

My Dear Parishioners,

I missed seeing you all in person at our liturgical celebrations in our parish church and churches in the valley. I am looking forward to celebrating the Mass with you physically present again. I am hopeful and optimistic that it would be in a not so distant future.

Yet, despite this stay-at-home directive, you are all in my thoughts and prayers as we are in this together bracing ourselves in this very unusual and extraordinary time we have. I always remember you and think of you, praying that all of us are kept safe from the virus when I celebrate masses as regularly as I can.

I hope and pray, you and your family are safe and well-protected. Stay safe.

As for me, I am well and I am keeping up with what needs to be done and what I can do during this time while trying to abide with the restrictions we have in place. I am still doing funerals and sometimes sick calls. There are still meetings I have to attend but they are now online which works out fine with me. All other meetings pertaining to the parish groups are now being suspended unless there is a necessity to have one.

Fr Shibu is well and back in here now with me after a month of isolation in Tallangatta as a precaution because of his recent trip to India. He is still smiling, going out for his daily walks, and clearing the back garden.

I also have Dominic here, one of the seminarians in our Diocese. He is being placed in here until they are allowed to go back to the seminary. While here, he continues with his seminary studies via online learning.

By the way, I am live streaming the Mass I celebrate daily and the prayers in the evening online via our *Wodonga Catholic Parish* Facebook page and my personal Facebook page. Feel free to tune in or follow our Facebook page.

I am also endeavouring to upload the video of Sunday Mass on YouTube for those of you who may find it easier to access via Smart TV.

Friends, we can break the chain of this V_I_R_U_S if U and I would do our bit and take responsibility of our safety and the safety of others. Let us continue to adhere to what the authorities say. Let us also continue to pray for those working in the frontlines and who are facing this crisis head on, putting themselves at risk and continuing to provide us with the essentials. On our part, let us make use of what we can to check on our family and friends, to offer support and to understand the importance of communication in a personal level.

Lastly, we trust that God is here with us in all of this. Let us do what we can, and let God what we can't. **Christ Overcomes Viruses, Infections and Diseases (COVID)**. May the hope and the peace that the Risen Lord assure us reign our hearts.

Amen.

Fr Junjun, Fr Shibu and Dominic

Here is a prayer I wrote and say at every Mass I celebrate. You may use this in your prayers too.

Prayer Against Coronavirus

God of love and mercy, source of life and origin of all things created
All glory and praise be to you for you ordered all things
according to your will and purpose. In

Humility and repentance of our sins, we

Entrust our lives to your providence

as we braced ourselves against the COVID-19 pandemic
that hit our land.

We pray for those who are

Afflicted by this virus in many parts of the world.

May Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, our healer,

Lay over his hands to heal those who are sick,

to comfort those who have lost their loved ones,

to protect those who are vulnerable and prone to the disease,

to strengthen those who are tasked to care for the afflicted (*their families
and friends, doctors, nurses and medical personnel*),

and to guide those medical experts who are working hard to find the
medicine to contain this virus.

In your Divine mercy, we ask that all

Nations and government in the world, may work well to assure the safety and
health of their citizens and constituents in this challenging time.

God of love, we also ask you that we may be of support to one another in this
time of crisis by being considerate to those around us who are in need.

By the intercession of our Blessed Virgin Mary, our mother, we humbly ask you,
heal our land, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, our divine physician, who
lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen. (*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*)

Our Lady, Help of Christians, Pray for us.

Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted

St Joseph, Pray for us.

St Mary Mackillop, Pray for us.

St Rock, pray for us.

All Holy Men and Women, pray for us.