



Parish of St Joseph and St Anthony

Bracken Ridge – Bald Hills

Presbytery: ph (07) 3269 0446

Parish Office: ph (07) 3261 3670 Mon, Tues, Fri 9am-12pm

21 March 2020

Dear Parish Community Members,

Thank you so much for your offers of help. There is a wonderful spirit in our parish, built up over the generations.

Thank you to our Parish Pastoral Council Members and our Parish Coronavirus Reference Group for your insights and leadership.

This is a time to be creative in our pastoral responses, while we implement national and state changes for ongoing health requirements. We need to pray and be aware of what others are experiencing. God will surprise us in showing new ways to show our love for neighbour during this crisis.

During the week, we implemented new measures concerning isolation. This weekend there are no Masses physically open to the community, due to the 100 person maximum limit on indoor spaces, and new social distancing requirements. Links to the latest Brisbane Archdiocesan directions can be found on our Parish website www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com

The much smaller weekday Masses continue for the present time. Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 9am.

I will celebrate two weekend Masses (at 7pm Saturday and 9am Sunday) for your intentions and you are invited to pray at home and to read the Gospel Text (available in this weekend's homily on our parish website).

I remember my Mother sharing a few stories about her parents in Brisbane during the Spanish Flu in 1918-19. The Sunday Mass commitment was also suspended for several months in 1919, and before that, there were health precautions and rules in Brisbane during the year 1900.

Some of our parish community initiatives being developed at present include:

- Purchasing a Church Streaming License for our parish choir and musicians so that they can sing and play hymns online during these weeks ahead. We thank them for the ways in which they will lead us in prayer. Phil Halpin will coordinate this.
- A group has been established to facilitate contact with parish members who will be in isolation. The group will be expanded this week. I am aware that the Parish does not have full details of all people who attend Mass in our community. Please consider the people in our Parish who would appreciate support at this time. I invite you to email our Parish office (bridge@bne.catholic.net.au) with details (even if you do not know full contact details). Our pastoral support group will be working on ways to reach out to those in our community who are most vulnerable.
- We are extending our email address base for updates.
- Planning for audio and visual updates in the near future on our parish social media. Yesterday Alistair Kennedy took church photos that will be used over coming weeks.
- Occasionally filming a parish Mass, to be made available online. We will aim for next weekend's Mass in the parish to be accessible online.

- Parish reflections online.
- A parish prayer book online and also available for those without computer access.
- Giving links to Masses online in the Archdiocese ...www.archbne.org/bzw , in the Vatican and a few other places ... see the parish website for further details.
The online edition of the Catholic Leader newspaper will be extended to all parishioners for free during this time. Keep faith with the Leader at www.catholicleader.com.au.
- Online links to prayer resources.

Some changes are already in place.

- I support the decisions of many of our parish elders and others with pre-existing health conditions to take the initiative and self-isolate.
- **The Parish Centre** is closed for meetings. It will only be used by Outside School Hours Care until further notice.
- The **Seniors Group, Ladies Prayer Group** and the **RCIA** have suspended meetings for the present time.
- The local **St Vincent de Paul Society** have implemented new procedures.
- Some **ministry groups** are exploring ways of meeting online.
- The Sacramental program for Children for **Confirmation, First Reconciliation** and **First Eucharist** will be postponed until after COVID-19. Helen Hickey has notified the families already enrolled.
- The St Joseph's Fete has been cancelled for 2020.
- The **Parish Finance Group** has evaluated existing maintenance issues.
 - The Three Fly Over Roofs at the Parish Centre continue as per previous commitment.
 - Priority will be given to Work Health Safety issues and other plans have been put on hold.
 - Our parish income will drop significantly over the weeks ahead. Unfortunately we do not expect any of our parish running costs to decrease. Direct debiting is available to support the parish mission, if you would like details, please phone Bronwyn Venzke in the parish office Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings 9am-12 noon.

Should you wish to complete your own direct credit payment from your bank account ... please use our Account

Bracken Ridge/Bald Hills Catholic Parish
BSB 064786 A/c Number 005931500.

I would like to stress that your health must come first. As a community of faith, we pray for each other and will find new ways to be community at this time.

In prayerful solidarity

Fr Gerry

We acknowledge the Turrbal people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.