



Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy

Ubi Petrus, ibi ecclesia. Where Peter is, there is the Church.

5.00pm

Tuesday, 14th April 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

At the Conclusion of the ACCC's National Campaign of Perpetual Adoration

'Absence makes the heart grow fonder', so goes the old maxim. The Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy is acutely aware that the people of God hunger to return to the sacraments, especially during the sacred days of Holy Week and Easter. Due to coronavirus prevention measures implemented across the nation, only priests can access the Blessed Sacrament with any regularity. Father Gregory Pritchard, the Chairman of the Confraternity, reflected: "This situation presents the Church with both challenges and opportunities. For the Confraternity, this is an opportunity to demonstrate our spiritual and fatherly care for the Church in Australia. Though our people cannot access Holy Mass or the Sacraments, we want them to know that their priests have not forgotten them." To this end, the Confraternity recently announced that its clergy-members would hold a national campaign of Perpetual Adoration commencing at midnight on Palm Sunday and concluding at 11.59pm on Easter Sunday.

Now that the week of Perpetual Adoration has come to a conclusion, the Confraternity is very pleased to announce that fifty-eight priests from across Australia participated in the campaign. Each priest committed to one or more hours of adoration before the tabernacle in his church. As one priest's hour of adoration drew to a close, another priest somewhere else in Australia would begin his hour. Each priest prayed before our Eucharistic Lord for the needs of the Church in Australia, the needs of his parishioners, and particularly for the alleviation of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Father Michael Romeo is the parish priest of St Joseph's Church in Penola, South Australia. He reflected on the impact of this campaign of Perpetual Adoration on his parishioners: "Holy Week has certainly been very strange this year. In these days, when our priestly ministry is restricted, I have been reminded that the priest exists primarily to offer prayer and sacrifice to God for, and on behalf of, the people. Many of my parishioners have been deeply moved to know that, along with so many other priests, I am spending my time praying for them." The Confraternity is grateful for the support and encouragement it has received concerning the campaign of Perpetual Adoration. The priests of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy will continue to do their best to make Jesus Christ known and loved in these challenging times.

Rev Fr Marcus Goulding
Secretary

PO Box 68, Laverton VIC 3028 Australia

Tel: 03 9369 6877

e-mail: secretary@clergy.asn.au | web: www.clergy.asn.au