



ST DECLAN'S

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

In the care of the Missionaries of God's Love

Welcome!

22nd March 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Year A

St Declan's parish acknowledges that we gather, pray and live together on the land of the Bidjegal people of the Eora Nation

All parish events are cancelled, with the exception of the sacraments (which will be celebrated in adherence to the government's requirements regarding gatherings).

MASS

At time of printing, Mass times remain the same. No more than 100 people are allowed in the church at any one time. Masses will continue until we are directed to do otherwise by the archdiocese.

Archbishop Anthony has granted a dispensation from the usual obligation to participate in Sunday Mass.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MASSES THIS WEEKEND

- **Social Distancing:** Please keep 1.5 metres from each other at all times, INCLUDING outside.
- Please follow all signs and instructions while onsite.
- Please do not move chairs.
- Please sit on a yellow dot in the church, or on the black tape in the undercroft and outside.
- Please remain in your place for holy communion – a minister will come to you.
- There will be one collection as you exit Mass today. Please switch to online giving ASAP.
- Details of how to do this are on page 2 or you can click the link on the homepage of the website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Saturday 28 March from 8:30am – 9am, and from 5pm to 5:30pm
- The Second Rite of Reconciliation on Monday March 23 is cancelled.
- The First Rite of Reconciliation will be offered instead on Monday March 23 from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.
- All confessions will take place in the confessional and behind the curtain (that is, not face-to face).
- The church will remain open for private prayer, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament the usual times.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

If you are unwell, susceptible to viruses or considered to be at high-risk should you contract COVID-19, **PLEASE STAY HOME**. If you are unsure if you should come to Mass, please consult your doctor. Live-stream details can be found on the website, via email updates, or on the parish app.

WEEKLY at St Declan's

MASS

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm
Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 11.00am, 6.00pm

Mon, Wed, Fri: 6.45am
Tues, Thurs: 9.15am
Saturday: 8.00am
Public Holiday: 9.15am

COMMUNION SERVICE

Tues, Thurs: 6.45am

CONFESSION

Saturday: 5.00pm-5.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursday: 9.45am-10.45am
Thursday: 7.00pm-8.00pm
Sunday: 10.15am-10.40am

If you are sick

Fr Chris, Fr Adam and Fr Tony want to reassure you that they will anoint, give communion, and pray with those who are seriously ill, including any who might contract COVID-19. If you are ill, please call the parish number (95801310) and follow the prompt (option 2) to the parish emergency line.

COVID-19 Updates

The information in this bulletin is correct at time of publication, however with changing circumstances regarding the COVID-19 virus, some of the information could change in the upcoming days.

Updates via the parish app, website and email will occur as soon as possible

Events

ALL PARISH EVENTS ARE CANCELLED.

Catechists

Please note that, until further notice, Catechists will not be attending the schools for scripture class.

Financial Giving to the Parish

70% of the parish's income comes from cash contributions (cash in the second collection and planned giving envelopes). This presents a massive challenge for the parish in the current circumstances, when it may not be possible to give cash easily in the short- to mid-term. Over 50% of our expenditure is spent on the wages of our lay staff, and I have guaranteed the safety of their jobs through the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. But I need your help in the way you financially support the parish during this time.

Please prayerfully consider an ongoing regular donation by credit card.

The parish's online giving platform is used by 12,500 churches, and it possesses a PCI DSS Level 1 Secure rating + 256 bit SSL rating. It is the same level of encryption used by Amazon and many banks and is the highest rating possible. It is safe, secure and easy.

You can access the parish's online giving platform by going to the home page of the website and clicking the link. Or you can text the amount you want to give (e.g. \$50) to 0451 266 547 (it will take you to the platform to put your credit card details in).

Dear parishioners,

Things have been moving so quickly over the past week and I'm sure your heads are spinning as the situation alters on a daily basis. In the midst of challenging times we normally look to our faith, and I hope, our parish, for something solid and stable. This makes all the cancellations in the parish really difficult to bear, because these are the places of community, support, care and, above all, connection to God, that we are looking for. I share your disappointment at these cancellations. I can only assure you that they were necessary, and that I am doing my utmost, with the invaluable counsel from five doctors from the parish, to ensure that the decisions we make going forward protect people, especially those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

This moment is showing us that the Eucharist is our greatest source of comfort and strength, and the changes we have initiated to be able to continue to celebrate Mass with congregations can also be difficult to negotiate. Let's remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8). When some of our footholds seem to be slipping, let's also remember that Jesus has also promised that he would be with us always, even to the end of time. If you can't be at Mass during this time, know that Jesus is still very close to you. If you are unwell, or should become so in the future, know that Jesus is very close to you too.

It's not easy to keep in touch in these circumstances, but we want to make sure we stay connected. Please download the app, sign up for email updates and check the website regularly. We are working hard to create ways for you to continue to experience community, pray, grow in your faith, and care for others through St Declan's. More information will follow.

Above all, let's pray for those who are suffering, grieving, and hurting as a result of COVID-19. Let's pray for all those on the front lines of fighting this virus, especially the medical community. And let's pray and pray, and pray, for and end to the pandemic.

Frs Adam, Tony and I, along with Deacon Cameron are praying for you all every day.

Chris
Fr Chris



St Declan's Parish is committed to being a safe community for all, especially children and vulnerable people. We inform and protect our children and the parish community in a variety of ways. For more information please contact the Parish Safeguarding Support Team on safeguarding.stdeclans@gmail.com. Abuse is experienced by many and can occur in a variety of ways. There are many places where you can receive help and support. Firstly, as abuse is a crime, you can contact the police on **000 (in an emergency) or on 9375 8599 (Hurstville Police)**. Alternatively, you can contact the Archdiocese of Sydney's Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. Father Chris Ryan MGL is also available to assist and support you in any way possible.

Connect with Us

The Parish Office staff have largely been working remotely. If you need to contact the parish, please email or phone the office and leave a message, rather than visit. Emails and phone calls will be regularly checked and responded to.

Parish Office:

Frances Watton
Office hours: 9am-3pm (Mon-Wed, Fri)
Phone: 9580 1310 | Email: declans@tpg.com.au
Address: 92 Penshurst St, Penshurst 2222
Website: www.stdeclanspenshurst.org

Priests:

Fr Chris Ryan MGL (Parish Priest)
Fr Adam Crouch MGL (Assistant Priest)
Fr Tony Alex MGL (Assistant Priest)
Rev Cameron Smith (Deacon)

Operations Manager:

Steve Thomas - operations@stdeclansparish.org

Accounts Assistant

Ira Widjaja - accounts@stdeclansparish.org

Evangelisation Coordinator:

Cathy Kennedy - evangelisation@stdeclansparish.org

Coordinator of Ministries to the Sick and Elderly:

Nellie Doueihi - visitation@stdeclansparish.org

Music Coordinator:

Isaac Reefman - music@stdeclansparish.org

Sacramental Coordinator:

TBA - childrens.sacraments@stdeclansparish.org

Youth Minister:

Madelyn McDermott - youth@stdeclansparish.org

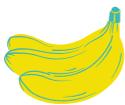
Safeguarding Support Team:

Adrienne Teychenne, Stephen & Natalie Maiolo, Grace Hong
safeguarding@stdeclansparish.org

WHS Email: whs@stdeclansparish.org

PROJECT

agape



We have launched a new ministry called Project Agape to assist with people who are in need at this time. If you or someone you know needs to self-isolate and are unable to visit the shops easily to get food and/or medication:

- 1) Contact the parish office on 9580 1310, or email Nellie at visitation@stdeclansparish.org and leave a message with your name and best contact number. Messages will be checked regularly.
- 2) Nellie will contact you, and a team member will bring groceries and/or medication to your home. Please remember that the team member will:
 - a. Call you on arrival
 - b. leave the groceries and/or medication at the front door
 - c. have no face-to-face contact
 - d. follow up the visit with a phone call to check if you need any more help.
- 3) Payment for the groceries and/or medication can be discussed with Nellie. Please know that our primary concern is your health and wellbeing and we will support you in whatever way we can, including covering the cost of the groceries/medication, if you have a real need.

Keep in touch

Website: We will keep our website up-to-date with the latest information about the parish's ministry and service:
<https://www.stdeclanspenshurst.org/>

Email: If you would like to be emailed the latest information from the parish, please fill in this form:
<http://bit.ly/stdeclansconnect>

Parish App: We also have a parish app for your mobile. It will have all the latest information, but you can also access podcasts and other resources to provide spiritual nourishment for you and your family at home. Click on the following link and follow the prompts:
<http://bit.ly/stdeclansapp>



Find us on Instagram @stdeclansparish
and on Facebook at www.fb.com/stdeclansparish



Please note: Due to parish office closure, mass offering requests will not be included in the bulletin. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Masses will continue to be offered.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR MASSES:

Recently Deceased: Ludvic Tkalevic, Karen Leeming, Peter Collins, Robert Harold, Zonko Abramovich, Juann Jugovich, Rolando Llamas, Ann Abraham, Cis Ankica Culjak, Ivan Jugovich, Steven Tart, Kevin Cummings, Faye Sheridan, Anthony Chang, Elvira Carangelo, Sandor "Alex" Boleradszki, George Hanna, Marija Bobinac, Zlatica Kordic.

Anniversaries: Jim Cranney, Kathleen Orrell and all those who's anniversaries occur at this time.

Also: Tim March, James Anthony Lobina, Noel Sheather, Stjepan Kranjec, Maria Vukobrat, Stjepan Obrovac, Stanko Prorokovic, Ignac Krlin, Ivan Kucinic, Mijo Trupkovic, Nikola Dragisic, Kevin & Stephen & Jim McElroy, Denis Bacic, Betty & Danny Dusek, Michael O'Sullivan, Betty & Brian O'Sullivan, Frances Anne O'Sullivan, Teresa & Joseph Macinante, Spiro & Josephine Bajada, The Holy Souls in Purgatory and all the deceased members of our Parish.

Parish Sick List: Jude Phyllis, Carole Miller, Catherine Alacqua, Graham Shields, David Salamanca Mendez, Mario Salamanca Mendez, Patricia Salamanca, Glenn Dickson, Marc Kayrouz, Carmen Bajada, Christopher March, Alina Kizeweter, Sonny Venal, Mary Phillips, Mirna Mundigo, Una Canute, Brian Lloyd, Terence Lang, Ann Steele, Elias Francis, Geraldine Brenston.

First Reading*1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13**A reading from the first book of Samuel.**In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord.**(R.) Thanks be to God****Responsorial Psalm***Ps 22 R. v.1***(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading*Eph 5:8-14**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.**Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord

wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord.**(R.) Thanks be to God****Gospel Acclamation***Jn 8:12***Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord, whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel***Jn 9:1-41**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from

God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.' So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshiped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord.**(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**