



## PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

Monsignor John Woods PP Phone (02) 6281 3999 Email: [wodennorth@cg.org.au](mailto:wodennorth@cg.org.au)  
Holy Trinity Church, Parish Office and Presbytery, 3 Strangways Street, Curtin  
Ss Peter and Paul Church, Boake Place, Garran. <http://cg.org.au/wodennorth>

**9-10 May 2020, Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A**

### **MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY**

**Recently Deceased:** Victims of the Corona virus, Noel Bissett, Bruce Fuller, Fr Peter Morrissey, Kathleen Rennie (parishioner since 1967), Four Victorian Police Officers, Sheila Rohan, Malcolm Allison, Shirley Evans, Keith Mc Laughlin, Victims of Corona virus, Hilda Quinones, Gloria Tin, Joyce Ryan, Maureen Boyle, Don Furner, Richard Arnel, Rod Frazer, Mary-Anne McGrath,

**Anniversaries of Death:** Brian Lacey, Vonnie Beath, Margaret Joyce, Wendy Egan, Cecily Howden, Frank Williams, Kathleen Rowe, John Frawley, Doris Falzon and Falzon family members, Hartung and Marlow family members, Richard Pugh, Rosario Suazo, Gary Woods, Jack Perry, George Pugh, Desmond Lilley, Sylvia Cronin, Policarpio Barawid.

### **MAY THE SICK BE COMFORTED BY OUR PRAYERS**

Emma Lowe, Maria Phan, Hilary Halpin, Margaret Wilson, Rose Winstanley, Joseph Garside, Cecil Wagstaff, Carol Wightman, those afflicted with Corona virus, Bella Davison, Leah Yaxley, John Kololo, Frederick Schinkel, Maree Peters, Witlock family, Timothy Francis Roberts, Rosa B Nguyen, Lourdes A Bautista, David Sandground, Kathleen Stuart, Dick Barry, Luke Ward, Eric Reiher, John Vincent, David Parker, Mark Shepherd, Violet Webster, Lucy Duncan, Rod Duncan, Edith Schumann, Kevin Cains, Stephen Evans, Dermott Cummins.

### **CONSTANTS IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE**

**Happy Mothers' Day! Attached is a blessing for mothers and a heartfelt comment of Pope Francis. May our mums know our gratitude and if deceased our prayerful remembrance.**

**We celebrate the gift of motherhood in what are referred to as unprecedented times. These are unprecedented times for us but they have antecedents in Australia's history.** Just over 100 years ago the 'Spanish Flu' pandemic of 1918-1919 saw the closing of churches in Australia. Earlier we had the situation in the colony of NSW where for decades the ministry of priests was denied Catholics until the arrival in Sydney 200 years ago on 3 May 1820 of Fr Joseph Therry and Fr Philip Conolly. Fr Conolly left for Tasmania within the year while Fr Therry worked tirelessly in Sydney and travelled on horseback to remote communities. Their work built on and supported the faith commitment of layfolk who had managed without the ministry of priests. **Of course, it was not and is not a matter of 'either, or' but rather 'both, and'.**

We acknowledged this last week, Good Shepherd Sunday and World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Yes, we need the ministry of more priests and the witness of religious (**see attached 'Prayer For Vocations'**) but the particular call of a relative few must arise from a sense of all being called, all having a vocation. **Today's Gospel emphasises the point. Jesus promises that all who follow him – the presence of God amongst us – will have the very life of God, now and in God's 'house' forever.** Jesus is the mediator. He is both at one with the Father and with us. *"Jesus explains, he himself is 'the Way' to the revelation of the Father (the 'Truth'), in which is contained the gift of '(eternal) life' ('the Life')"* (Brendan Byrne SJ). Pope Francis recently reminded us that our Christian life is not elitist and exclusive. It is loving and life-giving relationship in community. As a mother gives life and nurtures it so that her child might reach their potential within community, so our life in Christ finds expression in community. **Our personal and communal relationships have been challenged these days and we have taken stock and refocused.** In challenging times our character is first revealed and then developed by the experience. A question I put to myself and share with you is: *"What insights have I come*

*to about myself and our community as a result of the pandemic?"* Further, *"How will I translate those insights when life returns to the so-called normal?"*

**A return to the life as we knew it is being signalled by the return of Catholic schools from 18 May.** More broadly, there will be a gradual easing of restrictions, including the opening of churches, based on a balancing of expert medical advice and the socio-economic imperatives for people to work and to gather. Talk of schools prompts me to ask for your prayerful intercession for them. They have been under the pump and have come through very well. Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has sent our two parish school communities a letter of affirmation for their efforts. Again, the discernment of where God's Spirit is calling the Australian Church through the postponed Plenary Council prompts me to seek your prayerful intercession for that initiative too. **I am attaching the Archdiocesan Prayer for Catholic Schools and the Plenary Council Prayer for these intentions.**

Finally, mindful that many are now familiar with the online streaming of Masses and the ubiquitous 'Zoom' meeting, I was hoping that you might have some suggestions as to **how the parish might employ these technologies.** Any thoughts and how you might possibly assist to implement them could be forwarded to the parish office.

Fr John

**ONLINE LIVE STREAMING OF DAILY MASS:** Mass is now live streamed from the chapel of St Christopher's Cathedral at 12.15pm, Monday-Friday, 9.00am Saturday and 11.00am Sunday. **NB: Being a live stream, you will need to access the Mass at the specific time by going to [www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au).** Fr John is celebrating this Wed's 12.15pm Mass.

**Multi Faith Service for Climate Action is happening again, on-line this time, commencing at 10am next Friday, 15 May.** Stand in solidarity with people of diverse faith traditions across Australia calling for climate action. Visit the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change website - [arrcc.org.au](http://arrcc.org.au) - to sign up for this ecumenical and inter-faith gathering. For further information, contact Vikki McDonough 0437 876 487 or [mulvaney@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mulvaney@netspeed.com.au)

**TWO WEBINAIRES** on Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Our Common Home*, hosted on Zoom by South Belconnen Parish, 6 - 7 pm, Tues 19 and Thurs 21 May and presented by Jacqui Remond. Information and registration, [belconnensouth@cg.org.au](mailto:belconnensouth@cg.org.au) / 0428 625 110.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** In lieu of the First Collection, you can support the clergy of the Archdiocese by making an electronic contribution to BSB: 062-786, ACC: 000029248, 'Central Presbytery Fund'. NB: Make sure you enter the reference: NORTHWODEN SMITH (ie the parish name and your surname). **Support for the Second Collection** will continue via direct debits, unless notified by the parishioner. Planned Giving Envelopes can be dropped through the front door of the presbytery or parishioners may choose to arrange direct debit payments by contacting our Parish Secretary, Catherine, 6281 3999 or [wodennorth@cg.org.au](mailto:wodennorth@cg.org.au). **I thank those who have already contributed to the support of the clergy and the parish.**

**PARISH MEDITATION GROUP** will continue to meet online. Details from Vikki McDonough, 0437 876 487 / [mulvaney@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mulvaney@netspeed.com.au)

#### Prayer for These Times

**Eternal God, in wisdom and love you created and sustain us.**

**We seek your wisdom, guidance and reassurance in these times of dislocation.**

**Bless the efforts of those limiting the spread of the corona virus and those searching for a vaccine.**

**Sustain those recovering from devastating bushfires.**

**Thank you for recent rains and enliven our efforts to address climate change.**

**In your mercy, renew your people.**

**In your providence, renew the face of the earth.**

**Mary, Help of Christians – Pray for us.**

**St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.**

**WEEKLY ONLINE CATHOLIC VOICE: A copy is attached.** If you would like to receive subsequent copies directly, enter your details at <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/weekly-voice/>.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Please drop envelopes through the front door of the presbytery any time. Boxes can be delivered to the presbytery from 9-11am Mon, Wed or Fri.

**PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE:** Early days but check it out at 'North Woden Parish Transfiguration'. Comments, thoughts?

**Prayer Circle Support:** Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

**Readings for Sixth Sunday of Easter:** Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17 1Peter 3: 15-18 John 14: 15-21.