

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This Lent puts everything in perspective. The spread of the Coronavirus has upended all that we take for granted and has put us in touch with our fragility and mortality.

While we have to be very prudent and mindful of the health of everybody else, we must not succumb to fear: right now people are fighting in the supermarkets for toilet paper, if someone sneezes in public people they are cursed instead of being told “Bless you!”; people are forming lines to buy guns, and ammunition is no longer available.

On the heels of all this, out of a sense of caution and prudence, all public Masses in the Archdiocese have been suspended.

But this does not mean that the Church shuts down.

The Church cannot shut down. People are allowed to buy material food, but they need spiritual food now more than ever. Grocery stores, Take-out restaurants, and Gas stations are still open, and the Church will remain open also.

Father Yoannis Lahzi Gaid, secretary of Pope Francis, last week sent a message to his brother priests via WhatsApp and said:

“Otherwise pastas and pizzas will be delivered to houses but not Communion for those who want it because they are elderly, sick or in need. Supermarkets, newspaper shops and tobacco shops will be open, but not the churches”.

The Federal Government and individual States have a duty to guarantee the health and material support of the people, but the priests have the duty to do the same for souls.

The Church will remain open, as usual. Myself and Fr. Siffredus are available now more than ever for all of you.

The regular Mass schedule will be celebrated in our parish: Daily Mass at 8:30am and the normal weekend Mass schedule. All of these Masses are being live-streamed on the Parish Facebook page.

While, in obedience to the Cardinal, these are private Masses, the church doors will always remain open, and if anyone comes to Mass they will not be turned away, while of course remaining 6ft apart.

Your priests are available to bring Holy Communion to those who desire it.

Confessions will be available as usual on Saturday, and at any other time that someone wishes to see a priest.

If you wish to come and pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament, the church is always open.

Do not be Afraid!

Fr. Sean