



Kyabram Catholic Parish

St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala ~ St Sebastian's-Merrigum

St Augustine's – Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620

Tel: 03 – 5852 1026 Email: Kyabram@cdos.org.au

Parish Priest – Fr Cornelio (Jinjo) Solis

We come to worship we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land

Ascension of the Lord

24th May 2020



Readings for this week:
Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20



Readings for next Sunday:
Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13
John 20:19-23



Entrusting Australia to

Mary Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

Looking at the Readings

Each of the Synoptic Gospels concludes with Jesus' departure from earth and from the company of the Eleven. This year, Year A, Matthew's Gospel does not mention the Ascension. It gives the account of the Apostles last meeting with Christ, his command to preach, teach and baptise and his promise that he will be with them to the end of time. The first reading from Luke's Acts of the Apostles gives us a detailed account of the Ascension of Christ, of Jesus word's to them and their actions at the time of his departure and afterwards.

The Second reading, (Ephesians 1:17-23) provides a deeper insight to the event and mystery of the Ascension. It is St Paul at prayer. While a great missionary in action, he is also a theologian and man of contemplation. He is sharing his hope and trust in his Saviour and his words of praise and blessing with us.

Galilee

Jesus grew up in Nazareth in Galilee, where he started his ministry (Luke 4:14); his first disciples were Galileans; the women of Galilee were the first witnesses to the empty tomb (Luke 23:55-24:8). The Risen Lord said he will meet the Apostles in Galilee (Matt 28:16, Mark 16:7). At the Ascension the angels addressed them as "You men from Galilee" (Acts 1:11). The Apostles feet were firmly on the ground, their eyes were fixed upward into the sky when Christ was lifted up. The Apostles started in Galilee, the border region to the Gentiles, preached and baptised in every land but remained lifted up in spirit to the heavenly realm. We, too, here on earth have our spirits and hearts lifted up to the Lord.

Mary Help of Christians

At the videoconference of the Australian Catholic Bishops last week they passed the motion: "That the Australian Bishops entrust Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic." Mary Help of Christians has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is 24th May. But this year it coincides with the feast of the Ascension and so is transferred to Monday 25th May. See prayer in left column.

On the Lighter Side

Meeting with my new priest, I asked if I could have vigil prayers and a requiem Mass when I eventually die. "Of course," he said, grabbing his diary. "What date do you want?"



PARISH UPDATE

At a special meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council on Tuesday it was discussed in conjunction with Fr Jinjo that at this stage under Diocesan and Government guidelines it would not be possible to recommence regular Sunday Masses without risk to health of parishioners.

Continue to be Eucharist by reaching out in the care of each other.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed.

Please feel free to reach out to Fr Jinjo or any of our PPC members.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA

The Catholic Bishops of Australia released on 14th May 2020 'A Word of Encouragement to the Catholic People of Australia' during the COVID-19 pandemic. This letter is included in its entirety at the end of this bulletin.

As mentioned on the front page of the bulletin, the bishops also agreed to entrust the country to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day. You may like to say this prayer (which is included on the front page, but is also provided in a larger format on the last page).

FROM ST KILIAN'S PARISH, BENDIGO

St Kilian's Parish through their Facebook page has live online Holy Mass at 12.10pm Monday through to Saturday each week, as well as Rosary at 9.00pm every night. Simply search for St Kilian's Parish on Facebook.

Mass still continues to be celebrated at St Kilian's Church, on Sundays at 10.00am, livestreamed to the diocese's website: <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/>.

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

While the current COVID-19 conditions prevail, our Parish is seeking ways to keep our parishioners as connected and informed as possible.

If you are aware that you have not provided your email and/or mobile phone number to the Parish, could you please provide these to the Parish Office via email (kyabram@cdos.org.au).

It would also be appreciated if you could pass this message on to others in our Parish.

QUOTE

Sometimes angels are just ordinary people who help us believe in miracles again.

— Unknown

www.dailyinspirationalquotes.in

REFLECTIONS

The 'Pray As You Go' website (<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>) now has 'Pray As You Stay' reflections. These reflections focus on facing up to the difficult things we face at the moment – Anxieties, Suffering, Death, Loneliness, Disappointment, Waiting, Decisions (what matters most).

Join them for another week of prayer during this difficult time.

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME

Some other options for you:

- **'MASS ON DEMAND'** every day from Our Lady of the Way Parish, Nth Sydney & Lavendar Bay Livestream or video archive: <https://cathnews.com/> (Scroll down) and **Facebook: 'Mass on Demand'**.
- **DAILY TV MASS** Livestream or video archive from the National Catholic Broadcasting Council of Canada: <https://dailytvmass.com/> and **Facebook: 'Daily TV Mass'**
- **MASS FOR YOU AT HOME** live streamed at 6.00 am every Sunday on Channel 10: <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>.

EMAIL GREMLINS

The Parish has this week sent two emails to all our parishioners we have email addresses for. The first was about the PPC decision not to resume Masses at this time, and the second email giving details of Masses that are available online.

Unfortunately, there have been problems with our server and many emails were returned and hence not received by some parishioners. All information contained in these two emails is included in this bulletin.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sick: Fr Ted Harte, Una Donegan, Joan Childs, Jacqui Rosendale

Recently Deceased: Anna Medica, Pat O'Shannessy, Tony Marsicovetere

Anniversaries: -



(Our practice is to leave the names on the sick list for a month. Please contact the parish office to renew for another month.)

Parish Priest

Fr Cornelio (Jinjo) Solis
Mob: 0438 813 082

Pastoral Associate
Alma Limbrick

Administration
Leanne, Colleen and Ruth

Parish Office – closed until further notice, however the Parish Office can still be contacted through its email address at:
kyabram@cdos.org.au

Principals
St Augustine's College
Brayden Stone – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary
Katrina Johnson – Phone 5859 0371

Parish Pastoral Council
Fr Jinjo, Alma Limbrick (Pastoral Associate), Joe Chant (Chairperson), Alana Brennan, Aurelia Brunt, Maurie Finn, John Forde, Katrina Johnson, Finola Price, Brayden Stone, Mary Zobec

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"I am praying for them..."
(John 17:9)

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.



Join the Pilgrimage

The disciples journeyed from the tomb in Jerusalem out into the country side and towns obedient to the bidding of Jesus. During this time a risen Jesus revealed Himself to them. It was a time of turmoil, a time of both extraordinary joy and a time of isolation and fear.

Does this sound familiar?

As Jesus was then, so He is now. The Lord is risen and so very close to you.

While isolation may be required and a duty, rather let us benefit from joining with a like-minded community that together "choose" a spiritual self-imposed isolation over these coming weeks until Pentecost.

For further information or to register, simply head to their website at <https://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com/>.

OUR BULLETIN

We continue to provide our weekly on-line bulletin as we adjust to the impact of COVID-19 on our lives.

With none of the usual activities of Parish life at the moment, much that is contained in our bulletin is online links to other sites. We hope that these links will provide you with ways to celebrate your faith, find prayers and reflections, as well as activities to sustain you.

We will also endeavour to provide information that is as up-to-date as possible, however please be mindful that in the rapidly changing world we find ourselves in, that sometimes information contained in the bulletin may be outdated by the time you read it.

Fr Jinjo will continue to pray for our sick, our recently deceased and for anniversaries. If you would like a name included on the bulletin, please email to Kyabram@cdos.org.au.

Our peace and blessings to you all.



A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA

FROM THE BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA

Dear brothers and sisters,

Grace and peace to you in these Easter days. We write to you from a plenary meeting of the Bishops Conference which is like no other. Unable to meet face-to-face as we normally do, the bishops are meeting online for a week. We are intensely conscious of our isolation – not only from each other but also from you, the people whom we serve in the name of the Risen Lord. As we think of you, we make our own the words of St Paul: “So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Australia has certainly suffered because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but not as grievously as some other countries. For that we thank God and we congratulate public health authorities and governments on their prompt and prudent responses. Australians in general have also shown the solidarity and good sense, the generosity and kindness needed in such a time. In our healthcare workers particularly we have seen an exceptional spirit of self-sacrifice, and for that we are all grateful.

The Churches and other religious communities have played their part, which has meant the suspension of public worship and the closure of places of worship. This has been a real deprivation, and the bishops understand not only your anxiety about the virus and shutdown but more especially your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. There is a real hunger in this. It is something we all feel, and we long for the time when our hunger will be satisfied as together we return to the feast of the Lord.

Even when our doors are closed, our hearts are still open. The churches may not yet be fully open, but the heart of the Church, which is the heart of Christ, is wide open. The celebration of Mass has never ceased. Though we and our brother priests cannot yet offer Mass with the people, we are still offering Mass day by day for the people – for all of you who are “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone” (cf Genesis 2:23). The Church which is the Body of Christ still glows with the life of Easter, “thought to be dying, yet we are alive...to be sorrowful, yet still rejoicing...to have nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Corinthians 6:9-10).

At the heart of the community of disciples, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14). In this month of May, Pope Francis has urged us to look to her to intercede for us in this time of affliction; and to Mary we will entrust our homeland later this month, looking to a mother’s unfailing love. May she who is Health of the Sick and Help of Christians pray for us now, that we may see Jesus with her eyes, the eyes of Easter, and love him with her heart, which is the heart of faith: “O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions but in your mercy hear and answer us” (Memorare).

The experience of shutdown has stirred great energy and creativity among people and pastors; this is producing unexpected gifts which we will take with us into the future. No locked door can keep the Risen Lord out; he is everywhere, even in this time of distress. "I stand at the door and knock," he says. "If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come to you" (Revelation 3:20). We have heard his voice and opened the door to him who has come to us. That is the reason for our hope, even our rejoicing.

One important service which people of faith provide to the wider community in this time is an unceasing prayer of intercession. So we ask you all to continue praying in the power of faith for those who have died, who are sick or at risk from COVID-19, for our healthcare professionals, essential service providers and researchers, for all who are isolated and anxious, and for our civic leaders and health authorities.

In the hope born of faith we look forward to the time when the crisis will pass and we will be able to resume fully the Church's worship and mission, even in a landscape which may be quite changed. In the meantime, we are talking with the states and the federal government about the reopening of churches and the gradual relaxation of restrictions. We will work with governments and local authorities at each stage of any resumption of Church life. We commit to keeping ourselves and each other safe by observing strictly the advice regarding numbers, distancing and hygiene when the reopening of churches is permitted.

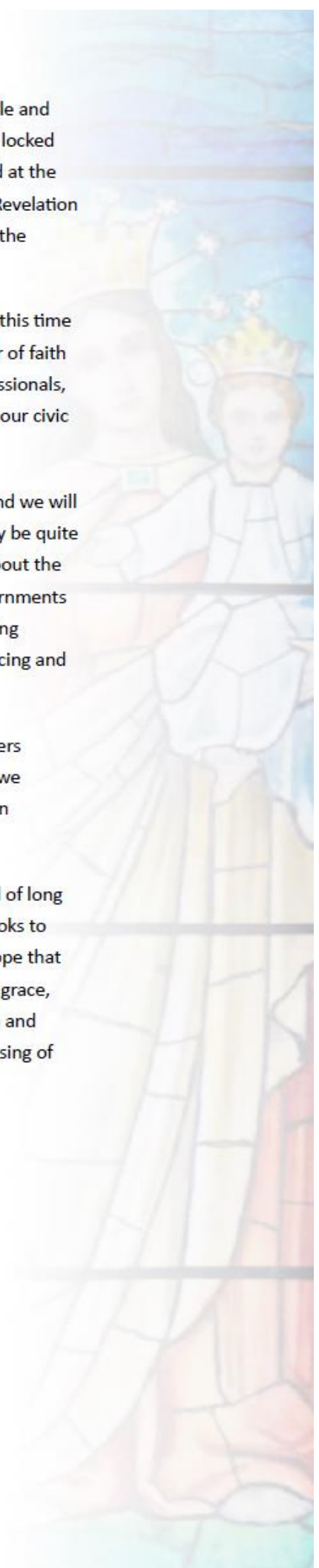
We urge people to abide by the best advice on how to keep themselves and others safe physically, emotionally and spiritually, especially the vulnerable elderly. That is why we recommend the live-streamed Masses and the many other resources offered on diocesan websites, our Catholic counselling services and the COVIDSafe App.

The season of Lent may be behind us, but this time of shutdown has been a kind of long Lent. Now, we pray, Easter is dawning as our country recovers from the pandemic and looks to build the future. There is no room for complacency but there is certainly room for the hope that Easter brings to birth, the hope that "after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10-11). Looking to the God of all grace, we send to you our blessing of peace and all consolation.

From,

The Catholic Bishops of Australia

14 May 2020





O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

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