

St Thomas the Apostle

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Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to keep you informed of continuing developments within our parish and within the Sale Diocese in a time of rapid changes.

We have received news today that the Diocesan Offices, Sion House in Warragul, are now closed to visitors and that the Chancery staff are now mainly working at home. Whilst our parish office and staff remain available to our parishioners our parish staff are now also working mainly at home. Please make contact by phone or by email.

Pope Francis has called us to unite in prayer this week especially on Wednesday and Friday. So, this Friday evening at 7.30pm I invite you to join me via Facebook in praying the Stations of the Cross. We also wish you to join me live on Facebook at 9.00am on Sunday for the Celebration of Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent.

The students and staff of St Peter's College have produced a videoed version of the Stations of the Cross with reflections as seen through the eyes of Our Lady, which I commend to your prayerful reflection. This will also be uploaded to the parish sites.

We have received notice today of the names of the Sale Diocese Plenary Council Delegates. They are Fr Peter Slater (Parish Priest of Warragul & Drouin), Mrs Liz Privatera (Mary MacKillop Primary School, Narre Warren) & Mrs Katharine Jelavic (St Michael's Parish Berwick. We pray God's blessing for them.

Archbishop-elect O'Regan, our Diocesan Administrator, has written to say that for the present time Funerals may still take place but only with very small groups who observe social distancing. All hygiene precautions must be adhered to and encouragement should be given for the elderly and health compromised not to attend.

Let us continue to look out for one another with care and pray for our world in the health crisis which is already affecting the employment and welfare of so many.

St Thomas the Apostle, pray for us. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Fr Denis O'Bryan (Parish Priest)