am Tuesday – Friday and can be watched back later in the day
Also this weekend, Mass will be live-streamed
9am Sunday 19th April, 20
9am Saturday 25th April for ANZAC Day