



THE BRISBANE ORATORY IN FORMATION

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Dear friends,

It goes without saying that this is a very challenging time as the world faces the current pandemic. In light of the recent guidance from Archbishop Coleridge, the Oratory Fathers and Brothers have put in place the following arrangements for the coming week. It is obvious that the situation is changing daily, and so we will update our arrangements when necessary and advise you accordingly.

We have altered the times and venues of Masses so as to make use of our larger spaces so that people can maintain an appropriate physical distance, as per the social distancing recommendations. If it is likely that more than 100 people will be present, there will be ushers at the door, and people will be asked to remain outside if the maximum number allowed inside is reached. During this time, since Saint Elizabeth's chapel is such a small space, it will not be used for Mass, and only for the overnight Exposition on Thursdays. In the confessional, an extra plastic barrier will be installed over the grille to give added peace of mind to both penitent and confessor. We ask those waiting in line for Confession to maintain good space between themselves.

At Ordinary Form Masses, in obedience to the Archbishop's directives, Communion will only be given in the hand. Those not comfortable with this are reminded that they are not obliged to receive Holy Communion at every Mass, and instead may make an Act of Perfect Contrition and a Spiritual Communion.

All hymn books, pew sheets and missalettes will be removed from the churches. If you take a parish newsletter, please take it home with you: do not return it to the boxes. Similarly, please do not touch any leaflets in the Church unless you intend to take them away.

The following is the schedule for the coming week:

Saturday 21 March: 7:15am Confessions & Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament, MI
8:15am EF Mass, Mary Immaculate
9:30am EF Mass, Mary Immaculate
4:30-5:30pm Confessions, Mary Immaculate

(An extra Mass is offered here to reduce the number present at any one Mass. If you are able, please consider coming to the later Mass to spread the numbers)

Sunday 22 March: 7:30am-10:45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, MI
 11:00am Baptisms, Mary Immaculate
 11:45am-4:45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, MI
 5:00pm Vespers, Mary Immaculate

(Even though the Archbishop has dispensed us from our Sunday Mass obligation, we must still otherwise keep the Lord's day holy, including with prayer, either at home or by visiting the Church)

Monday 23 March: 7:00am OF+ Mass, Mary Immaculate
 Confessions after Mass until 8:00am
 6:45pm Confessions, Mary Immaculate
 7:00pm EF Mass, Mary Immaculate

(Masses normally at Saint Elizabeth's will be at Mary Immaculate)

Tuesday 24 March: 7:00am EF Mass, Mary Immaculate
 Confessions after Mass until 8:00am
 9:00am OF+ Mass, Mary Immaculate

Wednesday 25 March: THE ANNUNCIATION
 6:30am OF Mass, Saint John Fisher
 7:00am EF Mass, Mary Immaculate
 Confessions after Mass until 8:00am
 7:30pm EF Sung Mass, Mary Immaculate

Thursday 26 March 7:00am EF Mass, Mary Immaculate
 Confessions after Mass until 8:00am
 7:00am OF Mass, Saint John Fisher
 5:45pm Overnight Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament, St Elizabeth's

Friday 27 March 6:15am Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Elizabeth's
 7:00am EF Mass, Mary Immaculate
 Confessions after Mass until 8:00am
 9:00am OF+ Mass, Mary Immaculate
 7:30pm Stations of the Cross,
 followed by Exposition & Confessions, Mary Immaculate

Following all Masses at Mary Immaculate, the Prayer in Times of Epidemics will be recited, and the people blessed with the relic of the Holy Cross. General Communion visits to the housebound will be suspended for the time being. However, the priests will certainly go to the dying to give the Sacraments. Should you need a priest urgently, please contact the parish office in office hours (3848 1107) and after hours please ring the Oratory house (3392 9247). The Fathers and Brothers are available to you, as always, should anyone wish to speak with us.

It seems highly likely that the Church will need to follow further government restrictions, and we will advise you of next week's programme before the weekend.

As we carry this extra Cross this Lent, let us respond in faith with our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, offering up our own inconveniences and hardships for those who are sick, those who are grieving, and for those facing crosses heavier than our own. In addition to our prayers, we can also look for ways that we can support and care for each other in these uncertain times. May this be a time of purification and repentance, that we may turn to the Lord more perfectly, imploring His mercy on us, and turning our hearts and minds to those things that are pleasing to Him.

United in prayer,

Father Adrian Sharp

Moderator