



Sunday 29th of March, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year A



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Ian McGinnity
Trainee Deacon: John Collins
Parish Secretary: Claudine Nallétamby
Parish Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
Youth Coordinator: Adam Chioatto
Mob: 0423 077 677
Email: ctk.nr.ym@gmail.com

School Principal: Tony Hughes
School Phone: 8846 2700
School Web Site:
www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au

Baptisms: ~~Until Further Notice~~

~~Each 2nd & 4th Sundays - 11:15am~~

Weddings: By Appointment

Reconciliation: ~~Until Further Notice~~

~~Saturdays 9:30am & 4pm~~

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

~~**Until Further Notice** Saturdays - 9:30am~~

~~**Rosary: Until Further Notice** Saturdays - 8:30am~~

Children's Liturgy: T.B.C.

Good Neighbour Group: Mary MacKillop Hall
every 2nd Thursday at 10am - **Next meeting T.B.C.**

PARISH SERVICES

Sunday Masses: ~~Weekday Masses:~~

5:30pm Saturday ~~Tuesday 7:30pm~~

8am Sunday ~~Wednesday 9am~~

10am Sunday ~~Thursday 9am~~

~~Friday 9:15am~~

~~Saturday 9am~~

Parish Address:

10 Statham Ave, North Rocks NSW 2151

Phone: 9871 8710

Email: northrocks@parracatholic.org

Parish Website: <https://northrockscatholic.org.au/>

ANointing OF THE SICK:

The next conferral of the anointing of the sick will be next Sat 16th of May 2020 at 9am Mass.

IN YOUR MERCY, PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:

THE SICK: Dawn Peat, Mary Magill, Joe Frare, Afifi Elchaar, Daniele Donu, Patrick Wheeler, Sylvette Marsh.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Betty Blyth (Mother of Peter Blyth), Eric Harland, Michael Heaton and Robert Dona.

ANNIVERSARIES: Victoriana Castaneda, Laurice Behan, Jim Saad, Timothy Euhus, Karen Euhus, George Evans, Theodore Greuter, Eric Bokeyar.

DECEASED: Y.T. Hsu, Deannu Hsu, Joseph Van Minh, Tony Khalife, Soraya Khalife, Morrie Kahlife, Yvonne Boulous, Phillip Boulous, Charlie Karam, Leila Karam & All Souls.

ISOLATION

Fr Richard Hendrick OFM

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are. To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing

MISSION STATEMENT

Centred on the Gospel of Jesus, Christ the King Church is a warm, welcoming community of faith.

We continue to strive to be open and to embrace diversity, as we love and grow in relationship to God and in service to one another.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY ADAPTED FROM A REFLECTION BY FR GILBERT OSTDIEK OFM

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm: 129:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Our Lenten journey is nearing completion. It is a surreal experience not to be able to gather weekly for the Eucharist. The Triduum and Easter Feast are in sight, but their vision can be obscured in the midst of this coronavirus. This weekend readings invite us to rest for a moment and reflect on the path we have been following. Lent began with two Jesus stories, set in a desert and on a mountain top. Next Sunday we will metaphysically if not physically join the crowd welcoming him into Jerusalem with waving palms, and then on his way of the cross to death on a hill outside the city. In the three Sundays in between we have accompanied those preparing the waters of rebirth on Holy Saturday, listening with them to three gospel stories catechumens have been told from of old about the meaning of baptism.

Those stories are ours, too. We join the elect in reflecting on own baptismal journey into the life and death of Christ (RCIA 4, 138). The meaning of that journey is wrapped in three gospels stories. A journey of thirsty hearts in search of the living water Jesus promised a Samaritan woman (John 6). Of blind eyes yearning to receive the gift of sight from one who is the light for our path (John 8). And today, the story of lives waiting to be freed from a grave by the one who is “the resurrection and the life” (John 11).

What are the graves from which we hope to be raised today? They go by many names. Fear of bodily death from the Coronavirus. The demise of hope and charity in an uncertain economic climate. Lack of physical touch and connectedness to the ones we love. The frustrating incompleteness and limitations of our human nature, which Paul calls “life in the body.” Our spiritual graves are hidden within us awaiting a summons to arise. Those and others as well.

What words of hope and guidance do today’s scriptures offer us? The message they each re-echo is one of hope. In Ezekiel’s metaphor of the graveyard of God’s exiled people, God’s word tells them. “I will open your graves ... I will put my spirit in you that you may live.” God’s gift of restoration is resolute and undeterred. “With the Lord, there is mercy and fullness of redemption,” is the psalmist’s hope-filled song. It can be ours, too.

To his community in Rome (we empathise with people in Italy and Rome at the moment including Msgr John Boyle confined in Domus Australia), caught in conflict and worry over the right path to salvation, Paul’s message is simple. If you belong to Christ and the Spirit of God dwells in you, “then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his spirit living in you.” Christ won for us the victory over every grave, giving us hope. God’s gift of the newness of life has the final say.

Today’s Gospel passage tells us that Jesus went to Bethany, near Jerusalem, to visit the tomb of his friend Lazarus. Jesus had been staying at the Jordan, the site of John’s baptizing, and Jesus’ disciples had tried to dissuade him from going anywhere near Jerusalem because he would put his life at risk. But he had a different purpose in mind, so that Mary and Martha, and mourners from Jerusalem consoling them, would see “God’s glory” and believe that God had sent him. To Martha who had hoped Jesus would come to heal Lazarus when he was ill, Jesus simply said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Thanking his Father for hearing him, he called Lazarus from the tomb. He came out, bound from head to foot in burial shrouds. “Unbind him and let him go free,” Jesus instructed them. What he said to Lazarus, he says to each of us in our tombs. “Come out,” and to those concerned for us, “unbind them and let them go free.” The message is clear. The lavish love God showed us in Jesus is unbounded and will not be taken back. It prompts us to thank God for the gift of the newness of life in all its forms. That is the message of hope.

There is another message as well in the readings, an invitation to trust. God’s promise to breathe new life (how literally important breath is in these times) into the bones of the exiled people, the gift of the Spirit of the risen Christ dwelling in us to bring us to new life, and the risen one who can summon everyone out of their graves to newness of life because he is “the resurrection and the life” — these give reasons for hope. Our graves need not leave us bound, thanks be to God, even in these most difficult times.

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS UPDATE REQUEST

With the current climate, it is now imperative to be able to communicate and disseminate information to our parishioners, up-to-date information as the parish receives it. Our best form of direct communication is via email and our parish website. Can we please request for all parishioners to contact the parish office via email: northrocks@parracatholic.org with their correct email address. Thank you.

If you wish to follow Mass, this weekend, click on the link below to find Mass on Demand live-streamed on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews>

<http://westernborder.church/online-masses/our-local-parish-masses-online/>



**DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA**

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP VINCENT TO THE PEOPLE OF PARRAMATTA DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of us feel powerless in the face of this corona virus pandemic. We see in a devastating way how widely a virus spreads person to person and the immense damage it is doing to our community. We are indeed living in a time of great crisis locally and globally. So, it is only human that we will experience considerable fear and anxiety. However, as people of faith in Jesus of Nazareth, we are called to place our trust in our God who promises to be present with us even in these times of great suffering and sickness. Even in his seeming absence, we still place our hope in the One who loves us tenderly and with great mercy. And so, as responsible citizens and faithful Catholics, in solidarity with our wonderful doctors and health professionals, our first rule must be: "Do no harm." to view Bishop Vincent's full message, click on the link below:

<https://parracatholic.org/covid19/#mass>

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION FOR CHILDREN IN CHRIST THE KING PARISH 2020

Sadly, due to the effects of the virus Covid-19, after a meeting with the Parish Sacramental Team, it has been decided to suspend preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist (Holy Communion) that was scheduled to begin on 1 April. In the interest of health and safety this program will be delayed until such time as we believe the danger of infection is minimised. The sacraments of Confirmation and First Reconciliation and the program of preparation for them, will also have to be suspended until such time as we are given advice that the current pandemic is alleviated. We invite parents to continue to pray with their children and recognise their connection to the Church through their baptism as members of the living Body of Christ during this unprecedented situation.

CHRIST THE KING - YOUTH NEWS

Dearest families and youth, we think your health and welfare is extremely important and so are taking the next few weeks off to ensure a little social distance and help protect us all from COVID-19. You are all in our continuing prayers.

Mr Adam Chioatto - Youth Minister on 0423 077 677 or ctk.nr.ym@gmail.com

PROJECT COMPASSION

Dominic, 47 is a former teacher and father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with the Caritas Australia's Safe House and Family Anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around. The program provides gender-based violence prevention training, counselling services and safe accommodation for women and children survivors of violence. Now a community trainer, he works with other men to help them to change their behaviour and build more harmonious family lives. Dominic and his wife, Christophylda say that their relationship has been transformed – and their family life is now harmonious, happy and safe. Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



EASTER READERS PRACTISE - CANCELLED

Practise will not be taking place for the upcoming Easter celebrations. Thank you to those who volunteered to participate in these celebrations.



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

OFFICE FOR WORSHIP

Dear Friends, during this time when we are no longer able to gather to celebrate the Eucharist, Liturgy Help has enabled free access to all parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta. The URL for Parramatta is:

www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray Information on how parishioners can

access the site follows on the next page. Sr Mary Louise

LiturgyHelp.

Personal and Family Prayer.

In this time of crisis, we are providing Catholics with access to a range of resources for personal and family prayer. In particular, we hope that Catholics in social isolation can gain a sense of prayerful solidarity with their local faith communities and the whole Body of Christ.

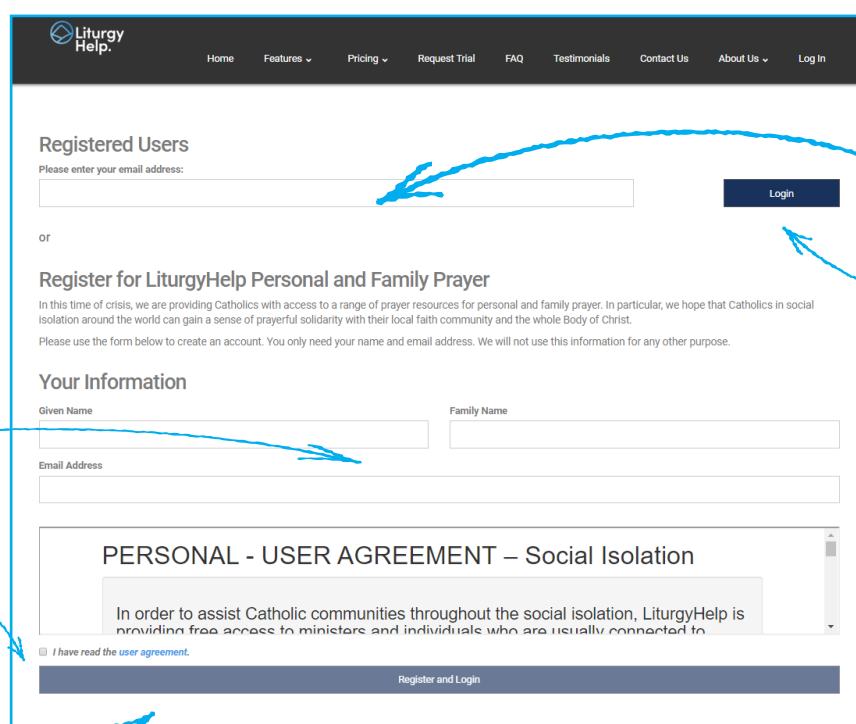
Feel free to print resources and give them to your friends, family and community, particularly those who do not have access to the internet.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

To access these free resources, go to:
liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray

Register as a new user

Complete your details (name & email address), confirm the user agreement, and click 'Register and Login'.



The screenshot shows the LiturgyHelp website's registration page. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Features, Pricing, Request Trial, FAQ, Testimonials, Contact Us, About Us, and Log In. The main content area is titled 'Registered Users' and includes a login section with an email address input field and a 'Login' button. Below this is a registration section titled 'Register for LiturgyHelp Personal and Family Prayer'. It contains a paragraph of introductory text and a 'Your Information' section with input fields for 'Given Name', 'Family Name', and 'Email Address'. A 'PERSONAL - USER AGREEMENT – Social Isolation' section is also present, with a checkbox for 'I have read the user agreement.' and a 'Register and Login' button at the bottom. Blue arrows from the text on the left point to the 'Given Name', 'Family Name', 'Email Address', and 'Register and Login' button. An arrow from the text on the right points to the 'Login' button.

Registered already?

Just enter your email address and click 'Login'.



For help, ideas and updates, follow us:
facebook.com/LiturgyHelp



**Liturgy
Help.** ONLINE
LITURGY
RESOURCE.





**New South Wales
State Emergency Operations Centre**



Thank you for your support and community cooperation in these unprecedented times.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a wavy line.

**State Emergency Operations Controller
NSW Police Force Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys APM**

18 March 2020

SEOCN – Crimestoppers Letter to Household – Novel CoronaVirus (2019-nCoV) – 18 March 2020

Unclassified

MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 – We will get through this

25 March 2020

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia operates at the grass roots and provides material and personal support to individuals and families in local communities across Australia.

Our members and volunteers are the heartbeat of the organisation.

As the spread of COVID-19 continues, the St Vincent de Paul Society in each state and territory is responding to the specific needs in those states and territories in line with advice and direction from the authorities.

As the impact of this virus, on the back of the bushfires and drought, will emerge in the weeks and months ahead, we will continue our work with all communities in need.

Through our conferences in local areas, the Society is doing what we can to maintain ongoing contact with people who need support and to engage with people seeking help, perhaps for the first time, in these unprecedented circumstances.

We are absolutely committed to walking with people whatever their circumstances, while doing everything we can to preserve the health and safety of our members, volunteers, staff and companions.

Conferences across the states and territories are doing practical things like food drops at people's front doors and maintaining phone contact with particularly vulnerable people.

The Rule calls us to respond with commitment, compassion and respect and to work with integrity and empathy.

Things are changing rapidly, and the reality of what we're dealing with as a nation will take time to dawn on many of us.

These are uncharted waters, but we will get through this.

If you need help, please contact the St Vincent de Paul Society on 13 18 12.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 conferences located in individual parishes across the country.

Media contact: Judith Tokley 0408 824 306 / media@svdp.org.au

Greetings from Rome - Monsignor John Boyle

I am writing this from my desk in my bedroom in Rome. The weather outside is beautiful; that perfect Easter weather with clear blue skies and glorious sunshine pouring into my room. But I cannot go outside. I am in lock-down, unable to go for my usual 6.00am walk.

Aljazeera seems to be the media source of choice for me here in Rome. According to the reporter, the death toll in Italy is over 4,000. The situation seems to be improving. Only 627 people died from the virus in Italy in the last twenty-four hours. There are 41,000 people infected with coronavirus in Italy. This is just one reason why I am staying indoors.

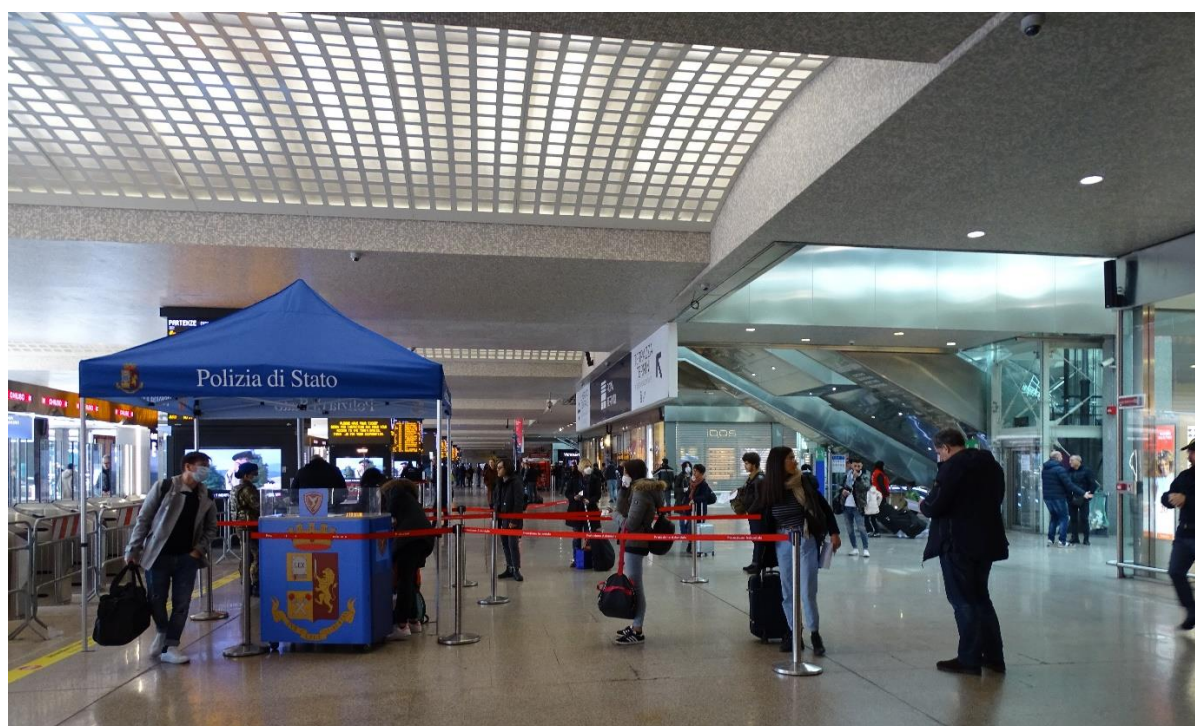
Life here is not too bad. Domus Australia and all hotels are closed. The big hotels on the Via Veneto have closed their main front doors. There is hardly anyone on the streets. Busses are still running but most without passengers. There might be one or two masked passengers hunched in the back seats. The doors at the front of the bus are permanently closed to protect the driver who is also masked. Even the pickpockets seem to be obeying Article 495. I know the situation because I sneaked out for a walk some days ago, but even then, the police were asking people why they were outside. It is mandatory to carry a document that has four reasons for being outside one's place of residence. This document has to be signed and dated. Judging by the large number of people walking their large dogs, they must have ticked "situations of necessity" or "reasons of health", (reasons 2 and 3), to be in the Borghese Gardens at 6.30am. Why Romans have such large dogs living with them in small apartments is unknown to me. The street I live on is deserted throughout the day.



Photo of my street taken from my kitchen window.



Above: Traffic as it was in December.
 Right: Taken when the Domus was working.
 Below: Rome's main railway station. Commuters are spaced 2 metres apart. They are filling in forms for the police explaining why they are travelling.



Stazione Termini

There are four of us living in Domus Australia. Father Luca Infantino, a doctrinal student at the Jesuit Pontifical Biblical Institute, Carlo and his girlfriend, and me. Carlo is a contractor employed here to do odd jobs working around the place, with the official title "porter". But he can cook! I am putting on so much weight and, without exercise, I will most likely avoid CLVID-19, but die from obesity. Well, as my grandmother, Mama, used to say, "Why die healthy?"

All the churches are closed. There is no Mass, baptisms, funerals or weddings. Crematoria in the northern part of the country are in operation twenty-four hours a day and even then, the army is moving bodies to less used crematoriums to dispose of them. There will be no public

Easter ceremonies. Everything will be done now over the internet. I thought it would be interesting to see the Holy Father performing the Washing of the Feet ceremony in front of television cameras with masked camera operators, before a non-congregation, and sanitising his hands in between feet. Frances, however, has suppressed that part of Holy Thursday. It would have called for twelve new liturgical bowls of water thereby theologically linking water (baptism) with the twelve apostles. I could preach an interesting homily on this juxtaposition.

We are hermetically sealed off from the outside world with food delivered by carrier, then cooked by Carlo. Carlo cleans my apartment twice a week. I have a washing machine in my apartment and a kitchen. So I am set. Father Luca and I go down to our restaurant for meals. He is studying for most of the day while I have been reading and watching DVDs, delivered to me by my friends at the British Embassy. With so much time on my hands, I read *Lord of the Flies* in a day and a half. It is a parable on human's poor behavior in a crisis that went on for months. (I suggest you don't read it.) I have watched *The Theory of Everything*, a movie based on the life of Stephen Hawking, the *Barchester Chronicles*, (1982), *Skyfall*, *Quantum of Solace* and *Dr No*, the latter released in 1962. By today's standards, *Dr No* is so corny. But I loved it. It took me back to my childhood. Everyone is smoking. Bond's treatment of women and spontaneous shooting opposition agents dead in the back, is unacceptable by today's standards. It was unacceptable in 1962 of course, but Pinewood Studios, following Hollywood, got away with it. Judi Dench's language in *Skyfall* leaves something to be desired. While nowhere near the 'bad language' in *Dash Cam Australia*, where the limited language of Australians is unbelievable, I am still uncomfortable with actors like Dench taking the Lord's name in vain. Today, however, at the suggestion of Kirsten my niece, I joined the Netflix family at €11.99 a month, only to then read Netflix is cutting streaming quality in Europe.

Having said that all Italy is in lockdown, some of my friends are asking why I am not coming home. I share with you a number of reasons. While it is probably possible in theory to get to Fiumicino - Ciampino is closed - where does one go from there? There is a flight from Munich or Frankfurt to Vietnam, and from there to Sydney. It sounds a bit dodgy. And, if there is a plane available you can't self-isolate on a plane. Spending fourteen days, or more, in quarantine in Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City is unappealing to me. I don't think it is possible to get back to Australia now other than by my chartering a private jet. Perhaps I should investigate crowdfunding for this private jet? I see the valet setup process starts at \$149 and Lifetime Plans are available.

To add to this. If we keep going here in Rome that way we have for the past week, all will be well. But if services fail, like the hot water going off, or the water itself failing, or there is civil unrest with a breakdown in law and order, or I get sick, then I will acknowledge that I have made the wrong choice. The three women fighting over toilet paper in Woolworths at Chullora shows just how thin civility is in our supposed 'civilised society'. I would feel uneasy to flee from here now. I think it is my job to stay at Domus Australia for the duration.

And speaking of the coronavirus, which is all anyone talks about here, did you know that the patron saint of pandemics is Saint Corona whose feast day is coming up? I have developed a great devotion St Corona is the last few days.



St. Corona is the patroness of plagues and pandemics. Corona, Latin for ‘crown’, is also the name of a second century martyr. St. Corona is considered as one of the patron saints of pandemics.

St Corona is closely associated with St Victor. Together, the two were put to death by Roman soldiers around the year 170 AD.

The dates and locations of their martyrdom are unclear. Most sources say it was in Syria, then under Roman rule. Some say Damascus; others, Antioch. Their feast day is May 14. Most historians agree they died during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Victor and Corona were put to death by order of a Roman judge named Sebastian.

The Italian city of Anzu is right smack in the middle of the current coronavirus pandemic. There is a basilica in Anzu where the relics of St. Victor and St. Corona have been preserved since the ninth century. There is also a church of St. Corona, (Straße 77, 2880 Wechsel, Austria). Corona was a teenager and was in a married relationship. She and her brother-in-law, St. Victor, were martyred. As Roman soldiers gouged out St. Victor’s eyes, she cried out to encourage him not to give up. He kept the faith and boldly proclaimed it. He was martyred, and then they took her, and essentially tied her to two bent-over palm trees. They then ripped her from limb-to-limb.

I think I should end there.

Santa Corona, ora pro nobis.

Merciful Father,

In this time of Great Lent, when our world is affected by the Coronavirus, we turn to you, source of all hope and healing, and ask you to:

Give wisdom to the leaders making decisions.

Give strength to the health professionals caring for the sick.

Guide the scientists searching for a cure. Heal the sick. Visit the ill and elderly.

Console those who are lonely. Bring hope to those who are anxious.

Bring light to those in darkness and shower your mercy on us all.

We Praise you with Christ your Son and your living Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

CREDIT CARD AND DIRECT DEBIT CHANGES

Please inform the Parish Office on 9871 8710 or send an email to northrocks@parracatholic.org of any changes to your credit card number/expiry date or direct debit account. - **Thank you for your ongoing support.**

EMAIL ADDRESS

If you have changed your email address or now have an email address, could you please notify the Parish Office northrocks@parracatholic.org as soon as possible. **Thank you**

ONLINE GIVING

Donations may also be made online via credit card: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/ChristTheKingParishNorthRocks>

If you wish to contribute via Direct Debit, please contact the Parish Office on 9871 8710 for the BSB and Account number for the Parish or Parramatta Catholic Foundation Account.

BEQUESTS (Please contact the Parish Office for further information)

Many of us have a special connection to our parish, nurtured by years of faith-sharing, schooling, friendships and support. A bequest to your parish, no matter how small, will help the faith community which has meant so much to you to continue its good works and its loving outreach. It is also a means by which you can plan a lasting gift for your parish which might not be possible in your lifetime. In receiving a bequest, a parish may be able to use the gift to attend to much needed maintenance and improvements to the church and other parish property. These kinds of gifts help the Parish free up other income to use toward pastoral care programs.