



CREATIVE IDEAS FOR PARISHES

DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Adapted from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange

Parish “life” and the community are important and needed more than ever.

We need physical distancing but not social isolation.

We need to ensure we can be present for people in different ways and encourage our parishioners to reach out to one another and others in the wider community in physically distant ways.

Below are some practical ideas for parishes to engage families and parishioners during the suspension of masses and in-person gatherings.



CONTACT

- Get in touch with specific parishioners asking them to help with contacting other parishioners
- Consider contacting all parishioners and asking them (or helping them over the phone) to consider setting up online giving
- Call parishioners who are elderly and may need someone to talk to them
- Call all parishioners, to ask if they need something or if they can help with something

Practical considerations:

- Consider contacting people at various times throughout the day to find the right time for families with kids, the elderly etc.



ONLINE VIRUAL SHARING

(Electronic Newsletters or Social Media)

- Share testimonies of people in your community; priests, lay leaders, parishioners and promote these online/include in electronic mailout
- Share your favourite Saint quote or favourite Saint story
- Share worship songs/hymns
- Share prayer needs, concerns, fears or worries
- Share blessings of your day, your family, your situation



OUTREACH IDEAS

- Create a page on your website or using social media to support needs and those who can help
- As all the other connections are being made (calls, check-ins, etc.) be sure to capture the needs and respond... and be sure to respond in some way, even with a follow up call if you're still figuring it out!
- Young Adults – this is a time to put out a call to those who are under 70, healthy and able, to do outreach, connect with current parish ministry leaders and assist where they can within the government restrictions
- Remember that those who were most vulnerable before this outbreak are now even more so, especially those already isolated those who are homeless, migrants, hungry, in prison, victims of violence etc.
- Because of the restrictions on leaving our homes, we are only really be able to support people from over the phone. However, there are key social services that have been deemed essential services who will be able to reach some of the most vulnerable. Please consider how you can support these services – your support at this time will be primarily financially.

See the links below to some essential services you could consider supporting:

- St. Vincent de Paul Society
 - <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-in-nz>
- Home of Compassion Soup Kitchen
 - <https://soupkitchen.org.nz/donate/>
- Challenge 2000
 - <https://www.challenge2000.org.nz/>

