



St Felix deValois Parish

550 Chapel Road, Bankstown, NSW 2200, Australia

Fr Van Nguyen, Parish Priest

Fr Ronnie Maree, Assistant Priest

Marie Caldareri, Secretary (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

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Sixth Sunday of Easter - Yr A - 17 May 2020

Dear parishioners,

God's love and blessings to you all in this very difficult time!

Whilst we are living through unprecedented events please be assured that the parish is continuing to work to serve you and help you foster your relationship with Our Lord and strengthen our community.

LIVE STREAMING OF HOLY MASS

Sunday - 10 May - 10.00am.

Please follow this link to watch the Mass <https://facebook.com/stfelixdevaloisparishbankstown/>

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

For those with young children, the Cath Family organisation have generously made all their resources for children free in this time our churches are closed. Feel free to have a look at some of their resources that can help children to pray and continue to learn about their faith by clicking this link:

<https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>.

CONNECTING THROUGH PHONE

We are looking to set up a team of people who regularly call and keep in contact with the more isolated in our community. This is a vital service of love our parish community can provide in these usual times. If you are struggling during this time of isolation or know of somebody who is feel free to contact us through this email address or the parish office (9790 1933) and we will see that they are regularly called. If you wish to be part of this apostolate reply to this email and we will contact you during the week.

We will continue update information and publish resources through:

- the parish website <https://www.stfelixparish.org.au/>
- the parish bulletin: <https://www.stfelixparish.org.au/bulletins/>
- our outreach email: stfelix.outreach@gmail.com
- the parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stfelixdevaloisparishbankstown/>
- the parish office: 9790 1933

Please be assured of our continued support, prayers and availability in this time.

***Our Lady, Help of Christians, of Lourdes, and of Good Health, pray for us.
Saint Felix, pray for us.***

Yours in Christ,

Fr Van Nguyen PP
Fr Ronnie Maree

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Collect

Let us pray.
Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these

days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

First Reading - Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia!

Gospel - John 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave your orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Take time to reflect on the Gospel.

You may like to move forward and read the reflections.

The Creed

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

He came down from heaven

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius

Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic

Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: With confidence we bring our prayers to the Christ who has suffered death for our sins and has risen from the dead for our glory.

That the leaders of the Church may creatively and courageously proclaim the resurrection of the Lord and his presence among us, let us pray to the Lord:

That the leaders of nations work together to bring an end to war, oppression, poverty and hunger, let us pray to the Lord:

That the members of this community may continue to grow in faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord:

That the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, may empower us to pray and work for world peace and justice to all, let us pray to the Lord:

That the coronavirus pandemic come to an end and our lives be restored to normal, let us pray to the Lord:

That all who have died, may rest and rejoice in the glory of God's Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

Celebrant: God of glory and Lord of life, bless us, protect us, and prosper the works of our hands. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

Due to the restrictions regarding the celebration of Mass join in saying this prayer expressing your desire to be in union with Jesus Christ and to receive Him in the Eucharist. Recite the prayer below slowly, meditating carefully on each word. Believe that Jesus will give you the grace of a real encounter with Him.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy 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. I embrace
You as if You were already there and unite
myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be
separated from You. Amen.**

Blessing

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by his blessing.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



St Felix de Valois Parish

BANKSTOWN

According to new directives from the NSW Government and the Archbishop, our churches may now be re-opened for religious gatherings of no more than 10 people.

This means that we are able to begin having Masses for no more than 10 people.

The parish will be taking bookings to fill spots at these Masses. You can contact the parish office to book a place at a Mass through:

Phone: 9790 1933

Email: stfelix.outreach@gmail.com

Email: admin@stfelixparish.org.au

Considering our current limitations and the high demand we believe this is the fairest way of implementing these new directives. Please also note that you will not be able to book for more than one Mass so that as many people as possible are given access to the Sacraments. We ask for courtesy and flexibility as we try best to minister to the entire parish in these difficult times.

Attendance at Mass will require you to provide your name, phone number and email address. This is necessary according to NSW Government regulations and will also aid the parish in keeping in contact. All information will be collected in accordance with the Archdiocese's collection policy which can be found at: www.sydneycatholic.org/terms-and-conditions/#collection.

Livestreamed Mass on Sunday at 10am will continue.

The priests of the parish are continually available for Confession at any time. You may wish to ask the priest who is celebrating your booked Mass for the chance to go to Confession as well.

This program will be subject to change as we receive further instructions from the Archbishop and the NSW Government.

You can read the Archbishop's directive for Churches and Liturgies via the link: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Archbishops-5th-Pastoral-Letter-on-COVID-19.pdf>

Update on parish financial situation

Dear St Felix Parishioners,

The COVID-19 crisis has presented many challenges to our society on many different levels. Our parish has shared in these challenges as we have not been able to gather together to worship, to support each other through community events or conduct many activities that make up our pastoral care of the people of Bankstown.

One of the significant challenges we have experienced has been the parish's financial situation. Like many families and businesses, the parish's usual financial arrangements have been disrupted by the crisis.

Most of the income that allows our parish to function comes from your donations during our collections at weekend Masses. The First Collection goes to an Archdiocesan common fund, which is for the upkeep of the priests in the Archdiocese. A donation to the First Collection is not tax deductible.

The Second Collection goes towards our St Felix Church Account which is for the running and maintenance of our parish. From this account the parish pays for all pastoral programs, liturgical expenses, building insurance, wages, utility rates and general maintenance for all the buildings and facilities. A donation to the Second Collection can currently receive a 30% tax deduction. For some time, St Felix has had a Planned Giving Program in place where all regular donations provided belong to the Second Collection account mentioned above.

Not being able to gather has presented challenges to maintaining our income to run the parish. With this in mind I am asking if you would prayerfully consider contributing to the parish in some way during this time. You may consider joining the Planned Giving Program and replace what you would usually contribute to the Second Collection through online giving. The ease of this online payment could also be continued once we are able to gather in the Church again. If you are already on the Planned Giving Program you may consider switching your usual envelope planned giving donations to online direct debit or credit card donations instead.

This request comes with an awareness that some people's own financial circumstances are changing as a result of the pandemic too, and we would not want anyone in those circumstances to feel pressured. However for those who are able this would be a process of simply continuing to support the parish even though we cannot gather together on Sunday.

If you would like to commence Planned Giving or make a donation please contact the parish office at admin@stfelixparish.org.au or 9790 1933.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, all the volunteers and those who have contributed to the life and material needs of our parish. We are blessed to have our beautiful parish, because of our predecessors and all of you who have given your time and money to allow us to enjoy St Felix as it stands today. We pray that we may be soon able to gather again to worship God together and support each other in following Him.

Fr Van

Reflection

You live in me, I live in you.

The mystery of the Trinity can be difficult for us to grasp. Today's Gospel invites us to consider how the three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— work together so that God's salvation is made known to us. Jesus' mission is continued through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his disciples. We have received this same Spirit through our Baptisms. The Spirit, living and working within us, reveals the mystery of God's love for us. Just as the first disciples were not left orphaned, we are not orphaned; we remain in God's embrace through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Gather your family and invite each family member to say what he or she knows about the Holy Spirit. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 14:15-21. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do for the disciples? Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we come to share in the love of God made known to us in Jesus. Pray together, thanking God for this gift of the Holy Spirit by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

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Mass Intentions Recently Deceased: Peter Baulman.

Deceased: Fahme Abdul Ahad; George Lahood; Tony Malkoun.

Sick: Marie Abi-Saab, Tom Quilty, Jason Timbs & Bart Hennely, Dau (Xuan); Gerard Go; Fatima Fernandes; Marian Periera; Catherine & Lourdes Raspanti; baby Alan Dien Quan Nguyen; Monina Rodriguez Pineda; Tenshi Asriel Magdaleno Arcenas; Rose Nuner; Maria Carta; Teresita Martinez; Maria Kovatsun; Frannie; Madelyn Nicole; Jun Ibarra; Abida Gill; Vo Van Kiet; Maria Bui Thi Don; Josette Ackad; Nivea Wani; Diana Emilie Perez; Billy; Ginette Sharok.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual 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.

Catechist & Friendship Group: Bev Lamaro 0409 710 703; **Choir:** Alison De Sousa 0421 660 187; **Youth:** Aurora Doueihy 0428 755 022; **Pastoral Council:** Patrick Abou-rizk 0416 035 993; **St Vincent de Paul:** Diago Rodrigues 9791 5209 ; **Bankstown Josephite Associates:** Robyn Molloy 9707 1292; **Children's Liturgy:** Marie El-Chaar 9709 3451; **Cemetery Committee:** Maureen Vincent 9790 4217; **Sacramental co-ordinator:** Gloria Booby 0413 294 224; **Safeguarding Officer:** Anthony Chadrawy 9790 1933; **Polish Priests:** 8783 0533; **De La Salle Brothers:** 9708 2692; **St. Felix Primary School:** 9796 7875 Frances Bonanno - Principal; **LaSalle Catholic College:** 9793 5600 Mr Michael Egan - Principal; **Archdiocesan Website:** www.sydney.catholic.org.au

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

Would you like to become a credit card contributor to the Parish?

Especially now with the Church forced to close, we have no weekly envelopes to keep us going. We are asking Parishioners to make their donations via credit card in order for the Parish to function. please send an e-mail with the following details to Marie at admin@stfelixparish.org.au

Name..... Telephone No.:

Address:.....

Email :

Current Envelope Number:..... OR

I would like to commence Planned Giving payments via credit card.