

Dear Friends!

Happy Easter!

It was an Easter with a difference, certainly! But I think we are getting rather used to doing this differently these days! In fact, they say that flexibility, innovation and adaptability are essential in leaders, groups, communities and businesses if they are to remain effective and relevant into the future!

Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of our parish, city and province who have been affected by the recent devastating floods. The people of our region have had a very tough 2 or so years and the effects of COVID, looting and now the flood damage will continue to be felt for a very long time yet! If you are in any sort of need, please do not hesitate to contact the SVDP or the parish office – we are here to help! We were very fortunate that the parish buildings have had electricity and water virtually uninterrupted but others have not been so lucky, we pray that these basic services will soon be restored to everyone!

The Holy Week celebrations went very well indeed – the altar servers, sacristans, ministers of the word and hospitality, the flower team, social media and live-streaming ministry and music teams were all spectacular and combined brilliantly to ensure memorable, spiritually uplifting and meaningful liturgies. Thank you so much!

Another big thank you must go to the parish staff who worked very hard in difficult conditions – Craig, Anne, Marisa-Anne, Ben, Joe, Nadine, Palesa, Anthony, Stephen, Simon and Prudence are a tremendous help to us and keep everything ticking over! And because of their hard work, the parish office will close at 1pm every day this week. (Confirmation, GIFT and other evening activities will continue.)

It is with joy that we welcome our new Catholics into our family! It is our hope and prayer that they will feel at home and participate enthusiastically with us to advance our mission of sharing the love of God with others!

The WhatsApp daily Lenten reflections (many thanks to all the priests who participated and shared) were so well received that we have plans to continue with similar Easter reflections. Our Easter theme is: **BE HOLY!** You might remember that our band on Palm Sunday

lead us in that wonderful hymn “Refiner’s Fire” and this became our Holy Week anthem. The chorus says, “my heart’s one desire is to be holy” – apt words for living the resurrection in our world today! I preached about living new, holy lives at the Vigil and we are reminded that St. Peter in his first letter calls on the early Church to be holy just as our heavenly Father is holy! If we are going to be attractive to those outside the Church, if we are going to be effective witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus, we the Church, must be holy!

This desire to be holy fits in with our vision of creating a community where everyone **belongs**, where they can come to **believe** in the love of God, **behave** and live as disciples and **bless** other with their acts of love (on the front of every bulletin)!

I hope, like you, that the sun will soon come out and dry up the damp and burn up the clouds and we can enjoy the beautiful April/May weather we usually have!

Special Easter prayers and blessings for you all!
Father Brett