

ST. KEVIN'S PARISH, HAMPTON PARK

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~Dear Parishioners,

On the evening of Wednesday, 18th March, the Bishops of the Province of Victoria conveyed the following actions: i) the immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice, and ii) that all other gatherings are suspended. Yesterday, Archbishop Peter communicated greater detail and clarity by way of guidelines that apply throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The decisive actions taken by our Church leaders have been in concert with those of both the Federal and State Governments. The impact of these decisive actions have fallen upon the Church suddenly and heavily, and left many feeling sad and somewhat lost.

I decided last Tuesday to call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council, which included four other parishioners for their particular involvement in the life of St. Kevin's Parish. This Extraordinary Meeting was held on Thursday evening on the Solemnity of St. Joseph. This was a crucial time to consult, discuss and decide on a course of action for our Parish in light of the crisis we face together. Thursday's letter from Archbishop Peter was only received after the Extraordinary Meeting was held.

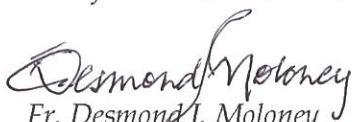
Key decisions made at the Extraordinary Meeting were that:

- o Sunday Mass for the remaining Sundays in Lent, including Palm/ Passion Sunday, would be recorded for parishioners to view*
- o The Triduum (Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday's Celebration of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil) and an Easter Sunday morning Mass would be streamed live for parishioners*
- o In addition, prior to Good Friday, Mass will be recorded for the remaining Fridays in Lent*

Consideration was given to a range of other factors, including the financial contributions of parishioners when public Masses are not being celebrated. However, precise actions are still to be determined for a number of these issues. The meeting recognised the supreme importance of communicating as effectively as possible with as many parishioners as can be managed. One of the most obvious and visible ways is via the front of St. Kevin's Church, with messages on the glass frontage. Email communication is encouraged. If not already known, it would be advantageous for the Parish Office to receive your email address.

As developments occur almost on a daily basis, there will be a need to continue the communications to the Parish at large. Parishioners will need to be provided with information regarding how to access the recorded and live streamed Masses and how financial support of the Parish can be maintained. The church is open Monday to Friday 8.00am till 11.00am and Saturdays and Sundays 8.00am to 12noon. At this stage, the Adoration Chapel is available as well as the Grotto for personal prayer.

With further communications to come, I remain, yours sincerely in Jesus our Lord,


Fr. Desmond J. Moloney
Parish Priest