

Dear Parish Family,

Let me begin by wishing all the mothers out there a very happy Mothers Day. I hope you are feeling loved and appreciated for who you are not just for what you do. In our Parish Mass this weekend, we particularly give thanks to God for the gift of our mothers and we ask God's blessing on them this day and throughout the year ahead. We are also mindful of our mothers who have died, and we once more hold them before the Lord praying eternal light and peace for them in God's heavenly kingdom.

There are some beautiful and thought-provoking reflections getting airtime on social media lately as our thoughts turn to life beyond the Coronavirus shutdown. As individuals and as families many of us have rediscovered the value of slowing down and entering more fully into life's simpler pleasures: going for a walk, taking time to bake, reading a book, enjoying family time without the rush, checking in on neighbours, getting in touch with our own story and the things that make us tick. There are suggestions and resolutions about how we ought re-enter life beyond the shutdown maintaining some of these important dimensions. This will be easier said than done, so I would urge each and every person and family to consider deeply that which you intend to maintain in your lifestyle and make commitments about how you are going to embed the change in your routine or that of your family. These learnings may enrich our experience of life and become treasured blessings from this challenging time. Appreciation for some of the freedoms and opportunities we take for granted is not the least of these blessings.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says to Philip, "Have I been with you all this time and still you do not know me?" It sounds to me like an exasperated cry of frustration. Perhaps this virus can serve as another wake up call where we hear in the quiet stillness the voice of God calling us to go slowly, taking the time to simply be with one another and appreciating the simple beauty of life, with a greater sense of communal responsibility and a reduced hunger for selfish desires. In this love and care for one another we see Jesus, we perceive the presence of God and we are so much more aware of the divine within and around us.

May God bless you and those you love, and especially all our mums.

Fr Richard

Note: Bulletins, The Standard and other publications are available on a table in the carport outside the parish office.

Next week's reading: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pet 3:15-18  
Jn 14:15-21