

One Day at a Time

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

Tuesday 05 May

Fourth Week of Eastertide

4.30pm – I was happy to have **three of my brother priests** join me in church at noon today to pray the **Rosary** for everyone entrusted to our care – including you! Afterwards we got some Hungry Jacks and had lunch together on the presbytery veranda. They enjoyed the opportunity to get together and share our pandemic experiences.

We also discussed my ideas on how we can administer the sacraments of **First Holy Communion and Confirmation** to our children this year. I wasn't encouraged by the **Prime Minister's** comments at his press conference last Friday morning: according to him, the churches will be the last facilities to re-open, and even then not for 'normal' congregations, but small groups. The Archbishop has asked for ideas on how to proceed, and (of course) I have my ideas! I'm meeting here with his assistant **Daniel Lynch** next Tuesday to present my proposals. Say a prayer that the Chancery listens!

Live-streaming is going well: this Friday will mark **five weeks since we began!** We've purchased a **new remote-controllable camera**, which should arrive this week or next. This will allow the person operating the cameras and Power-Point to do everything him/herself, without relying on a second camera operator. The new camera will swivel, zoom and focus at the touch of a button; right now, someone has to physically pick up the second camera, move it, and re-focus and re-frame it. That will become ancient history. But we will be able to use that camera, either as a third 'angle' during Mass, or down in the undercroft when we finally return there for bible study, RCIA, and other events.

Kosmic Sound is coming on Friday to install the **cablings** between the sacristy main PA system and the amplifier & mixer near the organ. As I mentioned previously, this will allow us to use the normal pulpit and clip-on microphones again. The organ and keyboard will also be connected to the PA system, so our sound should be even better than it already is. (Yes, we had a sound problem at last weekend's Mass, caused by placing the wrong hand microphone at the pulpit, which picked up the normal microphone and caused some feedback. But we figured that out and put the microphones in the right places.)

Parishioner **George Vanderklau** is working on making the presbytery veranda rain and wind proof, installing roller blinds. He is also putting up some screening on the gate to prevent the neighbourhood feral cats from camping out on the veranda at night. I have an industrial-grade fan and a standing gas heater, to allow me to have appointments (and coffees) in all types of weather – just in time for autumn and winter to roll around. George and I went shopping at Bunnings on Monday, with a pit-stop for morning tea with his wife **Alma** at their home. I'm so fortunate to have good people who are willing and able to help our parish.

Sunday was **laundry** – my clothes; Monday was **laundry** – my bed linens; today was **laundry** – my towels. Thank goodness I know how to do these things on my own! I also flipped my mattress around yesterday – nearly killed myself, but thought it would be pretty disgraceful to be found dead under my mattress, so I said a prayer and got the job done.

Now I'm off to open the church and get things started for the live-streaming before the rest of the crew turns up. I hope you're all doing well. Don't forget to pray part or all of the Rosary!