



# St Patrick's Catholic Church, Benoni, South Africa

Priest-in- Charge: Fr David Evans

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*For our safety, the Parish remains closed at this time.*

Dear friends

23 August 2020

With the move to level two of the lockdown, we are feeling a loosening of the quarantine measures that have often seemed so irksome over the past months. However, the ancient Chinese saying is "In peace prepare for war", meaning that we should never let down our guard once hostilities seem to be ending. Our Lord often echoed these words when he said, "be on your guard, be on your guard against evil, against what might destroy you."

While we wait and pray for the vaccine, we get on with our lives, but carefully, so that there may not be a resurgence of the virus as has happened in many other countries once restrictions were eased and people forgot their individual responsibility. As Christians we are called to be responsible citizens of our country, obeying the laws unless they clearly go against God and his values.

We are hugely grateful to our Lord for modern technology which has meant that so many – but not all – of us have had access to each other, to online mass and reflections. Can you begin to imagine people's lives in the 1918 Spanish flu when there was none of this and limited medical expertise with no antibiotics. The suffering of millions like this just after World War One, as well as the death total of something in the region of 50 million from the pandemic – thankfully this is beyond our understanding and experience. We have much to be grateful for although countless people throughout the world have suffered terribly in this time.

We all look forward again to mass and the sacraments "in the flesh" so to speak, at the altar of our Parish Churches. Until then, we go on knowing our Lord is with us leading us through the desert, as Moses led the children of Israel, towards the Promised Land – towards Resurrection.

I pray for you all.

God bless you.

Fr David.

## Prayer List as at 22 August

**Pray for all who are ill especially:** Ellen and Graham Fisher; Fr Lemos; Bruce Herholdt; Stephen Zackey; Pat Pollitt; Cole; Ken; Monique; Lia; Harry; Jenny Murphy; Sharon Jaffar; Mida, Noel, Gemma and Aleysa; Rose Crammond; Bronwyn Engelbrecht, James, Jordan, Sidney, Madisson and Jamie.

*I offer the prayer of anointing for all who are ill.*

**Give thanks for the continuing recovery of:** Maggie Delgado and her parents, and Fr. Malcolm.

**Pray for all those who have died:** Carmelo Calvino; Mida Mona and Butch Biggs.  
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please update this list on the WhatsApp Group or SMS Father David at 060 327 2998

## Quote and Joke

*"We cannot just worry about ourselves."*

*"An example I often use to illustrate the reality of vanity, is this: look at the peacock; it's beautiful if you look at it from the front, but if you look at it from behind, you discover the truth... Whoever gives in to self-absorbed vanity has huge misery hiding inside them"*

Pope Francis.

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A man was in his garden digging a hole. His neighbour pokes his head over the fence and asks him what he is doing: "I'm digging a grave for the budgie," he says.

The neighbour says, "That's rather a large hole for a budgie, isn't it?"

The man replies, "Of course, but it is inside your cat."

## The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Sunday Missal p380

Daily Missal p1192

*"He strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ." (Matthew 16. 20)*

When the disciples heard Jesus say, "Do not tell anyone what you know," they must have been surprised. Over and over again, they saw Jesus teach and perform awe-inspiring miracles. Over and over again, they saw crowds of people hanging onto his every word.

Surely the people knew that Jesus was a great teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. Now that he had told his disciples plainly who he was, it only made sense that they would tell everyone else the good news. Jesus however told them to remain quiet. So once again we are confronted with an awkward truth: when it comes to Jesus, we have to learn to think differently about almost everything.

Jesus sounded his warning because he knew that the people would want to make him their king. In fact, St. John's Gospel tells us that this is exactly what happened after the multiplication of the loaves and fish. John however tells us that Jesus was quick to withdraw to the mountains because he knew that an earthly kingship was not what his Father wanted for him. (6:15)

Of course, Jesus is our King: but his kingdom is not based on miracles, parables, or the worship of excited crowds. He didn't "earn" his crown by performing signs and wonders and by speaking prophetic words. No, that only happened when he died on a cross. It was his death, not his miracles, that brought life to the world.

Our Lord did not want anything to get in the way of his mission, not even the admiration of the very people he had come to save. He knew he had come to offer a humble sacrifice, not to stage a political revolution, and he was determined to stay faithful to that calling.

May we all pray for the humility and the resolve to be like Jesus. May nothing distract us from the call to "be merciful" as our heavenly Father is merciful (Luke 6.36).

*"Lord, I want to be like you. Give me a heart of humility and loving service."*



*Queenship of Mary*

To all parishioners of St Patrick's and friends - thank you for your consistent financial support and generosity over these months, which has maintained the stability of the parish, allowing the payments of the necessities, upkeep and salaries.

We are working on the garden in preparation for spring and making ready the Church and buildings for our joyful return once the lockdown and restrictions on numbers is lifted.

Our banking details (unchanged) for collections and donations are:

**St Patrick's Catholic Church**  
**Standard Bank: Branch code 013042**  
**Current Account No. 021095612**

**Cash can be handed in on Thursdays at the parish office between 09h00 and 12h00 or kept until we return to mass.**

The SVDP has received a letter to all parishioners from the Pastoral Care office of the Archdiocese thanking us all for donations received for priests in need in the Archdiocese. Our SVDP has made up food parcels for these priests and will do so again in the weeks ahead.

Donations to the SVDP can be made as follows:

Society of St Vincent de Paul, Nedbank, Northmead, Benoni  
Branch code: Universal or 19484200 **Current Acc.No. 1012534707**

Cash donations can be handed in at the Parish Office on a Thursday between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. or given to Aubrey Young (chairman) or Dave Chennells (vice-chairman.) Please note that a receipt is always given for any cash donations.

The Society has also asked me to stress that no bona fide member of the S.V.D.P. will ever ask you for a cash donation.

Please do phone Aubrey (071 470 6444) immediately if anyone ever approaches you for funds supposedly for St. Vincent de Paul.

The names of the S.V.D.P. members: Denise Bailley , James Belcher, Mike Brady, Dave Chennells (Vice President), Keith Comins, Pat Eldridge (Secretary), Omulu Obiora Lawrence, Anne Lewis, Brendan Lewis, Frank Luizinho, Collen Russell, Neville Smal, Erroll Pollitt (Treasurer), Gordon Whitefield, Aubrey Young (President).

Thank you all again for your huge and continuing generosity towards our SVDP and our Parish during these months and to the Knights of da Gama for their support of SVDP.