

Resources for Leadership in Times of Crisis

as at 27th March 2020

Our world has changed dramatically in a very short time – we tread deep and turbulent waters. As leaders – of nation, state, faith community or household - people look to us for answers. But no one has the answers. We are going through this together doing the best we can with the information we have available.

And people have already risen to the challenge! A multitude of resources have been developed by many groups in a variety of areas. For parishes, resources that would normally attract a subscription fee have been made available for free for a few months as parish leaders prepare to outreach to their communities. The following compilation is not exhaustive. Many parishes are embracing technology, employing social media and streaming Masses, offering prayer resources and opportunities to gather online.

Whatever resource we use or whatever communications plan we make, our focus remains on Jesus Christ. At times, we may feel like Peter, called by Jesus to walk upon onto deep and turbulent waters. Peter responded in faith but focusing on the uncertain path ahead, he grew afraid and began to sink. Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. Let us keep our heads up, with our gaze focused on Jesus. Let us reach out for the hand of Jesus as now, more than ever, we are called to go out into the deep to be the community Christ calls us to be.

The following pages provide links to resources on offer to lead and support our communities in times of crisis. To access the resources, click on the blue underlined links. They have been divided into the following areas:

1. [Leading in Times of Crisis](#)
2. [Keeping Connected](#)
3. [Prayer and Faith Formation Resources](#)
4. [Dealing with Anxiety and Trauma](#)
5. [Other Resources](#)
6. [Ongoing Support and Sharing of Wisdom](#)

Obviously, there is no need to watch, listen or access every link. Watch, listen and read what you can, to complement your existing approaches and learnings. We encourage you to discern with your leadership or response teams, to develop good decisions for and with your community in a spirit of prayer and mission. Together, let us continue to go out to the deep!

1. Leading in Times of Crisis

The following resources are links to webinars and podcasts that offer practical advice about leadership in times of crisis. Some of these resources include information about how we can approach finances at this time. These resources can be shared with leadership teams, parish teams, Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees.

- a. **Rebuilt Parish:** <https://rebuiltparish.com/>
Webinar: https://vimeo.com/398939647/0341fdaf1d?mc_cid=329b853522&mc_eid=c1f8c25840
- b. **Divine Renovation:**
<https://divinerenovation.org/>
Webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHvAMllooN8Y&feature=youtu.be>

Podcast: Is Online Church still Church: An interesting debate as we are forced to move into an online world
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aNynMhqalg&list=PLqZfwqi7RxBxbrxqgU4RDaplhPn56v_N&index=2&t=0s
- c. **The Amazing Parish:** <https://amazingparish.org/>
A page which includes very practical steps about leading a parish through the COVID19.
<https://amazingparish.org/clarityincrisis/>
- d. **At the Table:** <https://www.tablegroup.com/at-the-table/>
Podcast 31: Leadership Doesn't Stop
- e. **Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast:** <https://careynieuwhof.com/episodebonus21/>
CNLP BONUS 21: Crisis Leadership. Special panel on best practices for crisis leadership and finding hope with Jud Wilhite, Kevin Queen and Tricia Sciortino.
- f. **Revive Parishes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twibik6oDVU>
Funding the Mission in a Time of Crisis with Cande de Leon

2. 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.

a. **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?

b. **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.

c. **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.

d. **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?

e. **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.

3. Prayer & Faith Formation Resources

There have been many new opportunities to engage with online prayer and faith formation resources. The following is a small selection of the many, many resources available.

a. **From the Office for Worship, Diocese of Parramatta**

Liturgy Help have given free access the next few months to people in our diocese. It is not for the full program but selected parts. Nevertheless, it may be of assistance or interest to your ministries.

www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray

b. **Australian Catholic Bishops Conference**

The ACBC have compiled a list of online resources from many different areas.

<https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>

c. **Diocese of Parramatta Website**

The Diocese has created a dedicated COVID19 page with Diocesan updates and a compilation of resources, links and articles to assist us during this time.

<https://parracatholic.org/covid19/>

You can also keep up to date with Diocesan Initiatives and messages via their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic/>

d. **Institute for Mission**

The Institute for Mission in the Diocese of Parramatta has an online library with a wide selection of resources to select from. This time of physical isolation may be a time to learn and grow in our faith. To subscribe visit <https://www.ifm.org.au/onlinereading>

You can follow the Institute for Mission on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/ifmconnect/>

or via the Faith Feed Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/thefaithfeedparramatta/>

e. **Emmaus Productions**

“As the world goes into lock-down, Emmaus Productions is offering families and communities the video and music resources below to support them spiritually during this extraordinary time as well as offering support to them in their celebration of Holy Week and Easter.”

<https://www.emmausproductions.com/special-feature/spiritual-comfort-for-troubled-times-holy-week-2020/>

f. **GRACE Lenten Program**

The Diocese of Wollongong has made available their Lenten Resource Weeks 3-6 as an MP3 for free. This means you can listen to the Lenten Resource at home. You can access this at

<https://www.dow.org.au/product/grace-lenten-program-2020-triple-cd-mp3-digital-download-free/>

g. **TeamRCIA**

With all these changes around the public celebration of Easter, people are anxious about what that means for those people who were preparing to join the Catholic Church this Easter. TeamRCIA offers suggestions via their blog and offers a subscription service to their newsletter offering webinars. <https://teamrcia.com/>

h. **Ascension Press**

There are many prayer and formation resources available by Ascension Press. Via the website <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/spiritual-guidance>

i. **Masses Online**

There are many Dioceses, religious communities, individual priests/religious and parishes live streaming Masses, Praying the Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, homilies, prayer reflections, reflections on daily scripture. Most of these can be accessed via Facebook and liking the Page of that particular Diocese, Religious Community, Priest/Religious or parish.

CathNews offers Mass on Demand at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ

Channel 10 offers Mass at Home for those who do not have access to technology.

Please remember that as of 20th March 2020, your obligation to attend Mass has been dispensed.

4. Dealing with Anxiety and Trauma

"We are indeed living in a time of great crisis locally and globally. So, it is only human that we will experience considerable fear and anxiety." Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, Pastoral Letter 25th March 2020

a. **CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains**

CatholicCare offers services in many areas where people are experiencing anxiety and trauma. CatholicCare can be contacted via <https://ccss.org.au/> or calling (02) 8843 2500.

b. **Grief Care**

A phone line is open Monday - Saturday (02) 9646 6908 for anyone wishing to talk through the losses, grief, anxiety, shock, trauma, anxiety we are feeling.

To subscribe to a regular newsletter email care@griefcare.com.au

c. **SLIConnect**

SLIConnect is the education ministry of Saint Luke Institute.

Resources for psychological and spiritual health.

<https://www.sliconnect.org/>

This specific video offers ways to managing coronavirus anxiety

<https://www.sliconnect.org/managing-coronavirus-anxiety/>

d. **Urgent Help**

For urgent help or information call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Beyondblue on 1300 22 4636.

5. Other resources

There are many other websites that are hosting a collection of resources specifically in response to COVID19.

a. **Diocese of Parramatta Website**

The Diocese has created a dedicated COVID19 page with Diocesan updates and a compilation of resources, links and articles to assist us during this time.

<https://parracatholic.org/covid19/>

You can also keep up to date with Diocesan Initiatives and messages via their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic/>

b. **The Diocesan Ministry Centre**

Catholic Youth Parramatta, Social Justice Office, Office for Worship, Life, Marriage and Family and Pastoral Planning are all offering support and resources in a variety of new ways. Each office is available to support you and your communities via the means available. Contact details for each office can be found at www.parracatholic.org or email the Pastoral Planning Office at pastoralplanning@parracatholic.org and we can pass on your enquiry.

c. **Hope 103.2**

The Western-Sydney based Christian radio station have some excellent resources on a variety of topics. Visit <https://hope1032.com.au/>

d. **The RobCast**

<https://robbell.podbean.com/e/i-am-calling-you-to-talk-about-the-corona-virus/>

In times when we are feeling uncertain, Rob Bell articulates what some of the people to whom we minister may be feeling.

e. **Useful links and information**

The following agencies in the Diocese of Parramatta have further information regarding COVID-19.

Diocesan Development Fund - Please contact Helen Steyns via enquiries@parradfd.org.au or phone (02) 8839 4500.

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited – Early Years Education & Care - For information relating to our network of Catholic Out of School Hours Care services and Catholic Early Learning Centres, please contact Anthony Goonan via anthony.goonan@parracatholic.org.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta - Please direct inquiries to Community Liaison via (02) 9840 5796 or communityliaison@parra.catholic.edu.au. You can also visit this website.

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains - Please visit their website or phone (02) 8843 2500.

Clergy Health - Please contact Mark Buhagiar 0477 004 678 or Ellen Small 0408 914 621.

Tribunal Office – Please call (02) 8838 3480.

Please contact Joseph Younes – Head of Communication Services in the Diocesan Chancery for any other issues. His email is joseph.younes@parracatholic.org and phone number is 0416 619 500.

6. Ongoing Support and Sharing of Wisdom

Our team at the Pastoral Planning Office are speaking with many communities and encountering many amazing ways that being Church is being reimagined. In listening to the Holy Spirit, our communities are responding to this crisis with great faith and resolve. While public masses and church buildings are closed, churches are not being closed. Buildings are being closed. We are the church! We remain open and continue to share the Good News!

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.

As we explore together, we will compile and develop more ways we can keep connected and engaged as faith communities. These learnings and resources will be available in the coming days/weeks.

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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