

# Catholic Parishes Of North Mackay and Farleigh

Parish Priest and Administrator  
Fr Stephen Hanly

Associate Pastor  
Fr James Ezeocha

Retired Priest  
Fr William Busuttin

S E R V I N G   T H E   C H U R C H   C O M M U N I T I E S   O F

St Joseph's Church, North Mackay  
St Brendan's Church, Bucasia

St Brigid's Church, Farleigh  
St Helen's Church, Calen  
St Peter's Church, Midge Point  
Star of the Sea Church, Seaforth

EMERGENCY CONTACT: for anointing the sick 0400 874 807

P A R I S H   O F F I C E S   A N D   S T A F F

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

21 Grendon Street North Mackay  
P O Box 3388, North Mackay, QLD 4740

Phone: .....4957 4855 Fax: 4957 4208  
Email: .....stjomky@bigpond.com  
Parish Manager: ..... Ken Kelly  
Parish Secretary: ..... Chris Haines  
Secretary Assistant: ..... Sr Lila Galvin  
Finance Secretary: ..... Kerry Dempsey  
Parish Safeguarding Representative: ... Chris Haines  
Office Hours: Closed until further notice



## ST BRIGID'S PARISH

961 Bruce Highway, Farleigh, QLD 4741  
Bruce Highway Farleigh,  
CMB Farleigh, QLD 4741

Phone: .....49598 213  
Email: .....stbrigid.farleigh@bigpond.com  
Parish Secretary: ..... Veronica Tolcher  
Finance Secretary: ..... Maria Axiak  
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Veronica Tolcher  
Office Hours: Closed until further notice

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**  
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

**Fifth Sunday of Lent  
29th March 2020**



Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl living with a disability, and struggling with food insecurity and discrimination in Malawi. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.**

**Let's Go Further, Together.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has kindly crafted this prayer for the community at this difficult time. Feel free to share. God bless

### PRAYER IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS

Almighty and all-merciful God,  
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,  
in whom there is no shadow of death,  
save us in this time of crisis;  
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;  
watch over all medical people  
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;  
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;  
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.  
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,  
that hope may never die  
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,  
may shine upon us and the whole world.  
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.  
Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.

**A**s a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

**A**ll three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

[Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS]

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
Year A ~ 29 March 2020**



## **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON**

25 March 2020

### **Feast of the Annunciation**

#### **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ**

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation and we listen to the Angel Gabriel speaking the words of God to Mary and to us; 'do not be afraid; you have won God's favour.' The same words of God as spoken through the Prophet announcing the news of Jesus' coming and was called by a name which means God is with us. God is with us these days and invites us into the space not to be afraid as our God is with us.

I write this letter the morning after the Prime Minister announced changes to the way we will all gather in response to the COVID-19 virus. With this letter, I convey my prayers and my thoughts with you all. I invite you all to join with me on the live stream Mass at Midday, Monday to Saturday and at 9.30 am on Sunday, as we pray as a Diocese together.

Last night, the Prime Minister in the press conference was very clear in announcing more measures in the response to the growing pandemic of the COVID-19 virus.

#### **All churches are now closed.**

The Prime Minister also directed that the only activity that may happen in a church are funerals for up to 10 people - including the priest and the undertakers and mourners.

Queensland Health went on to define non-essential services, which included baptisms and weddings.

Therefore I direct the following for the Diocese of Rockhampton:

#### **Churches**

Churches are to remain closed. Mass will not be celebrated publicly.

Other celebrations such as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer gatherings and Stations of the Cross are not permitted.

I encourage you to pray at home. Please do not congregate in homes and in churches. The Prime Minister was very clear on this aspect.

I would ask that you all respect this directive from the Prime Minister as to go beyond this directive is breaking the law and placing the health of yourself and members of the community at risk.

#### **Funerals**

Funerals may take place with a maximum of 10 people present and following the current social distancing rules. When planning for funerals please liaise with the priest and the funeral director to ensure that this is adhered to. This number also includes the funeral director/s and the Priest.

There is a long-standing tradition in the Church that when people cannot be present at a funeral, the priest carries out the Rites of the Church, and then at a later time when the family can gather, celebrates the Funeral Mass with the family and friends of the deceased. This may be another pastoral support during this period and Pastoral Councils might explore this with the pastor to be part of the annual parish calendar, without setting a firm date. Again, Pastoral Councils could assist the pastor with a plan for when the pandemic is over, to support families and give them an opportunity to grieve and bid farewell in a way beyond what is possible at this time.

**The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles and procedures of Towards Healing.** The Diocese is committed to healing for victims by providing a sensitive and compassionate response to complaints. Contact the Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding office: **Response Line on m: 1800 830 113 (free call)** or email: [pssso@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:pssso@rok.catholic.net.au)

**Diocesan Website for more information: [www.rok.catholic.net.au](http://www.rok.catholic.net.au)**

To view the Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults commitment statement and Policy:

<http://www.rok.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html> **Queensland Professional Standards Office: [www.psqld.catholic.net.au/](http://www.psqld.catholic.net.au/)**

## **Weddings**

I have asked all of our Priests to personally contact any couples who have been preparing to celebrate Marriage in the next six months to discuss if they wish to proceed with the ceremony according to the current restrictions.

Weddings may only take place with the minister, bride and groom, and two witnesses present (5 people). Please adhere to the current social distancing rules.

## **Baptisms**

Baptisms are not permitted at this time.

If it is a case of necessity in danger of death, please contact your Parish Priest to make immediate preparations.

## **Confession**

At this time of preparation for Easter, many of the faithful will wish to celebrate this sacrament of forgiveness. Please contact your Parish Priest to make private arrangements with him for the sacrament.

## **Holy Communion**

Holy Communion will be taken to the sick and dying as Viaticum by priests alone.

## **Parish Groups**

All Parish groups are to suspend their gatherings until the current government restrictions are no longer in place.

## **Private Celebration of Mass by our Priests**

Our Priests will all be celebrating Mass privately each day in the Church and will be praying for all of the faithful in their Masses.

## **The Triduum**

This will be celebrated privately by our Priests in the Parish Churches and without participation of members of the faithful.

## **Parish Offices**

Parish offices will remain available to the parishes by telephone and email and will endeavour to remain in contact with you during this time. Please feel free to contact your Parish office.

Please be assured of all of my prayers during this time and remembrance in my daily masses in Rockhampton and available online <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton> .

Yours sincerely



Most Rev Michael McCarthy  
Bishop of Rockhampton

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the Catholic community of North Mackay and Farleigh called by Baptism,  
strengthened by the Sacraments and nourished by the Word,  
are committed to witness Christ's mission in the world.  
We seek to be an active community that reaches out to the diverse peoples of this region.

**NOTICES FOR ST JOSEPH'S  
AND ST BRENDAN'S**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Sr Anthony Mary RSM (Sr Marise's Sister) Archbishop John Bathersby

**REMEMBRANCE MASS:** PLawrence & Nicolina Zammit, Carmelo & Angela Agius, Veronica (Vera) Chetcuti, Salvatore Zammit, Teresa Zammit, Mary Zammit, Josephine Thurgood, Sam & Doris Sciberras, Rose Vasallo.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Raylene Johnson, Beryl Crowley, Bryan Bradshaw, Adam Robertson, Liz Lyons, Anne Webster, Keith Crowley, Helen Popp, Brian Bradshaw, David Crowley, Darryl Dalton, Josephine Blasels, Tess Uriarte, John Mifsud, Lalla Scarpelli, Maria Spiteri, Margaret Agius(Malta), Julie Rowan, Gail Fallis, and all the sick of the Parish.

**Weekly Collection 12/3/2020**

Givers:.....57  
Direct Debits:.....\$4894.00  
Envelopes:.....\$600.00  
Loose:.....  
Total:.....\$5494.00  
Project Compassion:.....\$60.00



**NOTICES FOR ST BRIGID'S PARISH  
FARLEIGH, SEAFOTH, CALEN, MIDGE PT**

**Recently Deceased:**

**Deceased:** John Borg, Sam & Carmela Deguara, Andrew & Carmela Camilleri

**Anniversary:** Rosaleen Mary Noonan

**Sick:** Mary Borg, and all the sick in the Parish.

**2020 FARLEIGH FAIR**

A general meeting was held at the Parish Office on Wednesday 18 March to see if a fair will be held in 2020.

It was decided to defer the decision on whether to have this year's fair until **June 2020** due the uncertainty around the evolving coronavirus situation.

If the fair does happen this year, we will still need more people to form a committee - need a minimum of 8 people. The committee last year ran under a new structure, which worked really well and provided support for all members.

**Psalm:** (R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A*

*Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps 21:8-9,*

*17-20,23-24. R. v.2;*

*Philippians 2:6-11;*

*Matthew 26: 14-27:66. (Shorter Form)*



**NEW PARISHIONER CONTACT FORM**

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Other Names:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

To commence Parish Planned Giving

Please place this completed form on the collection plate, or contact the Parish Office on St Joseph's 49574855, St Brigid's 49598213 for further information.

**Sunday 29 March 2020  
HOMILY by Richard Leonard**

The plunging of an adult or an infant into the baptismal font three times is the most important moment in the ceremony and meant to be the most moving one as well. Most of us think that this action is associated with the Trinity. It is. But the more ancient association is with the three days Jesus lay in the tomb. This is one reason why the Church now encourages candidates for baptism to be fully immersed wherever practicable. The sprinkling of water over a catechumen's head just doesn't capture the drama which the ritual intends. But when we see a person take a breath, plunge under the water and come up for air three times, we can powerfully see the identification between Jesus' time in the tomb and the person rising to new life in Christ.

The season of Lent has its origins in third century Egypt where there was a commemoration of Jesus' forty days in the desert. In the fourth century these forty days are moved to their present location in the Church's calendar as the final preparation time for baptismal candidates at Easter and by the fifth century these penitential and baptismal focuses came together as one season for all believers to observe. Even the word Lent, from the old English word *Lencten* meaning Spring, alerted Christians in the northern hemisphere that this season was linked to the waking of nature after the long sleep of winter. Lent is about waking up to see that light and life have come in Christ.

Over the centuries the Church has tended to place more emphasis on penance than baptism. The Second Vatican Council, however, went back to the most ancient sources of this season, re-established the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and encouraged us to see the link between our acts of penance and our ongoing conversion to Christ expressed in the baptismal promises made for us many years before.

On this last Sunday in Lent Lazarus is given to us to help us think about the tombs in which we lie hidden and the life to which we are called. The bad spirit seduces most of us into having some form of secretive life. It might be a secret we can't tell, a sin we can't confess or a memory we want to bury. At its worst it can be a lifestyle or a pattern of unethical behaviour we have divorced from the rest of our lives. We may even con ourselves into believing that all of this is normal and 'not so bad'.

These tombs often look similar. They seem small on the surface, but as we get away with our secrets we bury ourselves in them more deeply. We jealously guard the entrance, displacing energy to defend our tombs and we're ashamed if anyone rolls away the stone and sees the mess inside.

But this Sunday Jesus stands at the entrance of our tombs and calls us out of them. We're asked to face down the bad spirits that keep us locked in secrecy, to move away from shame, embrace repentance, recognise the price to be paid for being true to what's best in ourselves and we're invited to know the light and life of Christ's healing and forgiveness. No one can pretend that this journey is easy, but it's what Lent is all about: the journey from the tomb of our own particular deaths, through penance to the new life of Easter. May this Eucharist allow us to see the Lord stand at our tomb and gently call us by name, 'Come forth'. And at His word may we be unbound and let go free.

© Richard Leonard SJ

*Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.*