

A letter to our Senior Citizens

Hello to all our elderly parishioners, those still living at home, and especially those in nursing homes at the moment. We can only imagine how hard it is to endure the restrictions set out for us by the Covid-19 pandemic. I certainly miss the opportunity to see those I visit for Communion and Prayer. It breaks my heart that I cannot bring the Eucharist to you when you feel perhaps that you need it the most. I cannot bring you Eucharist but I can let you know that we feel love, care and compassion for your current situations, and we pray and think about you each and every day.

We don't realise when we are young just how rich it is to have a grandparent, aunty or uncle to tell us stories of their days growing up. Often, you have travelled miles, across the seas, from many a different country, as well as a different time and era. You are as precious as diamonds and gold.

We thank God for you in our lives - for everything you have taught us, everything you have given us, for everything you mean to us. We know of course that we cannot repay the love and kindness you lavished on us, but your goodness and commitment can be celebrated in our hearts. Do not imagine that you are alone. There is a whole community in your family, your church, your town and your country that is praying for you. Holding you in that prayer we ask God to give you strength and courage in the coming days.

You are not alone. We love and care for you all - every one of you. You are not only a part of your family, but a part of our family – God's family. We pray earnestly for your health and well-being, for strength and grace to journey through this challenge, to fight the good fight – and win. Any who are lost to this terrible virus will be deeply missed and grieved for – and remembered. Our whole community and country will grieve, because we have lost one of our own.

You may already be fully aware of this, but I'd like to remind you that you are accompanied every minute of every day by the Lord, our God. No matter what happens He is with you, every step of the way. Jesus told us "Do not be afraid." Last Sunday the gospel story was of Jesus walking on the water calling to Peter, his disciple, to come to him, across the stormy sea. As Peter was sinking into the waves Jesus stretched out his hand to rescue him, telling him not to be afraid, ensuring him it would all be fine. If you are feeling a bit like your drowning in the fear of our times remember that Jesus has His hand stretched out for you to grasp as well.

All our thoughts and prayers, all our love, and all our gratitude we send to you from St Mary's Parish, and all the Catholic communities in Geelong.

You are not forgotten. All your families are missing you so much.

With love and appreciation,

Anna Demetriou (Pastoral Worker) and all of us at St Mary's Parish Office