



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Parish, Rosemeadow

80 Demetrius Road, Rosemeadow NSW 2560

PO Box 3010, Rosemeadow NSW 2560

Ph: (02) 4628 1385 & Fax: (02) 4625 7213

Email: rosemeadow@dow.org.au

Website: olhcrosemeadow.org.au

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My Dear Parishioners,

Yesterday the Premier announced that the current lockdown for the Greater Sydney Area, Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour, will be extended for a further four weeks until midnight Saturday 28 August 2021. She also announced that a further three local government areas (LGA) are now added to the current list, namely, Parramatta, Campbelltown and Georges River. While some restrictions were eased for other areas, all current restrictions including stay-at-home orders and travelling no further than 10 kilometers from one's home, remain in place for all these LGA's.

Unfortunately, this means that remedial work on the church cupola still cannot be completed, and current arrangements for the operation of the Parish Office will continue, as well as for staff as explained in my previous email to you. The Parish Office will remain closed during this time and Mrs. Meshline Wolczak will work from home via a secure laptop computer and will come to the office when necessary. You may still contact the parish office by telephone or email, and we will attend to your requests as soon as we can. Please be understanding and patient during this difficult time. Unfortunately, I am also unable to reinstate Mrs. Vicki LoCascio, the parish administrative assistant, and Mrs. Michelle Gardiner, the parish office, presbytery and church cleaner, until current restrictions are lifted, and parish finances return to normal.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the critical and fundamental need for parish income via the Planned Giving contributions to continue. Without this regular and ongoing income, the parish's ability to operate is severely impacted as is obvious from the difficult decision I have had to make. This is why I have been encouraging as many parishioners as possible to transition from envelopes to Direct Debit Giving. If you wish to do so, email the parish office, or ring and leave a message and we will contact you to arrange this. Thank you. Otherwise, please drop your planned giving envelopes into the secure letter box at the parish office, or at the fence box if the gates are closed. *I want to thank those parishioners who have continued to drop their envelopes into the secure letter box during the current lockdown period, and ask others to please do the same. I also thank those who have made donations to the Parish.* Please don't forget the first collection either- I still have to live even in the lockdown! Again, thank you.

MASSES. I will continue to livestream the **SATURDAY 6 PM VIGIL MASS AND TUESDAY 6.30 PM weekday Mass.** The direct link to the parish YouTube channel is:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIQhkeubtYCBu_elfcglmaw or by accessing it from the Parish Website.

Please pass this information on to any other parishioner you are in contact with.

FUNERALS are still permitted but with a cap of 10 people attending, excluding the Priest and funeral directors.

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS are all suspended until current restrictions are lifted.

I will continue to keep in contact by email and the Parish Website as further changes and updates occur. Please let other parishioners know that this information has been received by you via email, and if they have not registered their own email address with the parish office, to please do so by sending an email to us with their details. They will then be able to receive these updates. All updates are also accessible via the parish bulletin which is uploaded every week to the Parish Website.

My brothers and sisters, I want to say how much I feel for you at this sad time, especially as we are prevented from gathering together in our spiritual home of the Parish Church to celebrate Holy Mass and to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. Not only in the Masses that I livestream and in which you can participate spiritually,

I want you to know that in my private Mass every other day, and in my daily prayers, I remember you and your families during this most difficult and testing time. Please remember me in your prayers also. May our Good God look kindly and mercifully upon us that the viral situation will be brought rapidly under control, and the isolation and terrible consequences of the lockdown, especially upon individuals and families will end. And may our heavenly Patroness, Our Lady Help of Christians, and great St. Joseph, pray for us.

God bless you all

Father Christopher G Sarkis
Parish Priest.