

Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

Spiritual Communion.

Catholics are encouraged to make a 'spiritual communion'. St. John Paul II writes that "it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of 'spiritual communion', which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.'" (Ecclesia Eucharistia, no. 34)

How do I make a Spiritual Communion?

Below are recommendations for how to make a 'spiritual communion' when unable to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The recommendations can be adapted based upon personal and family needs.

- Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass
- Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray the Act of Spiritual Communion (see below).
- Close with the sign of the cross

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. (Pause for a moment in silence and adoration). I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Parish Donations

As our Parish and the Priests rely on the generosity of our Parishioners, not having Sunday Mass will place a very heavy burden on our Parish. I also understand that many of our Parishioners may have found themselves affected by loss of jobs in so many vital industries. If it is at all possible for you to continue to contribute to our Parish it would be greatly appreciated. We all anticipate the day we can celebrate physically together once more around the Lord's Table. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God Bless.

First Collection (Priests)

Account Name:
Smithfield House – Order of St Paul the First Hermit
BSB 066711 Account No. 007392

Second Collection (Parish)

Account Name:
Smithfield Catholic Church
BSB 062784 Account No. 6675001

Cancellations

Due to the Coronavirus Outbreak there will be no regular Masses/Prayer Groups/meetings/activities in the Parish (including church and hall at Smithfield & Fairfield West. The Churches and Halls will also remain closed including the Parish Office. Currently the Parish Office staff are working from home and calls will be diverted (during business hours) if you need to call. Thank you for your prayers and understanding during this time!

Parish Playgroup/Fairfield Active Maltese Senior Group/ FEDERAZIONE CATTOLICA ITALIANA will all be cancelled or postponed until further notice.

Bus trips have also been cancelled.

Contacts:

Playgroup: Parish Office 96041199
Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors:
Marisa 0414 863 123
FCI: Tony Coiera 0409 908 424

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME NEWS!

First Holy Communion 2020

- Please check your email for updates.
- Families will be advised via email about First Holy Communion classes after Easter.

Confirmation 2020

Children in Year 6 and above who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, may be eligible to enrol in the Confirmation Programme.

Enrolment forms are available from the Parish Website <http://www.stgertrude.org.au/sacramental-program/>

In light of current events, enrolments will be accepted in the following ways:

- Via email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au, by 29/03/20. Please scan or take a photo of the enrolment form.

Please note: The Sacramental Programme dates/times may be subject to change.

For all enquiries, please contact the Sacramental Office. Email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Sincere thanks to Mark Malone from Integrity Funerals for his generous donations of Paschal Candles for our Churches.



Mark Malone J.P.
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The Parish does not imply any endorsement for advertisements listed in this bulletin.

Advertising Space Available - Beginning New Financial Year

Quarterly (No Easter Ads): \$330
Half Year (26 Weeks - No Easter Ads): \$550
Annually (No Easter Ads): \$990

10% discount for parishioners who are actively donating via the St Gertrude's Fund.

Contact Parish Office - 9604 1199
Tuesday—Friday 10am—2 pm

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