

# Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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Fr Richard Ross PP

Dear Parish Family

The Tasmanian Government has announced the easing of restrictions as the immediate crisis regarding Covid19 seems to have passed. Let me record here my gratitude to all our political leaders for the courageous and decisive way they have guided our community through this health crisis. In Australia to this point we have lost 98 lives to the Coronavirus, and while this is devastating to those who have lost family members and friends, when you look at the number of deaths in other countries, it is a remarkable result. The danger of further spikes and outbreaks is still very real, to say nothing of the likelihood of a second wave, so we continue to observe the rules regarding social distancing, personal hygiene and public gatherings.

This health crisis has had a significant economic impact as well, and we continue to look out for and offer support to those adversely affected on a financial level. The frustration expressed by some in wanting to get back to work is understandable, but the risks are still very real, so I continue to urge patience as the financial suffering of some ensures the physical health of others.

The good news is that the easing of restrictions has allowed for the re-opening of our churches. Religious gatherings to a maximum of 10 people are allowed from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. The decision I have reached following consultation with the Archbishop, the Parish Pastoral Council and a number of other Parish Priests from the larger parishes around Tasmania, is that we will continue to live stream all Masses in the parish, but are unable at this stage to see our way clear to allow parishioners to attend those Masses in person.

Our numbers and the basic logistics simply do not permit a fair method of deciding who attends and who does not. This decision is open to review once we have more time to establish a fair and equitable system of registration, but it is not possible for this week at least. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Corpus Christi Church will be open for personal prayer from 10am until 6pm each day, with a few legal requirements in place. A register will be located in the foyer and every visitor is required to record every visit with name, contact details and time of entry and exit from the church. Personal hygiene and social distancing protocols must be observed at all times, and you are asked to use the automatic door on the Alma Street side in order to reduce contact with door handles. Most important of all, no more than ten people are permitted in the church at any time. You are required to wait outside if there are already ten people in the church when you arrive. If these few basic rules are not followed, the parish risks a significant financial penalty, so any breaches will result in the immediate closure of the church. Again, thanks for your understanding and support.

If the Tasmanian Government's three-stage process of restoring normal activity levels in the community progresses as hoped, we will be able to gather for Eucharist as a faith community again in the near future. I look forward to sharing that day with you all.

Fr Richard

Copies of the Newsletter, Standard and Magazines are available in the carport near the church office.

## **VINNIES WINTER APPEAL**

Thank you for supporting the St Vincent de Paul Society's winter appeal. Donations can be made today by visiting [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) or by calling 13 18 12 or by EFT to the St Vincent de Paul Society Bank CBA BSB: 067 601 Account Number 10178303

Next week's Readings: Acts1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20