



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Photo of the Week:

**Virtual Worship** – The suspension of public Masses in the diocese has presented opportunities and challenges which each parish is working to meet. It can be as difficult for priests as it is for parishioners to celebrate liturgies remotely. To keep visually connected to their parishioners the priests of St. Joachim in Newman have taped photos of their parishioners to pews. Pray that the day we can physically worship together comes soon.

## Office of the Bishop:

**Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection** – Please [click here](#) to read Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection for the month of April.

**Catholic Rural Life** – The Catholic Rural blessing this month is the Blessing of the Seeds and Rain. This blessing can be found [here](#). For more information about Catholic Rural Life please visit [our website](#).

**Priestly Ordination April Anniversaries** – Bishop Cotta asks the people of our diocese to join him in prayer and gratitude for the life and service of our priests who were ordained in the month of April.

- 4/5/2005 Rev. Chandrasekar Chillian Paulraj
- 4/6/1974 Rev. Jose Maghinay
- 4/9/1973 Rev. Msgr. Agustin Gialogo
- 4/12/2011 Rev. Raju Gudimalla, HGN
- 4/12/2013 Rev. Kondayya Mocherla, HGN
- 4/19/2012 Rev. Madhu Appanapalle, HGN
- 4/19/2012 Rev. Kishor Yerpula, HGN
- 4/20/2005 Rev. John Peter Pragasam
- 4/18/1983 Rev. Editho Mascardo
- 4/21/1977 Rev Dante Dammay
- 4/28/1968 Rev. Alexandre Pacheco (Retired)
- 4/28/2011 Rev. Christhudas Varghese, HGN
- 4/29/1967 Most Rev. Stephen E. Blaire (RIP)

## Coronavirus

Find the latest information, diocesan directive and resources on our diocesan [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Prevention](#) webpage.

## Prayer & Reflection

### Pope Francis Prayer for protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

## Catholic Schools Office:

**Online learning to continue** – Please [click here for latest update on the campus closures](#) from Bishop Cotta and the Catholic Schools Office. In summary, we expect campuses to remain closed through the remainder of the school year; however, schools will return to their campuses earlier if public health officers deem it safe for them to do so. We will continue to work with public health authorities, and we will keep you updated as our country's response to COVID-19 evolves.

We would also ask that you take a moment to read [Catholic Schools Trailblazing Distance Learning in California](#). We can certainly be proud of being a part of Catholic education, with an unwavering commitment to our Catholic identity, academic excellence and school communities.

## Evangelization and Faith Formation:

**Holy Week & Easter Sunday** – Please visit our [Family Faith Formation Resources](#) for ideas, activities and more for families during the Triduum, Resurrection Sunday. The webpage also includes resources to help parents continue preparing their children to receive the Sacraments. All information is in English and Español. Our office is working hard to continue strengthening the Domestic Church during this time. Resources are also sent to DRE's & CRE's. Sign up to receive updates from our office. Resources for the Easter Season & Pentecost will be posted soon.

## Human Resources:

**Pastoral Center Holiday** – Because of the current situation due to the COVID-19 crisis, Pastoral Center employees have been working remotely, and will continue to do so until the "stay-at-home" order is lifted. Most employees have been available by phone and email even as they work remotely, however, with Holy Week upon us, we wanted to notify everyone that Good Friday and Easter Monday are holy days/holidays for the Pastoral Center employees. We are asking your understanding and patience if your messages aren't returned until the Tuesday after Easter (April 14th). We wish you all a very Blessed and safe and healthy Easter.

## Liturgy and Worship:

**Holy Week with Bishop Cotta** – Join with Bishop Cotta (virtually, of course) in celebrating the Triduum.

*Holy Thursday* - Mass of the Lord's Supper from St. Anthony, Manteca. Video will be posted on the [diocesan website](#) and [Facebook page](#) at 4pm.

*Good Friday* - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion from St. Anthony, Manteca. Video will be posted on the [diocesan website](#) and [Facebook page](#) at 3pm.

*Easter Vigil* - from Cathedral of the Annunciation. Live at 7:30pm on the [diocesan website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

**Holy Week Resource** - If you haven't already seen it, there is a great booklet made by the Diocese of Phoenix for celebrating Holy Week at home. We have posted it on our website in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## Prayer & Reflection continued

### "Lockdown"

by: Fr. Richard Hendrick – OFM  
March 13th 2020

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer thick with fumes, but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighborhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.

*(continued next page)*

# Liturgy and Worship continued:

**Worship Resources** – We have compiled a number of [spiritual resources for our current crisis](#), these are linked to our general covid-19 info page which also includes a link to [Diocesan Information and Guidelines](#).

**Virtual Worship** – Several parishes are already livestreaming Masses and connecting with parishioners through social media. Regardless of where you are in the efforts, here is a wonderful resource on [Live Streaming Mass on Facebook](#) with simple directions and helpful hints to make your virtual Masses the best that they can be.

Thank you for your ministry, keeping those in your community connected to the faith and spiritually close at a time when physical distance is required. For more help navigating this new media technology in streaming Masses

## Life and Dignity Ministry

**Remembering those in prison this Holy Week** – “The Passion of Christ vividly reminds us that Jesus left our world as a condemned prisoner... It is wholly important to also recognize that one of the prisoners who was crucified alongside Jesus was given reassurance that he would join Christ in paradise.” For a reflection on *Emulating Christ’s Mercy* click [here](#). Learn more about the Gospel’s call to encounter those in prison and see the [Stations of the Cross: An Art Project](#) created by inmates on death row.

## Marriage and Family Life Ministry

**Mental Health and Emotional Well Being** – These are challenging days. Many in our communities are stressed over the corona pandemic. Please share the Mental Health & Emotional Well Being self-help resources available on our diocesan [Coping with Corona webpage](#). These include resources for both children and adults.

## Safe Environment

The Diocese of Stockton is taking an active role in educating the public and parishioners in regard to everything we are doing to maintain a safe environment for our children and vulnerable adults. This Month looks at how the Safe Environment Office is taking an active role in contributing to a safe environment for all. Please [click here](#) to see this month’s edition.

*(LOCKDOWN –  
continued from previous page)*

---

So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be  
loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be  
meanness.

Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be  
disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of  
love.

Wake to the choices you make as to  
how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of  
your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by  
Love.

Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

Please email  
[communications@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:communications@stocktondiocese.org)  
for any of your  
communications needs.