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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our world, our parish life and our school has been changing rapidly over the past few weeks... We are really starting to feel the impact of restrictions here in Australia now. How are you coping?

I hope you and your family are safe and well - and that you are doing everything possible to stop the spread of this nasty virus.

Many of us are all having to quickly adapt to these challenging new conditions - working from home, keeping kids entertained and trying to keep out of harm way! It is a new way of life for many of us.

In all we do, I really want to encourage each one of us not to despair, not to lose faith, not to let go of God in our life, but dare to stand in our difficulties and challenges as we come to believe that we are deeply loved by God who will guide us and protect us.

I would like to inform you that all public Masses and other gatherings are temporarily suspended until further notice. We do not know how long this situation will last and I am conscious of the distress that might cause to many of us.

In crisis of time, I would like to invite you to spend some time each day doing nothing but simply sitting in the presence of God and saying the Jesus Prayer – “Our Father, who art in heaven...”. By doing so, we allow God entering our hearts in a new way and bringing new light into our struggles. I found this meaningful song “Peace in Christ,” sung by 5 years old Claire Crosby and Dave Crosby. It helped me a lot and I hope that it might help you too. Here is a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Waitmz6C100>

We keep in mind that Churches are closed but God’s mercy and grace never ceases to pour into our life and into the world. I think that it is the time to turn our homes into

domestic churches. It is the time for us to invite Jesus and his mother Mary to our homes and our tables. This event reminds me that many years ago in my hometown and many others places Catholics were not able to build churches for the celebration of Mass or did not have a priest, they gathered together in their families for the rosary around an image of Our Lady. We know that we cannot offer each other the sign of peace at Mass at this time but we can offer each other the gift of our prayers.

We all know how important the Mass is for us. I would like to invite you to attend the **Online Sunday Masses** for the time being: 10.30am in English and 12.00pm in Vietnamese. Please go to one of these links:

http://www.holyeuchariststalbans.org/mass_stream.html

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyEuchristChurch/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansOfficial/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ABTVAustralia/>

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. Let us come to our Lady of Perpetual Help and ask for help. May She lead us to her Son Jesus who will protect us and our families.

With every grace and blessing,

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR