



The East Wimmera Zoom Masses continue on

The year 2020 was a challenging time for all of us. Some parishes had no Masses during COVID-19 lockdowns, some parishes live-streamed and then there were the Masses broadcast on TV.

We are lucky at East Wimmera Parish in North West Victoria, as we have been able to attend Zoom Masses thanks to Bishop Paul encouraging parishes to think outside the square to offer Mass to the people. Our Parish Priest at the time, Fr Eugene McKinnon, took this on board and developed the option of a Zoom Mass that his parishioners were able to watch from their homes.

In his stead we have been fortunate to have Fr Gerry Prunty joining our parish in January, replacing both Fr Eugene and Fr Jim McKay, to become our only parish priest. Fr Gerry has a big load with seven church communities to service with Mass, six nursing homes, three schools plus pastoral care duties, as well as overseeing parish administration across approximately 12,000sq km.

As a result, we are continuing to broadcast our Zoom Masses from Birchip and St Arnaud to our church communities who don't receive a Mass on the first and second Sundays of the month. We also have plans to Zoom our Mass from Donald and Charlton on the third and fourth Sundays.

Some church communities have already started to gather in their church, rather than in their homes, to participate fully in our Zoom Mass. This enables them to receive communion and contribute to the presbytery and parish plates.

We are currently doing an audit on our equipment in our churches so that all centres can receive quality broadcasts that engage and encourage parishioners to gather together into the future.

If anyone would like to become a part of these zoom Masses, please contact Noeline Hogan, Parish Coordinator 0476 617 976 or email at eastwimmera@ballarat.catholic.org.au

