

Thought for the week.

I crave space. It charges my batteries. It helps me breathe. Being around people can be so exhausting, because most of them love to take and barely know how to give. Except for a rare few.

**Project Compassion
Donation Boxes &
Appeal Envelopes**

All Donations received will be forwarded to Caritas Australia at the end of May 2020. Kindly hand in your donations to the Parish Office before the end of the month. Thank you.
Parish Office

MISSA PRO POPULO
(The mass for the people.)

As Parish Priest, one mass on the weekend is to be said solely for the people of the parish. This mass is the 9am. Live streamed!

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND DECEASED

PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake. Amen. (St Augustine)

Prayers have been requested for the following :

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Hegarty, Jadwiga Danuta Arnold

ANNIVERSARIES: Glen Ivan Winstanley

SICK LIST: Colleen Waddel, Jake Bartley, Sofia Bean, Vivienne Mitchell, Shingo Sawabe, Sonia D'Angiolo, Riany Chandler, Juliet Wee, Jean Di Benedetto, Marie Dupois, Abigail O'Donnell, Sophia Ding, Terry Owsnett, Ronald Sincock, Dolares Kelly, Mary McDonnell, Irene Warde, Ron Sincock, Val Mai McErlean, Bill Walker, Courtney Blount, Reginald Cox, Simon Stretton, Philomena McAloon, Margaret Kwong, Letty O'Sullivan, Tony Collett, Ben Cebuliak, Marilyn Rodgers, Frank Hewitt, Anthony Donellan, Dolores Kilian, Mary Ann Boeheme, Maureen Currie, Harry Hunter, Margaret Wiersma, Madeline Hodgetts, Nancy Kelly, Tamara Toms, Baby Charlie Shirran, Bernie Pack, Elizabeth Norris, Stephen Deshaies, Ken Hannam, Kelly Blount, Gail Callaghan, Pistang Retute, Vanessa Pritchard, Carol Johnston

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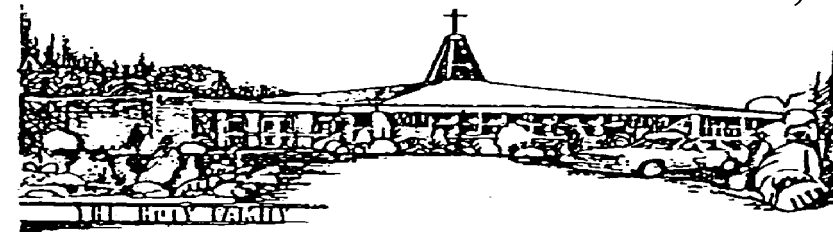
0457772855

paul@totalagedcaresolutions.com.au



Our New Office :
1 Fiona Street
Biggera Waters
07 5500 5855
reception@sheilaponting.com.au

Sheila Ponting CPA
Principal

**HOLY FAMILY PARISH, RUNAWAY BAY**

The Ascension of the Lord Year A/2

Sunday 24th May 2020

PARISH PRIEST
Fr. Marty Larsen

PARISH STAFF
Audrey Ho
Parish Secretary

Jan Levinge
Marriage Coordinator

Email :
rbay@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Office: 16 Simbai St
PO Box 125 Runaway Bay
Q4216

Website :
www.holyfamilyrunawaybay.org.au

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES:
Tel: 5537 4320 (Press 2)

Fax: 5537 5476

Facebook :
[holyfamilycatholicchurchrunawaybay](https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilycatholicchurchrunawaybay)

Hours:
8.30am—3.00pm

Monday—Tuesday

8.30am-1.00pm

Wednesday-Thursday
(closed FRIDAY)

Reconciliation:
4.50pm on Saturday

Baptisms
Every 2nd & 4th
Saturday & Sunday at 11am.
Please contact the Parish Office.

St Francis Xavier School:
Principal : Kathy Fuller
Tel: 5537 2633

The Ascension of the Lord
24th May 2020

1st Reading : Acts 1:1-11

2nd Reading : Eph 1:17-23

Gospel : Mt 28:16-20

Pentecost Sunday
31st May 2020

1st Reading : Acts 2:1-11

2nd Reading : 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13

Gospel : Jn 20:19-23

HELLO! From Fr Marty

*"Our greatest business in life
is not to see what lies dimly at a distance,
yet to do what clearly lies at hand."*

Thomas Carlyle

Today should be the Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians, yet the Easter Season is not done yet, so this feast is bumped to Monday. Under the fun fact for the week, I have given a little bit of the history of why this particular feast needs to be celebrated at this time. As Mary continues to intercede for us, we too need to pray to GOD for good health, a way forward and an eventual return to worship within our parish.

Acknowledging your reality

I just wanted to acknowledge that many families are going through changed times at the moment. Some of your families do not have jobs, income is low and many people feel isolated at this time. As we look towards planning for **Stage 3**, just to realize I am aware that many people are being forced into new ways of being at this time.

The way forward.

For the next couple of months, Mass at Holy Family Catholic Parish will be live streamed on a Sunday at 9am.

Logistics about this.

Following on from the federal government's decision to limit non-essential gatherings to 10 people, I have decided not to open the church for private prayer. Logistically, it is very difficult to monitor and maintain in light of the Government regulations. **As noted in the Archdiocesan policy on the COVID-19 Safe Plan:** *"It is understood that not all parishes will have the capacity to maintain ongoing monitoring or hygiene protocols for private prayer at this time."* At Holy Family Catholic Parish, we simply do not have the capacity to ensure this at this stage. We need to record names of people, arrange check lists, show signage for adhering to 4 square meters between parishioner, arrange hand sanitizer, and ensure all surfaces within the church are cleaned every two hours. We also need to appoint a **designated marshal** who is **under the age of 70** to monitor all of this. This Marshal is key to ensure we comply with the restrictions.

Yet to ensure you: I am still happy to give you communion (with notice) plus reconciliation by appointment through the parish office.

The issue of fairness



For me, there is also the issue of fairness. What if 11 people turned up for private prayer? **Do you have to turn away the 11th person?** At the moment, Yes. For me, this is not a great way to be a loving community. What happens when we can go to 20 people, and say 25 people turn up? This does not sit very comfortably with me. Until we can establish a data base for mass goers and a roster for mass goers and a roster for Marshall's who are under 70, we will not have private prayer in the church. We will continue to live stream 9am Sunday morning. This allows those of you who are comfortable to stay home to remain safe. Your safety is my highest priority as this time. As I have kept saying, if you are comfortable at home, then stay home!!! This is not a race.

By **Stage 3**, which is July 10, we have a strategy in mind to begin to ease those of you who wish to come to mass, to come back gently. 100 people.

We will update you with this strategy in the next three weeks.

Hope this helps to show you what is in my head at the moment.

What are you grateful about today/this week?



Our wonderful staff and students and ancillary staff who are having to cope with the whole school returning May 25th. They are doing a great job to prepare for this. As you can imagine, this doesn't just happen.

How to live the Gospel out this weekend.



The Ascension of Jesus into heaven is a faith based statement. Jesus returns to the Father, to be seated at God's right hand. It's something which needs to be pondered, re-read with Scripture and based on the hope that God knows what God is doing in the Triune nature of God. On a symbolic level, it is also an invitation for us to ponder the role that Jesus now plays in our lives, as being fully assumed into heaven. Again, these are big faith statements, yet they need to be reflected upon so that it means something for your faith life. After today, we await with great joy Pentecost Sunday, where symbolically the doors of the upper room are blast open and the power of God's Spirit descends upon the disciples. As I said in the homily on the weekend, where do you see the gifts of the Spirit at work in your life during this period of partial re-entry into society?

TASK:



Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you resonate with? How can you use that to benefit others at this time.

FUN FACT FOR SUNDAY 24th May, 2020



The Blessed Virgin, under the title of "Mary Help of Christians", has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is celebrated on May 24.

Acknowledgement to Fr Morgan Batt in his book, "Up the Beaten Track", Copyright 2003

Fr Marty's reflection on this fun fact

Quoted from the following website: *"The feast day of Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800s."*

Napoleon Bonaparte had jailed Pius VI who died in jail. When Pope Pius VII was elected he too was jailed by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau, France.

The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary.

The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on May 24, 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome.

Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May.

The infant Church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. In those early and mostly priestless days, it was largely the Rosary that kept the faith alive. Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary, and was the first nation to choose her, under the title of Help of Christians, as Principal Patron." <https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/articles/reflections/2018/reflection-our-lady-help-of-christians-patron-of-australia>

During their plenary meeting, which concluded (last) Thursday, the Bishops of Australia approved the entrustment of the country to Mary Help of Christians amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Surely, we could in light of the history of the intercession of Mary for Australia, we may like to pray one decade of the rosary for all those men and women who are putting themselves out there to care for the sick and vulnerable at this time. As we move forward every day, we ask Mary Help of Christians to continue to heal us here in Australia so that we can continue to thrive as a nation.