

PARISH LIFE IN ISO

Although parish life has been much quieter and moving at a slower pace during the COVID19 crisis, it HAS kept on moving. For parish staff it has meant big changes to the way we operate, as working from home has become our new 'COVID normal.' What have our staff been up to during ISO?



Father John has been busy recording online Masses, practising piano, jigsaw puzzling and keeping active with his regular walks. 'Parish life is different, and very quiet, as I continue to record on-line Masses and funerals are now back to 10 attendees, which is very hard on families and friends.' John has also been in charge of keeping the parish indoor plants alive. We're happy to report they're all thriving in the warmth and sunshine of his office.



Kathy Gilmour has found the last few months challenging. 'I've had to find a new mental strength. I have missed being able to go to work and ISO 2.0 isn't any more fun than the initial lockdown.' On the flip side, she says, she has a sparkling pantry, not one messy cupboard or drawer, has taught herself to make a coffee and is learning to take selfies. Her home office is set up at the front of her house where she has a view of her rose garden and street deliveries. 'I am enjoying my walks, being in the garden, cooking take away meals for my family, reading and playing my keyboard.' ISO life isn't easy but Kathy says she is 'enjoying, wearing my tracky dacks, no makeup "zoom" catch ups, and seeing most people genuinely enjoying a slower pace of life.'



Leanne Torr is usually busy helping parish families prepare for Baptism and caring for her mum Pat who is a resident at Arcadia. Sadly both commitments have been curtailed since ISO first began. 'With so much time at home, my sewing machine has had a real workout making a

couple of skirts as well as a few 1960's creations- one of my favourite fashion eras.' Leanne has also loved the opportunity to restore some garden ornaments and some of her dear Dad's iron/welding handiwork. She has brought his handmade ladder back to life and it's now proudly supporting a creeper in the garden. In fact Leanne's entire garden has been the beneficiary of all her recent spare time as she has tidied and maintained it 'within an inch of its life!'



Irene Fritsche has been our solo office staffer since late May. 'I'm still coming into the office two days a week, all by my self with the occasional drop in from John and the postman.' Things

keep moving with finances, COVID or not. The ATO still need BAS statements and there are bills to pay. 'Not to mention Jobkeeper is keeping me on my toes.' During ISO Irene has been baking more at home, feeding her gluten free sourdough starter "Arthur" and making the slow cooked favourites that we all enjoy in winter. 'The sewing machine has come out to make some stylish face masks. What's wrong with using up fabric that was bought just because you loved the fabric? "Teenage girls" that's the problem!!'



Jac Radcliffe has set up office in her bedroom which faces north and has a great view of all the happenings in her street. 'I feel like I'm still in touch with the outside world, even if it's

only as a spectator!' She's been busy mask-sewing, upholstering, baking, home-schooling and keeping her two kids entertained. 'It's been difficult for sure. I've missed going to work and having an external life. There've been times when ISO has tested the limits of each of our patience, and my sanity!' But, she says, there are positives to the slower pace and smaller scale of life. 'The kids have sprouted acorns and are growing oak trees as well as an avocado tree they've named Pip. We've been playing Yahtzee together after dinner and going on family walks. Those are the things we'll remember, I think, years from now.'

