

My wife Sandra and I have been watching the 8am Mass (the only Sunday Mass!!!), through live streaming. It has enabled us to "normalise" our Sunday obligation. While I have not been able to serve the Cathedral community as a Reader and Eucharistic Minister, the live streaming has been a God Send. A group of us from the 8am Mass, ably led by Bob Elliott, have had our usual Sunday morning cuppa.

We look forward to having all the restrictions lifted soon

“ Covid-19 isolation has proven challenging. However I am grateful for my family’s faith and friendships.



While adapting to study and work from home, we have reunited to find deeper time and space to share the Rosary via Zoom with spiritual mentors and friends across Australia and Asia Pacific.

While there is no substitute for receiving the dearly missed Eucharist, we cherish the Cathedral’s Mass webcasts, Archdiocesan online resources and updates.

We have also enjoyed rekindling a few old family games like Euchre and Scrabble ;) We pray daily and trust there’s light at the end of the tunnel.”

We appreciated your email..... It has been a most unusual period in our lives! We are both in 80's..... moved to Brisbane three years ago and belong to Guides and Welcomers' Group.

So we have missed our contact with the Cathedral. However, we have been 'on line' for Masses and do appreciate that being available.

We do miss Eucharist and really appreciate the 'Spiritual Communion Prayer' in our TV Masses. Please God we can get back to normal Masses sooner rather than later.....

We live at Kangaroo Point so do attend that Parish as well as Capuchian Fathers at Dutton Park where our young grandsons attend school.

At this stage of our lives we go fairly quietly but our Catholic Faith practices are very important to us both. Thank you again and God bless you and your work around our Cathedral.

It has been hard to pass these days in "No-Church" Life, since the 2nd last week of Lent up to now. I connect to the Internet to attend Sunday Mass, sometimes not even ours of Brisbane but more other Cities (Hong Kong, Rome, and England) as well. I follow the Ordo to do the Reading and read the Gospel every evening after dinner. In fact, apparently this seems giving me a chance to strengthen my faith, but I hate saying this because the world has been suffering much from this COVID-19.



At home, I used to pray in my prayer corner (photo attached, but I am shameful that I am not good in prayers. It is lucky that I have kept a few Weekday Prayers Sheets so that I could do the Marian Prayer and the Lenten Prayer. Other than that, I made up my prayers to talk to God and that is direct from my heart, like what in Holy Thursday evening, I did my confession knelt down in the backyard looking up the sky. My last prayer words every evening is to ask God's mercy to give peace rest to those who died in this Coronavirus.

As for self-isolation, I am lucky that I live by myself, except still have to go to work because the business of my company is classified as essential. But we observe all the promulgated rules, social distancing, washing hands every hour, no food, no meeting, all communications via email; could not work at home because the entire system is fully isolated.

I hope this Coronavirus ends ASAP and God have mercy to keep all people safe in the world, and mostly desired is we can resume our Church Life in a few weeks.

I see this time more as solitude than isolation. I stay in phone, Skype or Zoom contact with family and friends and they with me.



The hardest thing for me is loss of independence. However, that does increase my gratitude for neighbours who shop for me or help with medication. Our small street has become a community of care and friendship. I regularly need to remind myself that total independence is an illusion. We live in the web of life.

Daily I photograph something in my garden or street, a friend writes a haiku poem and I post it on Facebook. It started as a discipline and has become a contemplative moment at the beginning of the day.

The solitude gives me time to connect with friends, think, read and pray. I am nourished by my garden, friendships, the Scriptures and the Divine Office. The psalms have taken on new significance in this present situation.

Reflection of a guide/welcomer during social isolation time.

The opening of Fr Anthony's email "I hope that you are all travelling well in these strange days." giving me the ideas for my reflection. Covid-19 a name delicate for a tiny virus – unseen by naked eyes and unheard of before November 2019, within a short time it take over the world, millions of people losing jobs, losing connect with family and lost lives (alots). It create a chaotic, unsafe and loss.

Often when feeling loss, contact family's members, friends and spiritual guiding as attending mass can help. But all of the above options were blocked by tiny organisms- how fragile our life is, the uncertainty is so real.



I was told when a door is lock- somehow a window will open if I keep searching. Thanks to the technology; I can watch mass-online.

The image of the tabernacle in St Stephan cathedral, the readings, the Eucharist provide "peace", giving me strength to continue my daily life with a warm feeling knowing "I am been looking after, I am lucky" and try to pass that feeling to my family

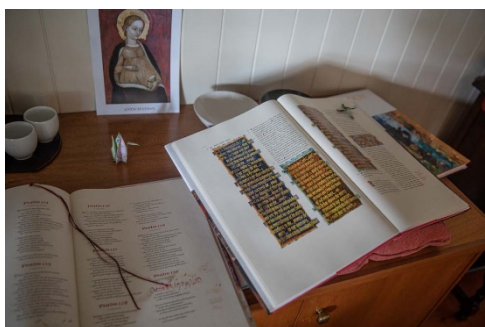
members. My mother a senior woman with severe arthritis, she cried and prayed while watching mass on-line.

Within my family a meal time together, memory of whole family praying for a "Rosary" will stay with me for a long time.

Thank you to The Archbishop, Fathers and all peoples contribute in on-line mass. My heart goes to people who don't have the resource to watch mass online, people who lost their jobs, lost their health, lost family's members. Take my hat off to people in a front line fighting to the unseen opponents, peoples helping hands to others in need.

Can't wait for more "easing the restriction" so I can attending mass in person, the Eucharist, receiving "body of Christ" and say hello to other guides and welcomers.

Under lockdown our days are shaped by the same guidelines we always try to adopt in our lives. We seek time for developments of health, intellectual abilities, physical wellbeing, aesthetic qualities and spiritual dimensions.



Regarding the latter, in the mornings, our prayers are shaped by streamed mass and the daily readings and reflections in the book "God's Word". Later in the day, as the pace of life increases, we slow down by returning again to the word- this time through our copy of the St John's Bible- the first hand written and illuminated bible since Gutenberg.

The calligraphy forces us into slow reading and thoughts. We have 3 of the volumes of this bible- Psalms, the Pentateuch and Gospels and Acts (set up in a designated of our living space).

On Sundays after 8am streamed mass we join with friends in a virtual cup of coffee via Zoom. If you would like an invitation to these activities please send an email to cathedralppc@bne.catholic.net.au