

PARISH BULLETIN

St Macartan's Catholic Parish

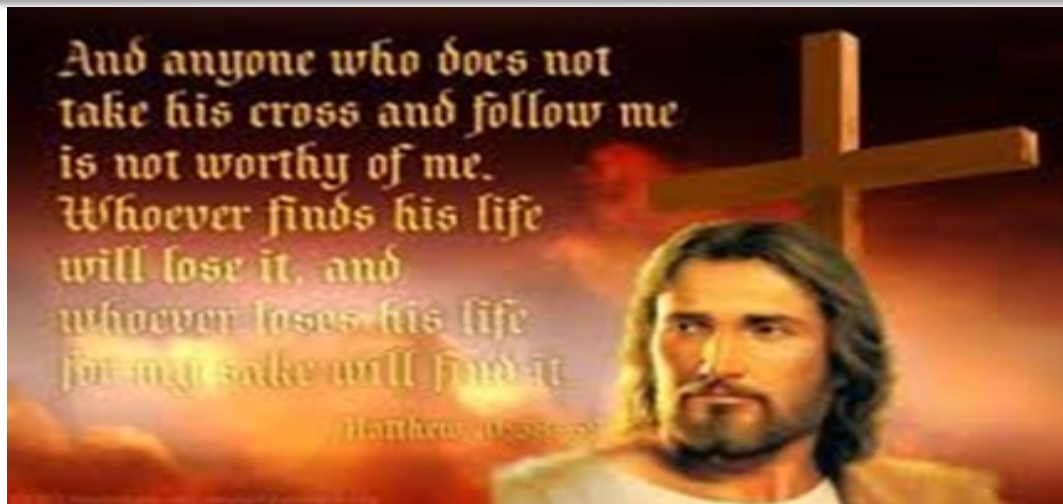


4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931

Parish Office: Tuesday and Friday 9am to 4pm; **Ph:** 5975 2200
Email: mornington@cam.org.au **Web:** stmacartansparish.com.au

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy

Parish Secretary: Theresa Collard



MASS TIMES

Sunday's Mass and weekday Masses

On Line found on Parish's YouTube page:
(Ctrl and enter) on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos>

Also view our Parish website:

<https://www.stmacartansparish.com.au/>

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions
ALL MASSES ARE ONLINE**

Upcoming Holy Days:

- Sat 29th: The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr
- Thu 3rd Sep: St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor

Office: CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
If you leave an audible voice telephone message. Fr Geoff will return your call.

Parish Child Safety Officer: Carmel McGrath 0400 076 067

Email: Mornington.childsafety@cam.org.au

St Macartan's Primary School

Ph: 5979 9200

Principal: Colleen McGreal

Deputy: Philip Hills, Kathleen Ronchi

Padua College **Ph:** 5976 0100

Parish Pastoral Council: Bernard Butler
0419 427 408

Finance Committee: Frank Crea
0417 104 041

AV Technical: Graeme Wilson
Email: gpw611@bigpond.com

St Mac's High Spirits - Faye Melhem

Email: stmacshighspirits@gmail.com

Parish Caretaker & Memorial Wall: John Spaziani: 0419 598 911

Music & Wedding Co-Ordinator-
Veronica Ryan 5975 6981/ 0418 358 213.

Marriage & Counselling: Charmaine Holmes:
5977 2567 **Marriage Prep:** See Fr Geoff

Baptism Preparation: Kathy Raccanello
Next Baptismal Meeting - Postponed

All Baptisms: **SUSPENDED**

Anniversary: Maureen James, Bob Skelton, Charles Parnis, Eileen Kerrins and Cathie Gurry.

Recently Deceased: Geraldine Dillon, Patricia Horrigan, Fr. Donal Madigan OMI and Dennis Mayer.

Mass Intentions

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Janet Smyth, Tony Ryan, Graham Oliver, Laura Castelow, Julie Nash, Margaret O'Connor, Jay Keogh, Sophie Davidson, Cinzia Caboche, Robert Warne, Dean Pratt, Trent Wilkinson, Esma Murphy, Kate Maree Ayoub (Tunks) Frances McLean, Richard Meech, Colleen, Noah Guest, Carly Guy, , Elizabeth Brennan, Bob Barrett, Ally Roe, Colleen & Jim Husin, Maryanne Husin, Eileen Young, , Peter Hingston, Dave Mortby, Lynne Anderson, Naomi Andrews, Peter Atkinson, Kevin Paganoni, Jeannie Fox, Phyllis Molloy, Renee Barker, Courtney Stevens, Joseph Aquilina, Helen & Denis Chambers, Mark Allan, Lucas Pingiaro, Fernando Pineda, Jim Kershaw (NZ), Maureen Spargo, Tony Formosa, John Mahony, Terry Smyth, Michael Nicolaou, Torquil Hansen **And especially for Ruben Pateman.**

First Reading Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

((R.) My Soul is thirsting for you, O lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Communion Antiphon Mt 5:9-10

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Living the Gospel

Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

EXPLORING THE WORD

This gospel contains the first of three predictions of his passion and death that Jesus makes along his journey to Jerusalem. Matthew tells the story of that journey across the next four chapters of his gospel. Peter is highly disturbed by the predictions of Jesus' suffering, but is soundly rebuked. The contrast between this text and the gospel of the previous week is stark! In the immediately prior episode, Peter is praised and rewarded for his sublime affirmation of faith, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' In this text, Peter's lack of understanding, both of what that means and of Jesus' mission, causes him to be ridiculed as an obstacle to the divine mission. While we may have some sympathy for Peter in wanting to spare Jesus the pain and suffering he pre-

dicts, what is at issue is Peter's failure to see that the cross is part of the plan and that discipleship will also involve the cross. Taking up the cross, however, will result in great reward and ultimate vindication when the time of judgment comes.

- What cross do you bear?
- How well or otherwise do you cope with this?
- Is the cross and the suffering of Christ an obstacle for you?

DID YOU KNOW?

This text marks the beginning of the fourth major section of Matthew's Gospel, which follows Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and death.

- The word Satan originally meant 'adversary' or 'accuser'. Later it came to mean personified evil. Here Jesus uses it figuratively of Peter, who does not yet understand the meaning of Jesus' mission.
- The name Peter comes from the Latin word for 'rock'. In last week's gospel, Jesus named Peter as the rock on which the church would be built. In this week's gospel, that rock has become a stumbling block in Jesus' path!

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

The cross is the central symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us immediately of the death of Jesus, through which he won eternal life, but it also reminds us of our own struggles and sufferings. 'We all have our cross to bear,' said St Rose of Lima, a young South American saint of the 17th century. 'Apart from the cross, there is no ladder to heaven.' What do you think she meant by this?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Opportunities for discussion and personal prayer

- What are the obstacles to Christ in your path?
- Are they of your own making or blocks put in place by circumstances or other people?
- What crosses do you bear for the sake of Christ?
- Share a story of a cross you have had to bear. Did it change you? In what ways did you become a stronger person?
- Has there been a time when you chose to face hardship or pain rather than avoid it?
- Do you know others who are burdened by a cross at the moment? Try to lift a burden from someone this week.
- Throughout this week, recite a verse from today's psalm (62:8–9): My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God For you have been my help; In the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

SHARING THE TRADITION

Over the long history of the church, there have been many people who have taken up the cross of Christ by giving their lives for their faith. They are the martyrs of the church and have a special place of honour. The first martyrdom recorded in the Scriptures is that of Stephen (Acts 6:8–8:3). Over recent weeks, we have explored the stories of some people who are modern day martyrs of the church. While, luckily, not all those who take up the cross are called to give their lives, many still shoulder the burden of faith in the face of adversity. One such person was St Damien of Molokai, a Belgian priest of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, who volunteered to work as a missionary chaplain among the lepers of Hawaii at the leper colony on Molokai. Here he laboured for many years until he contracted the disease and finally died of it in 1889. Other Christians, like Mother Teresa, have chosen to live out their faith in difficult situations.

- Discuss some of the ministries of the modern church that are difficult ones or may be seen as burdensome by those outside the church.
- Identify local church agencies that specifically work with people who carry a burden.
- Are there people in your parish who could share with the group their work in the world, such as those who work with agencies dealing with the marginalised or the poor? with refugees and asylum seekers? with homeless youth or victims of violence? Perhaps you could contact a church agency engaged in this work.

LIVING THE WORD

Practical ideas for connecting Scripture and daily life.

- In what ways is your community able to assist people who carry a burden? Is there more that can be done? Can catechumens be introduced to these ministries? Let me know, as I have some new Christians, that need connection.

I want to commend one group in our Parish that is showing Covid-19 won't stop them keeping their prayer lives alive and catechism vibrant. That is the Minister unto God Prayer Group, who are using WhatsApp, a mobile phone application to continue meeting in prayer - Well done, great initiative!

If you want to know more contact the office and we will pass on your details to
Frank and Josie Raccanello

WEEKDAY MASSES NOW ONLINE!

(Available from approx. 11am - Tues to Fri)

(same YouTube link as Sunday Mass - see page 1)

Yes, I'm putting weekday Masses online, the same as the Sunday Mass.

Stay safe physically, emotionally and spiritually ;-)

Fr Geoff

From St Macartan's Parish Primary School



HIGH SPIRITS

(Catechism for State School children)

We have begun 1st Reconciliation classes:

They are via Zoom

NEXT will be 1st Eucharist

To enroll your child or to get more details please email Faye at:
stmacshighspirits@gmail.com

GOOD NEWS

I'm sure you have all heard of something good happening in the last week, or how about your personal story, please feel free to share them with me via the office and I may highlight it in our newsletter for others to also enjoy.

Here's one:

Hello Fr Geoff, I don't have a good news story (more's the pity) but I do have a suggestion.. I've been thinking of how we can connect as a Parish community during these hard times, and I would like to borrow something that another Church is doing, this is

Parishioners take a selfie on their smart phone (most of our parishioners would have one) and send the photo into the Parish Office. If they cannot take a selfie, then a family member/carer/spouse can take a photo for them. These photos are collected and put into a PowerPoint presentation. This is then set to music and shown during the first hymn at the beginning of Mass. One of the worst things at the moment is that none of us get to see faces. For those of us who live alone the only human faces we get to see are those on the television. This way we can connect again as a community and we get to see friends and acquaintances we have not seen in many months.

*Kind regards,
Jody.*

Great idea Jody

Yes, I too have forgotten what many of you look like - some may say I'm lucky
So Yes, please, all send in a snap shot, - and not one from 20 years ago!



Here's my photo, with my mate Frank - You might recognise him?



(Holy Father, I do apologise for my familiarity - mea culpa!)

Fr Geoff

FUNNY STORY

The photo I attached on the previous page, of Pope Francis and myself, was taken in St Paul's Basilica (outside the walls) on the 14th April 2013, approximately one month after Pope Francis was elected.

Well, you may ask? How did I get to meet Pope Francis?

You will notice I am not wearing clerical clothes, just a suit, well that's because I wasn't clergy yet. I was in my first year studying at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome. (www.bedacollege.org). During the first few months of the Papacy, the new Pope visits the four major basilicas in Rome. The Beda College, is directly opposite St Paul's basilica, and we were told that the Pope would be coming to do a Papal Mass at St Paul's and we had tickets to attend. On the day, I decided to buy some rosary beads so as I could have them on me and possibly have them blessed by a public Papal blessing. So I bought about eight sets of rosary beads, all were in little plastic boxes and bulged my suit pockets and rattled when I walked. After a lengthy Mass (where we were seated fairly close to the action), we were asked by an usher if we would like to meet the Pope. I believe this was arranged by our College bursar, and we were given a slip of paper with "Papal meeting" in Italian, printed on it and we were asked to remain behind after the Mass. There were about 60 of us there from the College.

After Mass we were ushered outside the Basilica, around the building to the Popes car. Wow, we thought, we will get to see him get into his car. But then a gate opened and we were ushered back into the Basilica to a curtained off area. There we were put in a single line and, up ahead - there he was! Yes, Papa Francesco, standing there, with guards and security all around, meeting each person individually. Wow! I thought, this is terrific - then I began to get nervous. I thought; What do I say? How do I address him? I can't speak Italian, can he speak English? So I started to panic a little and started practising the few words of Italian I knew: *Piacere Papa come stai?* (pleasure to meet you Pope, how are you?)

Which I know now, wasn't really appropriate - But it's all I knew in the few months I had been in Rome. Anyway, each person spent a minute or so with His Holiness and we had to walk about twenty steps across a carpet towards him. When my turn came, and as I began to walk, all my rosary beads began to jingle/jangle in the plastic boxes in my bulging pockets and I could see the security men looking at me suspiciously and when I reached His Holiness, I thought, at the last moment, I would genuflect; now I had two screws and a pin in my left knee, legacy of a motorbike accident and I had difficulties walking, let alone genuflecting, so as I approached Pope Francis, I smiled and said *Piacere Papa, come stai?* Then I genuflected, but Oh No! Suddenly, my knee locked and I couldn't get back up, so I clung onto Pope Francis and he had to hold me and try and pick me up, as I was trying frantically to stand and my rosary beads were jingling and jangling and I made all sorts of noises, while security started approaching and the paparazzi were capturing every minute - with giggles and snap, snap, snap.

HOW EMBARRASING!

Then graciously, His Holiness said, *Piacere* too, and he smiled. We spoke briefly, I did apologise (in English), I told him I was Australian and he again smiled and then he presented me with, guess what? Yes, a set of rosary beads - I then smiled and opened my jacket to reveal about eight sets of rosary beads and he blessed them all!

Then he asked me to pray for him

and I promised I would.

Of course, after this, the whole got back to the College everyone and how special the set of rosary each one of us by Santo Padre address the Pope if you ever get



they had got some more rosary beads blessed. Then I opened my coat and displayed the eight boxes of beads I had. Well I could have sold each one for a 100 times what I paid, but I never did or will - but I have given some away.

Yes I'm afraid - this is all true!

Blessings - Fr Geoff

College was a buzz and when we was talking about their encounter beads were that were given to (Holy Father - the correct way to the chance) and how some wished



Q: What do you call a religious sheep?

A: a baaaa=ptist.

Parish Footy Tipping

The top tippers: Round 13 was a very successful round. And did not prove an unlucky number for 8 of our tippers who tipped 9 out of 9 winners. It was the second time for our leader Borgie. It was the third time for Barry Murphy. Others were Bryan Walsh, Hafey's Hacks, Adam Lane, Granny Finn, Kees Duyvesteyn and Chooka Howell (Carlton must have won). The leader has 85 correct and leads by 3 from Hafey's Hacks. Jack Jansson (Nth Melb) and Father Bill (Swans) both scored 8 as their loyalty to their team let them down,.

QUIZ ANSWERS : The name with the highest number of games is Garry Ablett with 600 games played between both Snr and Jnr. Second highest is name/games is Scott Thompson shared between Adelaide superstar and North Melbourne defender

HISTORY: Indigenous Round was played last round --the Doug Nicholls Round. named after former Fitzroy (will not mention Carlton) and former Governor of Sth. Australia. Tribute was paid to the former famous indigenous player, Sydney Jackson, who played 136 games for Carlton and kicked 165 goals. He was spotted as a 17 years old at Roelands Mission but did not play his first game for Carlton till he was 25.yrs because of a clearance wrangle angle. There are so many more e.g Polly Farmer, Barry Cable and who could forget the Krakouer brothers to name a few.





Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic?

R.C.I.A.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Is a guided faith journey towards becoming a Catholic

WHO IS RCIA FOR?

Adults who are not baptised.

Adults who are already baptised in another Christian Church.

Non-practising Catholics who wish to renew their faith.

Where do you begin?

New sessions begin with an information night TBA.

There is no obligation – Call and find out more:

Classes will most likely be Wednesday nights

7:00pm-8pm via Zoom under restrictions

or in the presbytery (restriction free).

The RCIA process is a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment and formation.

Those who join the process are encouraged to go at their own pace but on average the journey takes several months of weekly or fortnightly sessions leading to, if the candidate wishes, reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter, with an on-going attendance at Sunday Mass and observance of Catholic teachings and practices.

Like to find out more?

Ring the Parish office at

5975 2200

Or email

mornington@cam.org.au

Student wellbeing - a key priority for schools

Last week, some newspapers ran headlines about the increase in youth suicide, particularly of students in the senior years of schooling. The articles suggested these tragic cases were due, in part, to the added pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic and stress experienced by young people during a disrupted year of schooling.

As former Prime Minister and chair of Beyond Blue Julia Gillard said in delivering the 2019 Diego De Leo Address last year, "suicide is one of the greatest public health challenges of our time, but that does not mean we cannot achieve change...we have a responsibility to keep dragging suicide out of the shadows and equipping everyone, if we truly believe in the mantra that 'suicide prevention is everyone's business'".

Youth health experts have also raised concerns about the impact of the pandemic and resulting higher unemployment, study stress (see story below) and social isolation on the mental health of young people. While the pandemic has shone a light on this issue, the fact is that youth mental health has been a growing concern for many years.

In his speech to the Youth Futures Summit on Monday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison recognised the significant challenge of youth mental health and how the Federal Government is responding with increased funding to organisations such as Lifeline, Kids Helpline and headspace, which have seen increased demand on their services. The Youth Mental Health Report (2012-2018) from Mission Australia and the Black Dog Institute highlights some of the issues and challenges facing young people:

- In 2018, 24.2 per cent of young people experienced mental distress, up from 18.7 per cent in 2012
- However, the incidence was higher for young women aged 15-19 years (30 per cent)
- For young men, the rate was 15.6 per cent
- For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, nearly one third (31.9 per cent) experienced mental distress
- More than 75 per cent of mental health issues develop before the age of 25

The report also flagged that mental health experts are unclear as to why these rates are getting worse. Although the young people, who reported greater levels of psychological distress, cited higher proportions of bullying and emotional abuse, low self-esteem and the perception of lack of control over their lives as contributing factors. The top three issues of personal concern for young people with psychological distress were coping with stress (74%), mental health (62.7%), and school or study problems (55.4%). Schools are at the forefront of these issues, trying to support students and their families through in-school counselling, pastoral care and student wellbeing programs, and through referrals to specialist and external support services. However schools, like parents, mental health professionals and policy makers, are struggling to understand the full extent of the issues young people are facing, and the best ways to respond with effective support and preventative measures. This is especially challenging given that young people struggling the most, are five times less likely to seek help than their peers without psychological distress (36.5% compared with 7.0%).

Our schools and teachers are uniquely placed, as they engage with young people on a daily basis, to provide education programs and interventions to promote mental health awareness, reduce stigma, encourage students to seek help, and link students and families to specialist services; but they need support. The first priority of our schools is to ensure the safety and pastoral care of our students, and the mental health and wellbeing of our young people is fundamental to this priority. We cannot expect students to learn and reach their potential, if they are experiencing emotional distress or ongoing mental health issues.

At the recent National Catholic Education Commission meeting, student wellbeing was a part of the discussion. We will be focused at the national level at gaining a deeper understanding of the issues that our young people and families are facing, to better support our school communities to identify ways to effectively respond to these issues.

Next month is R U OK? Day (10 September 2020) which is a reminder for our communities to stop and engage in a discussion about mental health. While this one day is an important reminder, the reality of the growing challenge of youth mental health requires us to ask and engage in a dialogue every day on how we can improve the wellbeing of our children and young people.

Jacinta Collins
National Catholic Education executive director

Coping with isolation

It's how many weeks? "I've lost count" of lockdown now, and with each day the desire for human interaction and connectedness grows stronger.

As an introvert, I was quite comfortable during the initial lockdown period. In fact, I was pleased that for once in my life it was acceptable to remain indoors for an entire week.. Or more.

But never in my life has it been so long since I've seen my parents. My family. My friends. Phone calls and video chats don't quite do it justice. The presence of another human being, and basic interactions like a hug or a warm smile, have such a profound impact* on our day-to-day life. So in a time when face-to-face interaction is so limited, how can we cope?

Stay in contact as best you can

During a discussion on isolation, my friend told me that connectedness is about the quality of our relationships, not about our proximity to another person. Proximity helps, of course, to reduce feelings of isolation. But proximity on its own cannot cure loneliness. I resonated with this thought, feeling grateful that I could engage in such meaningful conversation while at such a great distance apart.



Phone and video calls may not feel nearly as enriching as face-to-face interaction, but they are the closest form of "normal" interaction we have available to us right now. Just as we would schedule time to meet or talk with our loved ones, make time for phone and video calls to keep in touch. Writing letters is another great way to communicate. Letters

can help foster deeper or more meaningful conversations, as we take more time in thinking about what we want to say. Post isn't the only way of sending letters either - we can send photos of handwritten letters, or use our texting method of choice (including messaging apps) to have long-length letter-style conversations.

Remember, it won't be like this forever

There may be a new "Covid normal" in times to come, but no matter what that is, we will eventually be able to see our family and friends again. Life will go on, and we will adapt.

To have hope that things will get better is important too,
no matter how bleak it may feel right now.

"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." - Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

Coping with ill loved ones

Our hearts go out to those who have ill loved ones, as we know visiting is often restricted or sometimes completely off limits, and other forms of contact may be limited too.

This can be frustrating and stressful, but focusing on prayer, on hope, or on something that is meaningful for you both can help. Take feelings of fear or anger and use the energy for good – if your loved one is an avid gardener, consider starting a garden project. If knitting is their thing, try your hand at knitting. Or maybe DIY is more their style. This can help strengthen your connection with them in an abstract way, too.

Keep busy and maintain routine

Feelings of isolation can be exacerbated when we're bored. Because when we're bored, sitting alone and pondering the meaning of life, it is never more blatantly obvious that there is no one around us. Sing, dance, learn a new skill or just take more notice of the things around you.

On another note, maintaining a daily or weekly routine can help to create a sense of normality during such an abnormal time. Routine can also give us a sense of control in our lives, increasing feelings of calm and safety. Setting a regular wake up/sleep time is a good place to start! Remember that no matter how lonely or isolated you feel, help is always available. Speaking to a counsellor can, in itself, reduce feelings of isolation and increase connectedness. But counsellors can provide coping strategies and other support too. .

Beyond Blue have some great resources for coping with isolation too.

From our CatholicCare family to yours, we hope that you are all keeping safe and well during these challenging times.