

Alistair Craen, Andy Neville, Harry Barker, Osvaldo, Raquel, Julio, Anthony McArthur, Benjamin Fernandes, Fr. Lionel Henry Joaquin & Lily D'Souza, Carole Delbridge, Percy Gasper, Quenton Leach, Josephine Pereira, Ivan DeSantos, Charmaine Bonetti, Ken Dillon, Barbara Hillary, Sydney Gasper, Pat Halligan, Curley Vasoli, Dominica Balie, Annabel McNess, Ernie & Lucy Samuels, Gerard Voysey



**Pastoral Letter
By The Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth
19 March 2020**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the Book of Genesis when Cain, after having killed his brother Abel, is asked by God where his brother is he replies with a question of his own: *Am I my brother's keeper?* (Gen 4:9). For Cain the answer is clear. He has no responsibility for his brother. For God the answer is very different. Cain is absolutely responsible for his brother, and must answer to God for his brother's welfare.

This ancient biblical story has a powerful message for us as we face the global pandemic of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). At this time in every aspect of our lives we are faced with a fundamental question: *Do I put myself first or should I act for the good of my brothers and sisters in the reality of my own life's circumstances?*

The decision I have taken, reluctantly and deeply conscious of its gravity, to temporarily suspend all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Perth, is based on my deep conviction that as a Christian community we must act in the best interests of all the members of our society. The government has directed that, at least as I write this letter, all indoor gatherings of more than 100 people must be cancelled. When less than 100 people gather, they must practice "social distancing". These measures are designed to slow down the transmission of COVID 19. While the decision to temporarily suspend all public Masses goes beyond the strict requirements of the government as they presently stand, I have judged that, in order to fully respect the intention of the government in issuing these directives, we as a Catholic community can best express our commitment to the well-being of everyone in our community by taking the action that I have.

I know that this decision will cause great distress to some, and perhaps many, of you. I want to assure you that I did not make this decision lightly. The Mass is at the heart of our lives as Catholics. It is our way of gathering as a community of faith to draw strength from each other. It is our way of listening to the Word of God in faith. It is our way of offering our lives, our needs, our hopes and our loved ones to God. It is our way of allowing the Lord to unite us to himself in Holy Communion. It is our way of renewing our commitment to "go out in peace, glorifying the Lord with our lives". For us to be deprived of the Mass is a great sacrifice and a great suffering. But the Lord himself calls us to this - because we are our brother's keeper. We make this sacrifice now for the well-being of our community because, as Jesus himself tells us, "by this everyone will know that you are my disciples - that you love one another as I have loved you" (cf. John 13:35). Jesus sacrificed everything for us - and as his disciples we must be ready to make sacrifices for others in imitation of him.

Even though we cannot gather at the moment to celebrate Mass together we are not deprived of the presence of the Lord. We know that he is with us, closer to us than we are to ourselves. We know that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (cf. Hebrews 12:1), who always accompany us on our journey of faith. Mary, the Mother of God, walks with us in company with the saints who never stop praying with us and for us. God continues to send his angels to protect us and guide us. The Church, especially though, not only through its ordained ministers, continues to be the Lord's chosen instrument through which he remains present among us as our Good Shepherd.

The present decisions I have announced will be reviewed within two weeks and will be confirmed, modified or cancelled at that time. However, we must prepare ourselves for the very real possibility that we will not be able to celebrate the beautiful liturgies of Holy Week and Easter in the Cathedral and in our parish churches this year. We have a duty to remain responsive to the advice and directives of our government and our public health officials. As both Catholics and citizens we wish to be responsible and cooperative members within our society.

The Eucharist is the greatest gift we have. Our Catholic faith is also very rich in its many other spiritual traditions. The first Catholics in Australia, deprived of the Mass, gathered around the Blessed Sacrament, left by a priest who was unable to remain in the colony in what is now Sydney. In the presence of their Eucharistic Lord, the people entrusted themselves to Christ at a time of great uncertainty. With this in mind I have asked our priests to keep our churches open for private prayer where possible, and to organise times of Eucharistic Adoration. As long as only small groups gather, and maintain a safe distance from each other, this will be an ongoing possibility for us and a source of strength and comfort for many.

Those first Catholics also turned to Mary as a source of hope and comfort. The rosary became a central part of their lives, and this prayer could well become once again a treasure for all of us. Saint John Bosco, the founder of the religious order to which I belong, was fond of saying that if we want to see what miracles are we should entrust ourselves to Mary, Help of Christians. Under this title Mary is the patroness of Australia. Let us ask her to pray for our country, and indeed for the whole world, at this time.

There are many other spiritual resources available to us in our Catholic tradition. Both here in Perth through our Archdiocesan Liturgy Office, and right across Australia, people are working to compile lists of resources which might help us connect more deeply with God, who is with us in this moment of crisis as he was with Jesus in Gethsemane and on Calvary. I encourage you to regularly visit our Archdiocesan website, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website, and other reputable Catholic websites, where you will find many helpful resources. You will also find our Archdiocesan website regular updates on many practical issues related to our response to this crisis, including information on the planned live-streaming of some liturgies on our web page: www.perthcatholic.org.au

Although public Masses are suspended for the time being our priests are still ready and willing to be at your service. In cases of emergency, especially as regards to the Sacrament of the Sick for those in danger of death, please do not hesitate to contact your local parish. There you will also be able to enquire about opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance. And you can be sure that our priests will continue to celebrate Mass in private for all their people.

Because of the decision I have made I wish to make it clear that the normal "Sunday Obligation" to attend Mass on either Saturday evening or Sunday does not apply to anyone at this time, except our priests. But we are still called to "keep the Sabbath Day holy". Just as we are free to determine how we make each Friday of the year a day of penance, so in this time of crisis we are free to decide how we, in our particular situations, will observe the "day of rest and prayer".

"Do not be afraid". These words recur over and over again in the pages of both the Old and New Testaments. They were the words addressed by the Angel Gabriel to Mary when she was told that she was to become the mother of the Messiah and they were the first words addressed by Jesus to his disciples on the evening of his resurrection. In the midst of the health crisis in which we find ourselves these same words are addressed to us: *Do not be afraid. Have courage. I am with you.*

We are a people of faith and of hope. We know the Lord is with us. Let us draw strength from this faith and support each other when worry or fear threaten to overwhelm us. Let us allow this temporary deprivation of the Eucharist to sharpen our hunger for Jesus, the Bread of Life. Let us recognise the presence of Jesus in all the different ways in which he steps into our lives. And most of all let us keep praying for each other, for those who have died, and for those who are selflessly putting themselves at the service of our community at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB DD
Archbishop of Perth

On Feast of St. Joseph, Pope Francis speaks of this Great and Beloved Saint



The Gospel (*Matthew 1:16-18-21.24*) tells us that Joseph was "just," namely, a man of faith, who lived the faith. A man who could be numbered in the list of all those people of faith that we remembered today in the Office of Readings (Cf. Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11); those people that lived the faith as foundation of what is hoped for, as guarantee of what is not seen, and the proof of what is not seen.

Joseph is a man of faith: therefore, he was "just." Not only because he believed but also because he lived this faith — a "just" man. He was chosen to educate a man who was true Man but who was also God: a man-God was needed to educate such a man, but there wasn't one. The Lord chose a "just" man, a man of faith; a man capable of being man and also capable of speaking with God, of entering the mystery of God. And this was Joseph's life: to live his profession, his life as a man and to enter in the mystery; a man capable of speaking with the mystery, of conversing with the mystery of God. He wasn't a dreamer; he entered in the mystery, with the same nature with which he carried out his craft, with the precision of his craft: he was capable of adjusting an angle milli-metrically on the wood, he knew how to do it; he was capable of lowering, of reducing a millimetre of wood, of the surface of a piece of wood. As just, he was precise, but he was also capable of entering in the mystery that he couldn't control.

This is Joseph's holiness: to carry on his life, his craft with justice, with professionalism and, at the moment, to enter in the mystery. When the Gospel speaks to us of Joseph's dreams, it makes us understand this: he enters in the mystery.

On this Solemnity of Saint Joseph, I think of the Church today — of our faithful, our Bishops, our priests, our consecrated men and women, the Popes: are they capable of entering in the mystery? Or do they need to regulate themselves according to the prescriptions that defend them from what they cannot control? When the Church loses the possibility of entering in the mystery, she loses the capacity to adore. A prayer of adoration can only happen when one enters in the mystery of God.

Let us ask the Lord for the grace that the Church may be able to live in the concreteness of daily life and also in the "concreteness" — in quotation marks — of the mystery. If she can't do it, she will be half a Church; she will be a pious association, carried forward by prescriptions but without the sense of adoration. To enter in the mystery isn't to dream; to enter in the mystery is precisely this: to adore. To enter in the mystery is to do today what we will do in the future, when we come into the presence of God: Adore. May the Lord grant this grace to the Church.

Before ending the Mass, the Pope exhorted to Spiritual Communion in this difficult time, given the coronavirus pandemic, which, in Italy, has caused the suspension of Masses with the participation of the faithful, to avoid all contagion. Pope Francis ended the celebration with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. I invite all those that are distant and follow the Mass on television, to make a Spiritual Communion.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus, and I offer you the repentance of my contrite heart, which abases itself in its nothingness in Your Holy Presence. I adore you in the Sacrament of Your Love; I desire to receive You in the poor abode that my heart offers You. While waiting for the happiness of a Sacramental Communion, I want to possess You in spirit. Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May Your Love inflame my whole being, in life and in death. I believe in You, I hope in You, I love You. Amen.

WEEK	DATE	CELEBRATION	TIME	
Week 8	Wed 25/3	Harmony Day Prayer Service (Whole School)	09:00 am	Ward House
Week 8	Thu 26/3	Year 4 - 2nd Rite of Reconciliation	09:00 am	School
Week 9	Thu 2/4	Year 6 - 2nd Rite of Reconciliation	09:00 am	School
Week 10	Thu 9/4	Stations of the Cross - Undercover Area	09:00 am	School



COME LET US ADORE HIM

"Immersing oneself in silent Eucharistic adoration is the secret to knowing the Lord" - Pope Francis

Our parish has been blessed to have a Perpetual Adoration Chapel. We also have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday morning after the 8:00am mass with the Cenacle of prayer recited (Marian movement of priests) followed by Benediction at 10:30 am. Please make time for our dear Lord. Please note that the Perpetual Adoration Chapel will stay open during this crisis.

Diocese Events

THREE DAY-LIVE IN DIVINE MERCY EXPERIENCE RETREAT

This retreat will focus on how we can receive the healing love, poured out from the radiant heart of our Lord once we put our trust in Him. Join Fr Varghese Parackal VC (Director of Vincentian Retreat Centre, Perth) & the Vincentian Fathers for 3 days of refreshing & spiritual renewal. Daily Rosary Prayers & Divine Mercy Chaplet; Praise & Worship; Daily Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, Silent Prayer, Stimulating & Spirit-filled Talks, Community meals, experience the peaceful grounds of the retreat centre while receiving the promises of grace revealed in the Diary of St Faustina. **Friday 17 April to Sunday 19 April, Vincentian Retreat Centre, 625 Nettleton Rd, Karrakup (Byford).** Registration: vincentiansperth@yahoo.com or 08 9525 6539.

Safeguarding Officers

We share a commitment to safeguard our children and make our Church safe for everyone.
Our Church Safeguarding Officers are
Ms. Loreto Bennetts (Loretobennetts@icloud.com.au)
Ms. Kiara Rawling (kiara.rawlings@gmail.com)



Pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and
your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: *Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
***I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.***
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him'.

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: "It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind." Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?'

Jesus replied: 'Blind?'

If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Good Shepherd Parish Kelmscott

Parish Priest: Fr. Pavol Herda

Assistant Priest:

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Sandra R. Quadros

Parish email: gspk@iinet.net.au

Parish website: www.goodshepherdkelmscott.com

Latin community: www.goodshepherdlatinmass.com

Parish Office: 42 Streich Avenue, Kelmscott WA 6111

Mailing Address:

PO Box 27, Kelmscott WA 6991

T: 61 (08) 9495 1489 (Office – Wed 9am to 12pm, Thur 1 to 4pm

& Friday 9am to 12pm)

T: 61 (08) 9495 1204 (Presbytery)

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 8:00 am, 6:00 pm (*Vigil*) 8.00 pm (Neo Catechumenal way)

Sunday: 8:30 am (*Latin Tridentine Mass*), 10:00 am, 6:00 pm

Weekday Mass Times Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday: 8:00 am **Thursday:** 6:30 pm

Reconciliation Saturday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday after 8:00 am mass followed by Benediction at 10:30 am

Sacred Heart Parish, 1643 Canning Road, Karragullen (**Sunday Mass** : 8:30 am)



22/03/2020 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

Sat 06:00 pm	Masses are temporarily suspended till 1st April, 2020
Sun 10.00 am	Masses are temporarily suspended till 1st April, 2020
Sun 06.00 pm	Masses are temporarily suspended till 1st April, 2020

NB: Envelopes for mass intentions are available at the Church Entrance

23 March Monday	Fourth week of Lent
24 March Tuesday	Fourth week of Lent
25 March Wednesday	The Annunciation of Our Lord
26 March Thursday	Fourth week of Lent
27 March Friday	Fourth week of Lent
28 March Saturday	Fourth week of Lent
29 March Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the Gospel story, Jesus gives the gift of sight to a blind man. But since we are not blind, we might think that the Gospel story has no relevance for us. It is precisely because we can see that it has relevance for us. The question is: How well do we see?

The blind man in the Gospel story saw more than the religious leaders, in the sense that he had more faith in Jesus than they had. The Pharisees had perfect eyesight, yet they had no faith in Jesus. To see well, good eyesight alone is not sufficient. We must not think that blindness is an illness that affects the eyes only. There are many forms of blindness besides physical blindness. In some ways these are just as crippling. Some examples are:

Selfishness blinds us to the needs of others.

Insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we're causing others.

Snobbery blinds us to the equal dignity of others.

Pride blinds us to our own faults.

Prejudice blinds us to the truth.

Hurry blinds us to the beauty of the world around.

Materialism blinds us to spiritual values.

Superficiality blinds us to a person's true worth and causes us to judge by appearances.

It is not with the eyes only that we see. We also 'see' with the mind, the heart, and the imagination. A narrow mind, a small heart, an impoverished imagination - all of these lead to loss of vision, darken our lives, and shrink our world.

It has been said that the greatest tragedy is not to be born blind but to have eyes and yet fail to see. But there is an even worse situation: to have eyes and refuse to see. The latter was the situation of the Pharisees.

The most important eyes of all are the eyes of faith. The smallest child with faith sees more than the smartest scientist who had no faith. The Gospel story is essentially a faith story - the story of a man who came to faith in Jesus. The climax of the story is where the man makes a profession of faith: *'Lord, I believe.'*

While the blind man opened more and more to the light of faith, the Pharisees, though physically sighted, became progressively more spiritual blind. Their blindness was caused by sin. Theirs was a wilful blindness- the refusal to see.

The man's journey from blindness to sight symbolises the journey from unbelief to faith, which is a journey from darkness to light. Physical sight is a wonderful gift which we should never take for granted. But faith is a deeper and more wonderful kind of seeing.

Paul says to the Ephesians, *'Once you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.'* Without faith we are in the deep night and do not know where we are going.

Those who have been enlightened by Christ can never again see themselves and their lives in the same light as before. Everything is lit up with an inner radiance. Faith helps us to find our way through the chaos, confusion and darkness of the modern world.

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.

Have a blessed Sunday - Fr. Pavol

