

The Parish Community of St. Kevin

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LENT AND EASTER 2017

Dear Members of the St. Kevin's Parish Community,

We are happy to write to you during this Holy Season of Lent, as we journey towards Easter, the great feast of our salvation. Lent is an opportune time for us to go back to the school of prayer to reflect, to evaluate and to refocus in our call to love and serve God and one another.

The key to remember here is that we can only love and serve God through our neighbour. Yet it is not easy, these days, loving and serving God and one another. It seems that we live in a climate of fear today, fear that would have some excluding others who are different because of their race, religion or gender. But the Good Friday-Easter Sunday proclamation is that Jesus died for all; that salvation is intended for everyone. Our Holy Father Pope Francis, does not tire in asking the Church to overcome our fears, to reach out to those at the margins of our society, to include people, to welcome people to experience God's love and mercy through us, the Church.

For us Holy Cross priests here at St. Kevin's, (Father Jim and Father Vijai), it has been our experience that many find St. Kevin's to be a *very warm and welcoming* spiritual community. We minister to the spiritual needs of over 3,300 families. For our community Sunday Eucharist is the epicentre of every week. It is the Eucharist that feeds us and sends us out to share and care. To be honest, life is not easy. We all need time to be refreshed and replenished. In the celebration of the Eucharist we bring our cares and concerns to the Lord; we give thanks to the Lord; we join with others in praising God and committing to God our common worries and preoccupations.



St. Kevin's is your *spiritual home*. Please make the effort to join us for the Sunday Eucharist. But, if you are not able to join us, please know that we would love to see you any time and you and your loved ones are in our community's prayer at all times. Please pray for our Parish Community, especially for our five RCIA candidates who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the beautiful Easter Vigil, April 15, 2017 at 8.00 pm, for our six RCIC children who will be baptized on Easter Sunday April 16, 2017 at 5.00 pm, and for our 95 grade two children who will receive First Holy Communion with their families on Easter Sunday.

Included with this letter is the schedule of our services for Holy Week and Easter. We are looking forward to welcoming the Parish Community to these celebrations. This is a wonderful opportunity to enter the tomb so that at Easter we can feel a renewed and stronger faith.

