

Keeping Connected

In these times, people still need to be connected and hear from their leaders. The following points offer suggestions on things we can do to keep on mission.

1. DEVELOP A COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

During these times of physical isolation, a communications plan is very important. Some questions to discuss with key people in your parish:

- i. What is the message you want to share?
- ii. What are the social media platforms you have and can utilise?
- iii. Is your website up to date? Your website is the front door to your online community.
- iv. Will you be using video conferencing facilities to host meetings?
- v. How can we engage those that do not have access to social media or computers?
- vi. How will the parish budget be revised to accommodate for these changes?

2. FACEBOOK LIVE

If you have Facebook, you can use the Facebook Live to send through messages of hope and blessings to those who follow your Facebook page and encourage followers to share to keep the messages of hope alive and well.

3. RECORDING MESSAGES

Smartphones/Tablets can be used to record daily messages, prayer reflections ... whatever message it is that you want to get out there. They don't have to be long. 3 – 5 minutes of good content.

Remember always to speak to your mission. Even though we are in times of crisis, our mission is still the same. It's the way that we are executing the mission that is changing.

These recordings can be uploaded onto social media platforms or parish websites. Take this opportunity to ensure that parish websites are as up to date as they can be.

At this time your social media presence is a great way to keep caring for and staying connected with your communities. They offer wonderful ways to keep feeding our communities spiritually – and not just saying that our buildings are opened or closed.

4. WE CAN STILL RING PEOPLE!

Parishes can also ring people via the phone to see how they are doing. Ministry leaders can be asked by their community leaders to check in on the people that they know, especially those people in our communities who live on their own.

Do you have contact details for families who are connected through the sacramental process? This would be a great time for the Sacramental Team to be calling families and asking how they are doing.

Most parishes have a Parish Database. Might it be possible to ring all these people on your database – reaching out to make the connection? You can create a phone tree within your community for different people to take up the task.

What are we asking of all these people? We are asking:

- How they are doing? Is there anything we can help with?
- How can our community pray for you?

5. SOCIAL SUPPORT AND WAYS TO HELP

If you become aware of people that need assistance, you can contact **CatholicCare on ☎ (02) 8843 2500** or **Patrice at the Social Justice Office ☎ 0409 399 504** who can make referrals to social justice agencies within the Diocese.

Similarly, if you are looking at ways to help people that are struggling in our communities, you can call **Patrice in the Social Justice Office** to connect with organisations.

6. YOUR EXPERIENCE BELONGS HERE

Share with us your own insights so in updating our resources we can offer your own wisdom.

The Pastoral Planning Office welcomes your own discoveries, initiatives and wisdom. We want to hear from you and so share with parishes and communities across our Diocese. We also encourage you to contact your Deanery Pastoral Council chairperson or Dean to share them amongst other communities in your deanery.

The team at the Pastoral Planning Office will be available to work with communities via video conferencing and phone to offer advice and support during these times.

Please email ✉ pastoralplanning@parracatholic.org with your best contact details (phone/email) and someone from our team will contact you.

The Pastoral Planning Office thanks you for your enduring faith, hope, love and commitment as we venture into the deep. We pray that you experience the peace and grace that our God offers and can be an ambassador of Christ's hope and peace to those you encounter and accompany.

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Weekly catch up – We offer a weekly Zoom session for anyone in pastoral ministry.
Contact one of the team members above for meeting details.