

Spiritual experience

I confess I was not a fan of the idea of a virtual mass. I changed my mind last Sunday. Previously I felt sad at the emptiness of the church. I felt the lack of community. The lack of the eucharist had me doubting my ability to cope with life during isolation. There were no post mass catch-ups with the regular parish groups. No laughter at Dispin's true to life humour and no smiling handshakes at mass end.

Last Sunday thoughts of loss suddenly turned to gratitude. I felt grateful for the sight of the singers, reader, musicians all in the frame with Dispin like a mini community. During mass the camera suddenly went still and focussed on a small cameo. The crucifix on the altar was surrounded by a stunning array of flowers and lit by the flickering flame of a large candle. This visual gem was overwhelmed by the sun lit window backdrop depicting the glory of the risen Christ. This image will live with me forever. I realised the community is still with us.

I am grateful for the unseen parishioners who give up weekends to setup, film and dismantle so that we can have a virtual mass, which is still spiritual. There are others trying to address diminishing parish finances, while the optimists plan a parish future in a time of uncertainty. For those who feel left behind by the new technology be assured Dispin still serves the whole community with his love for parish and his vocation. His prayers are with us all. There will be an end to lockdown when we will all meet up again, as companions on the journey sharing faith, hope and charity.

Back to school

Many thanks to the staff of St Johns and St James who put in many extra hours in planning for a new method of distance learning

A NSW survey of 200 student aged 12 years asked them to describe what they disliked most about going back to school.

The top dislike was – having to wear shoes.

New shoes problem. We have a blister tip from a school mother of 4 students. Treat the vulnerable areas (heels and inner side foot usually) by spraying with deodorant before wear.

The top like was muffins in the lunch box! Luckily we can supply a recipe!