



Speaking the truth in love

Eph 4:15

30 March 2020

My dear brothers and sisters of St John of God

I write to you to express my deepest sympathies on the death of your parish priest, Father Ray Farrell, who entered eternal life in the early hours of Friday, 27 March.

Though our current climate prevents me from commiserating with you in person, know that I am close with you, his parish family, in prayer.

As I am sure you know, Father Ray loved the parish and the parishioners of St John of God very much. Even until his very last moments, his only concerns were for the parish and for his sister, Nancye, who is known to so many of you.

Thank you for providing him with a loving home these past 17 years, and for caring for him so well.

Although we are sad at his passing, we entrust him to the God of mercy and compassion, confident that he will be rewarded for his labours, and hear the welcoming words of the Father, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' (Mt 25:21)

I understand this loss will be additionally difficult for you, his parish family, given that current restrictions on the celebration of funerals mean that you will not be able to be present physically at his funeral Mass. Even so, I encourage you to express your love for him and gratitude for his service with your prayers.

Please know that I will bring each of you and your intentions with me to the funeral Mass on Thursday, and that there will be an opportunity for you to attend a Mass for the repose of his soul, once the restrictions on public gatherings have been lifted. In the meantime I invite you to watch the livestream of the funeral at <https://www.facebook.com/SydneyCatholic/> or www.stjohnofgod.com.au from 10am on Thursday 2nd April.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace, Amen.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil
Archbishop of Sydney