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# The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle

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St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 8 May 2020 — Fifth edition

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## Did someone say “OPEN”??

**D**ear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

### OPEN?

We are planning for the day – as yet unknown - when we will be able to open the doors of the cathedral again for people to come and pray. Clearly, the numbers permitted will initially be small, and we will need to have a thorough sanitation regime to reduce the risk of prayerful Catholics inadvertently leaving a trail of sickness and death behind them!

I have received some lovely notes from parishioners and from far-away “viewers” who appreciate being able to view our cathedral Masses via the internet, or who stay in touch through Facebook or this Chronicle.

Why not send us in a photo of what you're doing during this time of “isolation” to stay spiritually, emotionally or physically well? A picture of your devotional shrine, perhaps, or of some hobby you've been keeping busy with, or your far

working-from-home desk?



**Photo of a parishioner and her work colleagues in a major Sydney hospital, on the coronavirus front lines**



**Home shrine photo sent in by parishioners, who were grateful to have found a supply of toilet rolls**

Because of the restrictions on gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot have any big celebrations just now to mark this important anniversary for the Church in Australia, but we will certainly do so in the months to come.

### MONEY!

A steady stream of people have been asking how to make a donation to the cathedral or the Archdiocese or their local parish.

Such generosity is very lovely to see. There are some details below on how you can give.

When viewing online what other cathedrals around the world were doing for the Easter liturgies I was really surprised to see at St Patrick's in New York that the Easter Vigil began with my opposite number there, Monsignor Ritchie, in the darkened cathedral asking for donations and giving details on how to give, before Cardinal Dolan started to bless the Easter Fire!

Now I'm not criticizing: the American clergy and laity are generally far more "up front" about these realities than we are. And the longer we go on without having collections at Mass and people buying votive candles, the further down the tubes our budget goes. On the other hand, many of you have less disposable income during this shutdown.

Anyway, please note: donating money to the cathedral will NOT buy you forgiveness for your sins or secure you a place in heaven without the need to repent! It will, however, spare me from having to "go American" and start every livestreamed Mass talking about money rather than just showing a slide with a hyperlink.

### COME, HOLY SPIRIT

The Easter season finishes with Pentecost Sunday, commemorating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Just as there is a special Easter Vigil liturgy, there is also a special extended Pentecost Vigil liturgy, whose purpose is that we may follow the example of the apostles and Our Lady, who persevered in prayer, awaiting the Spirit promised by the Lord, and listening with quiet hearts to the Word of God.

Sadly the extended Pentecost Vigil often doesn't get celebrated because most places just have their usual quick'n'easy Saturday night "vigil Mass" instead.

Well, not this year at St Mary's Cathedral! We will be celebrating the complete Pentecost Vigil liturgy, with its four beautiful Old Testament Readings about the Holy Spirit, its four wonderful psalms, and its four special prayers.

This will be at 6.00pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May, livestreamed whether or not the rules on gatherings have been relaxed. Please mark it in your calendar and join us to call upon the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth, and refresh the Church.



**Fr Don Richardson, Dean,**  
 Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral Parish, Sydney.  
 Administrator St Philip Howard Parish, Norfolk Island, South Pacific.  
 Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Darlinghurst.  
 Liturgy Office Director, Archdiocese of Sydney.

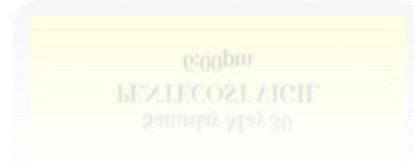
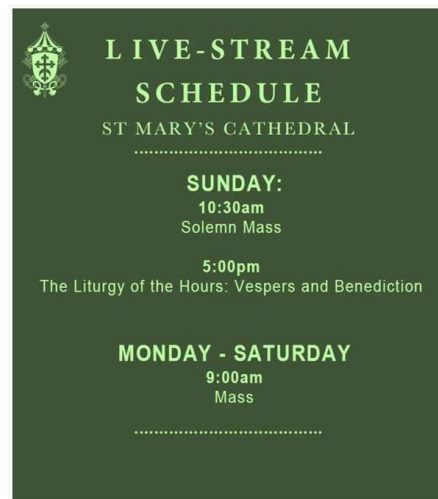


<https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/smc/#donate>

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**Please do not forget:**

St Mary's Cathedral is live-streaming daily mass via its website:

<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>



# Chronicle Notices

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## Supporting our Seafarers during the Pandemic

Donations of personal hygiene products are urgently sought for Care Packages being put together for the thousands of seafarers trapped on ships coming into Sydney waters.

Chaplain to the Seafarers, Sr Mary Leahy, said donations of shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, knitted beanies and chocolates are desperately needed for the thousands of seamen currently stranded on ships on our waterfront due to the Coronavirus.

Sr Mary has spent the past 20 years helping those who earn a living on the seas and said she has never seen conditions so dire.

St Andrew Malabar, St Charles Borromeo Ryde/ Gladesville, Our Lady Star of the Sea Miranda, All Saints Liverpool and Mary Immaculate Waverley have agreed to be drop-off points for the donations. However if you would like to support the appeal and collect donations please contact journalist Debbie Cramsie at the Sydney Archdiocese on [debbie.cramsie@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:debbie.cramsie@sydneycatholic.org)

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## Theology on Tap to mark Bicentenary of arrival of pioneering priest in Australia

The Chaplaincy of the University of

Notre Dame is hosting a Facebook Live talk and Q and A "Archpriest John Therry: a Meddling Priest?" on the bicentenary of Fr Therry and fellow priest, Fr Philip Conolly's arrival as the first official Catholic priests in NSW.

The guest speaker will be Fr Conn O Maoldhomhnaigh, President of Carlow College in Ireland, the same university college that Fr Therry attended. Auxiliary Bishop Richard Umbers will introduce Fr Conn to the group.

Tune into the online talk via the Theology on Tap Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Theology-on-Tap-127369587336998/> at 6:30pm on Monday 11 May.

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## Virtual Pentecost Pilgrimage

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is an official sponsor of this virtual free pilgrimage which began on Sunday 26 April and will run for 6 weeks.

The pilgrimage is aimed at helping Catholics nurture their faith in the lead up to Pentecost while public Masses are suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each Wednesday and Sunday, formative videos will be released for registered participants to engage online. Each set of videos will reflect on the Sunday readings of that week with a particular focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in our

Church and world.

To register for this free online pilgrimage to Pentecost, simply go to [www.pentecostpilgrimage.com](http://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com) and enter your details to receive a link to the videos as they are released over the next six weeks.

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## In these unprecedented times of social distancing, we do not need to feel isolated and alone.

As the outbreak of COVID-19 impacts Australian communities, the focus is on protecting those who are vulnerable or at risk. Social distancing can create a sense of loneliness, particularly if we live by ourselves and are unable to get out for essential items.

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community.

CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. CCareline is here to help. Call 13 18 19 Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.