



ST DECLAN'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the care of the Missionaries of God's Love

Welcome!

12th April 2020

**Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of the Lord
Year A**

St Declan's parish acknowledges that we gather, pray and live together on the land of the Bidjegal people of the Eora Nation

Dear brothers and sisters,

Well, there is no doubt that it has been a very difficult Lent. We normally get to choose our Lenten penance, and we did that this year without knowing that the penance of social distancing and all its related measures would be imposed upon us a few weeks later. Few of us could have ever imagined that our parish church would be closed. The last time the churches in Australia were closed was in 1918 during the Spanish Flu pandemic. Ted Canute, our oldest parishioner, had just been born, but he doesn't remember not being able to go to Mass (Ted's doing well under the circumstances by the way).

It would be fitting if Easter came with the lifting of the restrictions, but I think they will be with us for some time to come. Of course, we have all been affected by COVID-19 already, but I am particularly mindful of those parishioners whose work is to provide services that directly help us in this emergency. To the doctors, nurses, teachers, cleaners, shelf-stockers, and all those involved in essential services - be assured of our gratitude and our prayers. Let's keep praying for an end to this pandemic. We especially remember all those who have contracted the coronavirus, and especially all those throughout the world who have died.

True Easter light can only be seen in the darker moments of our lives, whether personally, or in moments like this where the entire human family is affected. We have seen some dark moments, but we have also seen great heroism, and little acts of love in this time. Great or small, all are reflections of Jesus's risen light, which dispels every darkness.

Thank you

I continue to be so proud of our parish community. From all those who have volunteered to help with Project Agape, to the group who rang 300 parishioners in a few short days to see how they were going; from the parish staff who have re-engineered their jobs to continue their ministry at this time, to the ministry leaders who have reached out to those in their ministries as well as those they serve ... I could keep going. We might not be able to see each other in person, but the bonds of love between us are genuine, and very real. Thank you. Don't stop reaching out! Reach out to your fellow parishioners, but also to those who aren't members of our parish that need our love and care.

I want to thank Mark Santos, Tim Goonan, Silvana Vidaic, Isaac Reefman, Cathy Kennedy, Jake Ryan, Maddie McDermott and Mirella Cassis, who have made the Easter liturgies possible this weekend (they won't be all in church together and they will maintain social distance, I promise!). Mel Dooner, Jacky Krsnik and Angela Yap have done an extraordinary job managing our communications to all the parishioners over the past month too - thank you so so much.

MASS at St Declan's

All Masses in the church have been suspended until further notice.

[LIVE STREAM HERE](#)

Sunday 9am Mass

Monday to Saturday 9:15am

If you are sick

Fr Chris, Fr Adam and Fr Tony want to reassure you that they will anoint, give communion, and pray with those who are seriously ill. If you are ill, please call the parish number (9580 1310) and follow the prompt (option 2) to the parish emergency line.

COVID-19 Updates

The information in this bulletin is correct at time of publication. Updates via the parish app, website and email will occur as soon as possible.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Live-stream of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place after the Thursday 9:15am Mass and from 7pm to 8pm on Thursdays.

Funerals

The government has allowed funerals of no more than 10 people. We will still need to follow social distancing rules inside the church, appropriate hygiene and thorough cleaning of the church.

The Cardinal Pell Verdict

This week the High Court unanimously overturned Cardinal Pell's conviction. For many this will be welcome news, while for many victims of clerical sexual abuse wounds have been reopened or have cut more deeply. As I have said at various points throughout the legal process, we want to respect the rule of law in our society, and the highest court in our land has determined that the Cardinal should not have been found guilty. At the same time, we as a Church must do even more to care for all victims of abuse, encourage them to come forward, and ensure that they receive justice. I again reiterate the MGLs' commitment to ensuring that St Declan's is a safe community for all, especially our children and the vulnerable.

And Thanks Again

I want to finish this rather lengthy message with a final note of thanks. To the literally hundreds of people who have emailed, sent their photos in, called, texted or carried on a conversation in the street from 1.5 metres away; all expressing their love and care for the MGL priests and parish staff - thank you so very much. Your love and care has been enormously encouraging. We love you and we are so blessed to be able to minister to and with you. We will emerge from this as a stronger community, I'm sure of it.

Happy Easter, from Chris, Adam, Tony, Cameron and all the team.

PS The Office is Closed This Week

The parish staff and several other ministry teams are going to take a break this week - from Easter Monday 13 April to Monday 20 April. That's because they have been sprinting for the past month or so in order to adapt to an unprecedented amount of change in a short time. We are, however, in a marathon, and so we need to pace ourselves. So we are all going to have a rest. Mass will be live-streamed each day, but that will be the only activity in the parish (the priests are of course able to be contacted in emergencies).

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

INTERCESSION MINISTRY

Do you have a prayer request? Send it [here](#) and the intercession team will pray for you.

PROJECT AGAPE

If you or someone you know needs to self-isolate and are unable to visit the shops easily to get food and/or medication:

- 1) Contact the parish office on 9580 1310, or email Nellie at visitation@stdeclansparish.org and leave a message with your name and best contact number. Messages will be checked regularly.
- 2) Nellie will contact you, and a team member will bring groceries and/or medication to your home.
- 3) Payment for the groceries and/or medication can be discussed with Nellie. Please know that our primary concern is your health and well-being and we will support you in whatever way we can, including covering the cost of the groceries/medication, if you have a real need.

SENIOR & JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP ARE ONLINE

Starting Friday 24 April. Contact Maddie for details

ALPHA'S BACK ON!

We have decided to reconvene our Morning and Evening Alpha online! Week 5 of Evening Alpha will recommence on Thursday 30th April at 7.30pm and Morning Alpha on Friday 1st May at 10am. All current Alpha guests will hear from their table host or a table helper after Easter to explain how this new Alpha adventure will work.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

- We are planning to start Discipleship Groups online after Easter. You can join a group which will watch the remaining episodes of Dr Brant Pitre's talks on the scriptural foundations of the Mass.
- We would welcome other Discipleship groups looking at a different series together. Have a browse around FORMED, and if you would like to host a group please let Cathy know.
- We will help you with the technology (it's not hard, and it's a great way to keep in touch with other members of the parish and grow at the same time).

PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you for supporting Project Compassion 2020. COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

Do you have PC boxes or cash to hand in?

We know that many of you are unable to hand in your PC boxes or cash at this time. Secure donations can be made online at "lent.caritas.org.au" with a credit card, or a cheque can be sent to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney NSW 2001, or by calling 1800 024 413.

The Parish Office staff have largely been working remotely. If you need to contact the parish, please email or phone the office and leave a message, rather than visit. Emails and phone calls will be regularly checked and responded to.

FORMED

St Declan's subscribes to an online Catholic audio-visual library called FORMED. Think of it as Netflix for Catholics. It has a range of great Catholic content for all ages and stages of faith development and is aimed at helping parishioners to understand, grow in and share the Catholic faith. To access FORMED, click [here](#) or go to the parish website and click on the link there.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARISH

Thank you so much for the response to my request for online giving last weekend. We are now totally reliant upon what is given via credit card. A number of contributions over the last weekend were large amounts and probably once off contributions, so please still consider giving online, and making it a **recurring** contribution so that we can maintain our financial position. The money you give will support the wages of our lay staff, as well as our ongoing expenses, many of which cannot be deferred. I know that some people's own financial position is affected by this situation and I do not want those people to feel under any pressure from the parish.

Please prayerfully consider an ongoing regular contribution by credit card.

You can give via credit card in the following ways:

- Call the office and leave a message for Steve. He will call you back.
- You can access the parish's online giving platform [here](#) or via the parish app.
- Text the amount you want to give (e.g. \$50) to 0451 266 547.

The parish's online giving platform is used by 12,500 churches, and it possesses a PCI DSS Level 1 Secure rating + 256 bit SSL rating. It is the same level of encryption used by Amazon and many banks and is the highest rating possible. It is safe, secure and easy.

#RejoiceEasterSunday

On Good Friday, make a simple cross from branches or twigs to hang on your front door or window. On Easter Sunday, decorate your cross with ribbons, words, images etc to reflect the joy of the resurrection. Take a photo and share with the hashtag #rejoiceeastersunday. Post your photos on the online gallery: padlet.com/rejoiceeastersunday/au

WE REMEMBER IN OUR MASSES:

Recently Deceased: Asuncion Dumlao, Luigi Carvin, Ljudevit Tkalcevic, Geoffrey Hoggett, Richard Dick Thoms Doran, Max Luescher, Judith Wilson, Karen Leeming, Peter Collins, Robert Harold.

Anniversaries: We pray for all those who's anniversaries occur at this time.

Also: The Brady Family, Tim March, James Anthony Lobina, Noel Sheather, Stjepan Kranjec, Maria Vukobrat, Stjepan Obrovac, Stanko Prorokovic, Ignac Krlin, Ivan Kucinic, Mijo Trupkovic, Nikola Dragisic, Kevin & Stephen & Jim McElroy, Denis Bacic, Betty & Danny Dusek, Michael O'Sullivan, Betty & Brian O'Sullivan, Frances Anne O'Sullivan, Teresa & Joseph Macinante, Spiro & Josephine Bajada, The Holy Souls in Purgatory and all the deceased members of our Parish.

Parish Sick List: Dan Leavy, Jude Phyllis, Carole Miller, Catherine Alacqua, Graham Shields, David Salamanca Mendez, Mario Salamanca Mendez, Patricia Salamanca, Glenn Dickson, Marc Kayrouz, Carmen Bajada, Christopher March, Alina Kizeweter, Sonny Venal, Mary Phillips, Mirna Mundigo, Una Canute, Brian Lloyd, Terence Lang, Ann Steele, Elias Francis, Geraldine Brenston.

Keep in touch

Website: We will keep our website up-to-date with the latest information about the parish's ministry and service:

<https://www.stdeclanspenshurst.org/>

Email: If you would like to be emailed the latest information from the parish, please fill in this form:

<http://bit.ly/stdeclansconnect>

Parish App: We also have a parish app for your mobile. It will have all the latest information, but you can also access podcasts and other resources to provide spiritual nourishment for you and your family at home. Click on the following link and follow the prompts: <http://bit.ly/stdeclansapp>

Parish Office: Frances Watton

Phone: 9580 1310 | Email: declans@tpg.com.au

Address: 92 Penshurst St, Penshurst 2222

Website: www.stdeclanspenshurst.org



St Declan's Parish is committed to being a safe community for all, especially children and vulnerable people. We inform and protect our children and the parish community in a variety of ways. For more information please contact the Parish Safeguarding Support Team on safeguarding.stdeclans@gmail.com.

Abuse is experienced by many and can occur in a variety of ways. There are many places where you can receive help and support. Firstly, as abuse is a crime, you can contact the police on **000 (in an emergency)** or on **9375 8599 (Hurstville Police)**. Alternatively, you can contact the Archdiocese of Sydney's Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. Father Chris Ryan MGL is also available to assist and support you in any way possible.

First Reading

Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading

Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 28:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples. And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God.