

One Day at a Time

Father Tim's Daily Reflections
during the COVID-19 crisis

Thursday 2 April

Lenten weekday / Commemoration of St Francesco of Paola, hermit

5.00pm – I had an interesting night: after having had four delicious coffees from my new coffee maker yesterday (with **Monsignor Entwistle, Dr Antoinette Torre** and **Alessio Loiacono**), I was up all night, and got only about 1 hour of sleep: Lord, have mercy!

But I got up to let **Shane** the electrician into the church to set up for the morning's work, and then drove over to East Perth to pick up our IT friend **Arpad Daniels**. He and Shane and I then had a pow-wow to discuss how and where to lay the cable to connect the new church computer and cameras to the newly-upgraded parish internet. One camera will be attached to the choir loft balustrade above the photo of **Pope Francis**, and the other will be on a tripod that can be moved around the church. The internet modem is in my office, so Shane will come back tomorrow and make that connection, but all the other cabling has been laid.

We're having a dry-run Mass tomorrow evening at 4.30pm to check that everything is working. So if you are reading this and want to watch **First Friday Mass** as it is live-streamed from our church, go to the St Paul's Parish website (www.stpaulsmtlawley.com) and you should be able to find it there. (We're using a different platform than YouTube or Facebook, because those platforms have different and more restrictive rules about having live music than the one Arpad is setting us up to use.)

Our friend and supply priest **Father Brian Limbourn** came to visit – we each had two coffees (but NO MORE for me today!) and chatted about my plans for Holy Week. He and I are going to provide confessions next week (Holy Week), sitting on the brick patio outside the church, while parishioners sit in their cars in the car park until there are openings to approach the priests. I'll tell you more about that very soon.

Then I met Antoinette and Alessio at a Torre business place in Osborne Park – Alessio had to get something there, and I was going to the nearby Officeworks, while Antoinette's two older children were using offices there in their uncle & aunt's business to get their school work done today because the internet was down at their home. Antoinette gave more COVID-19 updates – how long the virus can survive on various types of surfaces, how long we can expect this pandemic to go on, etc – all the news we don't want to hear, but need to know if we want to live!

I then came back and revised the parishioners' email list one last time and sent that off to our good parishioner **Junior Soliano**, who is organising things so I can send out mailouts to all of you. He'll set that up tonight, and then he'll ring in the morning and talk me through the process. Hopefully each household will hear from me tomorrow evening: Holy Week services online, confessions in person outdoors here at church, etc. It's all exciting, but intellectually and emotionally exhausting.

Driving back to church after dropping Arpad at his home in East Perth, I was happy to see **Giovanna Ferro** walking outside her home – so I stopped in the middle of the intersection of Hill and Rookwood Streets and chatted with her from my car for a few moments. Then I proceeded down Rookwood Street toward church and saw **Suellen Horgan** outside getting her bins – and again I stopped in the middle of the street and chatted with her from my car. It was so great to see these two wonderful women alive and well! And it reminded me of the small town in southern Wisconsin where my family moved from Chicago when I was in high school: **Twin Lakes**, population 1436 souls in 1964 (it's about 4000 now!). In Twin Lakes, we could stop our car in the middle of Main Street and chat if we saw people we knew. Now it's the same here – the streets are pretty empty.

Our **Finance Committee members** have been advising me about various financial matters, and our chairman **Greg Brennan** today said he will apply for the Government subsidy for employees – not me, but our part-time employees. I hope we can help them out. And Greg's wife **Monica** rang to see how things are going here and share what's happening in her household (it's Monica amid five men – Greg, who is now working from home, and their four high school age sons). She's looking for part-time accounting work at a workplace now, so I guess that sums up how life is at home 😊

Well, I was going to take a nap, but because it's now 5.30pm I think I should power through the early evening, eat dinner (I had breakfast but no lunch today), and then go to bed early. I have a couple of appointments in the morning, and then Mass at 4.30pm – hopefully all systems are go! And tomorrow I'll also be working with **Tina Jack** and **Paul Bui** on the new parish website – our new domain just came through today, so we'll be scrambling to get that up and running. I'll be glad when the streaming system and website are finally done.

And then it will be **Holy Week** – I'm still not exactly sure how we'll go about having the special liturgies for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, but be assured I have some ideas, so stay tuned! I'm off to have some dinner and watch more mindless TV! God bless you all.