



NORTH ADELAIDE/PROSPECT PARISH

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Dear parents and caregivers

I have sympathy for all of you who have children preparing for Sacraments of Initiation, and Reconciliation. The program began with dates set and the plan in place. We were all ready to celebrate first Reconciliation. Then came Covid19! That was the end of confident planning.

At present, three months later, there is still no firm expectation about when we will be able to go ahead.

We will go ahead, as soon as it is possible, in whatever way is possible at the time.

The things holding us back are 'social distancing', as well as abiding by the law, which is enforced with penalties of thousands of dollars.

Each week, I hope for an announcement that we will be able to fill the churches. So far, I am disappointed, but I hope still. Who knows if this week will be the time?

There is frustration that other 'services' seem to have a better deal than the church. Is not divine worship an 'essential service'? But we live in a secular culture.

Protest rallies are for good causes with which Christians agree, and for which some people are prepared to take risks.

What risks are we prepared to take? Where our children are concerned, we are very careful.

Bishop O'Kelly said months ago, 'the Lord is leading us somewhere'. But where? To greater faith for sure, but we would like some signs of God's favour. Keep praying against Covid19.

On the reverse of this message please find some ideas for keeping your sons and daughters aware of the sacraments to come. These have been prepared by Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc, who has been guiding the program in the parish this year. I am grateful for her work, and her initiative to prepare these resources for you and your children. Please choose to make use of some or all of them as appropriate in your situation.

I know how the school teachers have been anxious about your children's spiritual progress. No doubt you are grateful for their commitment too.

God bless you all and keep you safe.

Fr Paul Rankin op
Parish priest

12 June 2020