

St. Monica's Catholic Church

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Dear Family and Friends, fellow parishioners,

How quickly the world changes!

This morning as I celebrated Mass in our beautiful St. Monica's Church, looking out into the body of our empty church, I found myself weeping.

I wept for you and for many other parishioners, young and old, whose lives have been turned upside down and who are doing it hard as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

I wept also for our world and for myself, as I heard today's Scripture reading from the prophet Hosea: *Come back to me with all your hearts, don't let fear keep us apart.*

Those words '*don't let fear keep us apart*' are so important for all of us to hear when we are also hearing the other words such as 'self-isolation', 'stay home', 'don't mix and mingle', etc.

A suggestion, to help prevent our feeling '*being apart*', was we invite parishioners to email (or drop into the presbytery) a photo of themselves (or their family) that we will then attach to the back of the empty seats in our church, thus ensuring, that when the priests are celebrating Mass, looking out they will see you and not a church full of empty seats!

During the days ahead, between the hours of 8.00am -5.00pm the church will be left open, so that, should you choose to enter, you will

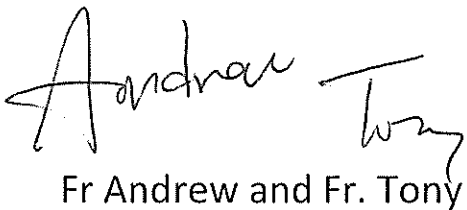
We are a child safe Parish

see your face and the faces of other families and parishioners, whom you might also like to say a quiet prayer for.

Let us not forget, that after our 40 days of Lent, it is the great Pascal Feast we celebrate – that on the third day, out of his own pain and death, Jesus was raised and lives now with us speaking those same consoling words he spoke to his fear-filled disciples: *'It is I! Do not be afraid I am with you.'*

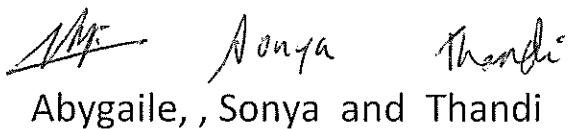
During these trying times, as we see the sun (Son) come up each new day (as it will!), may we all draw strength from knowing the Risen Lord is with us.

Prayerfully yours,

Handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew Tony".

Fr Andrew and Fr. Tony

And our Parish Staff:

Handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abygaile, Sonya Thandi".

Abygaile, , Sonya and Thandi