

## **Keeping Our Parish Secure: Now and in The Future**

We are living through extraordinary times.

In all my years as a priest I have never experienced the suspension of public masses or parish gatherings.

I know for so many of the parish this is a cause for great sorrow, particularly as we approach the great feasts of Easter.

However, we do need to steel ourselves for the Coronavirus crisis to last for months – and for its impact to touch every household.

Despite these challenges, we cannot lose heart. The work of the Church will continue.

The work of our parish will and must go on, even if in different forms.

Already, right across the Archdiocese new ways of praying and worshipping are being developed. Using the great benefit of modern technology, we can access Mass in our homes via the internet. Mass is streamed live from St Patrick's Cathedral seven days a week. It is also recorded so it can be watched later on-demand.

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

As a parish we are responding in the following ways:

- We now have our weekend Mass on-demand via our website, you can watch the latest Mass or previous Mass's at a time that works for you <https://www.shscparish.org.au>
- We have launched a YouTube channel, where you watch all our filmed content and Mass's from your TV or mobile device  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDI3uJdf3Unue1WleUaveWg>
- We have plenty of resources including prayers, reflections, poems and music you can read and listen to on our Mass page  
<https://www.shscparish.org.au/moving-our-ministry-online>
- Our groups are now meeting online via zoom so you will be able to participate still virtually.
- We have established a Care Committee, who is meeting regularly to look at opportunities to connect with those who are isolated in our community <https://www.shscparish.org.au/staying-connected-during-the-corona>

- Staying social and connected is important at this time, so in coming weeks we will be looking at ways of running virtual events

### **But to continue to operate, your parish requires funding.**

The Archdiocese is helping where it can. It has worked with the Catholic Development Fund to provide loan relief for the next six months. Archbishop Peter has also waived our quarterly contribution to support the works of the Archdiocese.

While such measures help to limit our outgoings, raising revenue is in our own hands.

This is a difficult issue to raise given that we are entering uncertain economic times, the financial effects of which are already evident. I appreciate whatever our parishioners can provide and understand that those in difficulty may need to review their level of support.

Our principal source of funding comes from our planned giving contributors. Many of you already contribute to sacrificial giving via direct debit. Not only is this a wonderful gift, it is a gift we can rely and plan around.

### **With no public masses, there are no collections.**

This is creating a significant shortfall in our revenue and reducing our ability to meet our financial commitments.

### **There are a couple of simple solutions**

#### **Tithe.ly**

We have a regular web/app giving program via Tithe.ly. It is simple to download and set up via your mobile device or from the website. You can also select which collection or special collection you want to give to.  
[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe\\_ly/give-one-time/911524](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe_ly/give-one-time/911524)

#### **Direct debit.**

Could I encourage everyone to use our parish's direct debit facility to ensure that your planned giving contribution is maintained through these testing times. The direct debit form is available on our support page  
<https://www.shscparish.org.au/support-us>

For those already using direct debit for your parish contributions, I am deeply grateful. It means the work of the parish can continue in these difficult days.

Thank you for your commitment to the parish. It is deeply appreciated.

Please be assured that in my daily private mass I am earnestly praying for you, your families and all parish intentions.

Fr John