
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 02 October 2020 — Fourteenth edition

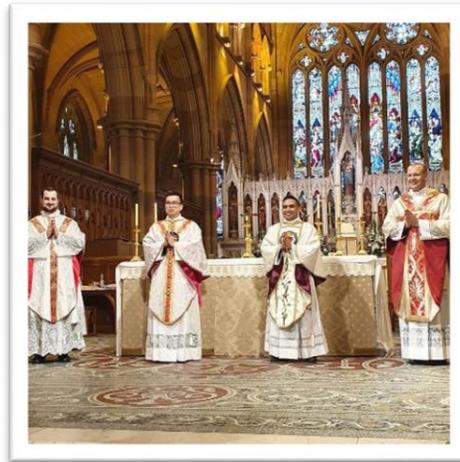
“Celebrations of many kinds!”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

Thanks be to God, community transmission of COVID-19 in our city is now extremely low. I hope that this will mean the restriction of people in the cathedral will soon be raised from 100 – it would be quite unreasonable for the current restrictions on places of worship to continue as they are.

Fortunately, we were granted exemptions to enable up to 300 in the congregation for our recent Ordinations to the Priesthood and for the State Funeral for the late Hon. John Fahey. Both were very special events in their own way.

It was a great joy to see four new priests ordained, and there was much socially distanced excitement among their families and friends. Once again the Cathedral proved itself the place where the mystical reality of the Church becomes visible, as flock



and shepherd gather at the Altar of God. Once again cathedral “at capacity” (much reduced!), a significant body of vested clergy, soaring sacred song, a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet.

John Fahey’s funeral was, naturally, a sadder event, but marked by much Christian hope and love. The cathedral comes into its own on such occasions which blend the protocols of Church and State: with the solemn pealing of the half-muffled bells, police motorcycle outriders escorting the hearse, the Vice-Regal automobiles arriving ensigns with crowns

and official emblems, doors opened to discharge their assorted Excellencies, whom I have the honour to greet and welcome once again; as well as our elected representatives in the Federal and State Parliaments, accompanied by serious-looking men and women speaking into their sleeves, and uniformed officers as well. And inside, the swelling organ, the mourning family, the old friends, the former colleagues, the Holy Mass, the moving tributes. And hand sanitizer.

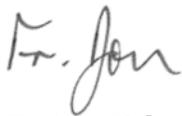
I want to acknowledge the great diligence and hard work of the cathedral’s staff, which ensured that both events went so very well. I am fortunate to have a really remarkable and dedicated team of people working with me here.

Other recent events of note were the yearly Mass for the Friends of St Mary’s Cathedral, followed later the same day by their Annual General Meeting. The Mass was livestreamed and the

AGM was held on Zoom – a reminder that even though it is Spring, and Daylight Saving Time is about to begin, we are still in the grip of a pandemic, and we still need to be careful! By the way, if you are not already a member of the Friends of St Mary’s Cathedral, this is an ideal time to join!

So, now, it is time to start thinking about COVID-safe Christmas celebrations at St Mary’s Cathedral. That will be very special indeed!

Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for us!



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.

Chronicle Notices



Friends of St Mary’s Cathedral

Heritage & Community
 Helping to bring St Mary’s Cathedral, Sydney, to life through events, fundraising, and community engagement.

JOIN TODAY:
[HTTPS://CATHEDRALFRIENDS.ORG.AU/](https://cathedralfriends.org.au/)

Or for more info please email:
info@cathedralfriends.org.au

e-Petition to proclaim Modern Slavery Act 2018

While the NSW Government has now committed itself to enacting legislation passed by parliament over two years ago, pressure is still on the government to ensure this happens before the end of 2020.

You’ll find a link to an epetition calling on the government to act here:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/epetitions-list.aspx>. The closing date for signing the e-Petition has been extended to 3 November 2020.

Over 10,000 people have so far signed the petition and with the securing of 20,000 or more e-signatures, a debate on the subject of the e-Petition will be activated in the Legislative Assembly.

Research study on worship practices during COVID19 pandemic

Monash University is inviting practicing Catholics aged over 18 across Australia to participate in a research study on religious practice before and after COVID-19 lockdowns. The anonymous study is exploring possible relationships between religious orientation, worship choices and post-pandemic spiritual wellbeing. If you’d like to participate in the study, you’ll find more information here:

https://monash.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_43f3xmKU1xa0S1

Live-streaming of Mass:

St Mary’s Cathedral is live-streaming daily Mass via its website:

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



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Please keep sending us your Prayer Intentions and Petition to Our Lady

PRAYER INTENTION
prayerintentions@stmaryscathedral.org.au

PETITION TO OUR LADY
petitionstoourlady@stmaryscathedral.org.au



HOUSE OF WELCOME Food Bank

Foodbank provides household necessities for people seeking asylum who have limited or no income.

People can access groceries on a weekly basis to alleviate the cost of living. The Foodbank program is largely stocked through the generosity of people in the community. No contribution is too small.

Contact:
office@houseofwelcome.com.au, 197 The Tronsgate, Granville
 Ph: 02 9727 5090
stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome

