



St Francis of Assisi Parish



REFLECTIONS

LIFE AFTER COVID-19

Dear Friends,

The Ascension of Jesus Our Lord, occurred on the 40th day of his Resurrected Life and this year the Ascension Day falls on 24th May. During that period, Jesus appeared almost every day to his disciples and to those who loved him, telling them his plans for a vibrant Church he had planned to form.

One of the Church's Prayer at this time goes like this:

"Lord, you make all things new and command us to wait and watch for your Kingdom. Grant that the more we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the more we may seek to better this world" Amen.

True, we look forward to a new world and a new life after COVID-19. That new life will dawn with the arrival of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in our life. At the Ascension the Lord promised to send the Holy Spirit and the great Feast of the Pentecost is the occasion to begin this new life and the Feast falls this year on 31st May.

Holy Spirit is the Power for which the disciples were waiting in the Upper Room under the Motherly care of Mary, our Mother and both she and the assembled disciples received the Holy Spirit in abundance. So now we have the month of May at hand to gather as a family to pray the Holy Rosary in preparation for the new life.

As Families of the Parish of St Francis of Assisi, may I request you to start or continue the Family Rosary Time which will definitely bring Blessings from heaven to help us to plan and live the new life after COVID-19. Here are a few suggestions to consider for a New Australian Way of Christian Life:

Stronger and deeper Belief in our hearts and minds.

More regular Participation in our Sunday and Daily Masses in the Church.

Regular and planned Reading of the Bible at home.

Loving and forgiving natural behaviour towards neighbours, family members and friends.

Reduction of unnecessary expenses in our families.

Spending of more time with the members of our own families specially with children.

Sacrificing of luxuries of life in order to take care of the Poor among us and abroad.

Keeping of the Joy of Resurrection and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit alive in our hearts.

Cooperation in the Formation of a loving and caring Parish Community.

Keeping up of the Spirit of Unity in Families and in Parish.

According to our Holy Father Pope Francis:

“Time has come to eliminate inequalities in society, to heal the injustice that is undermining the health of the entire human society. This time is an opportunity to prepare for our collective future. Without a vision that embraces everyone, there will be no future for anyone. Let us show mercy to those who are most vulnerable for only in this way will we build a new world. Now, while we are looking ahead to a slow and arduous recovery from the Pandemic, there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that we may then be struck by an even worse virus that of selfish indifference.”

The hand that always puts us back on our feet is MERCY.

With Wishes and Blessings for a Bright Future.

Fr Joseph Rathnaraj
Parish Priest

12 May 2020