

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – April 21, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A couple of weeks back I mentioned the need to reconfigure Mass times. I want to say 'thank you' for the positive response and your understanding of the situation. I had discussed the changes with many of the different ministries in the parish and had published the new Mass times. After further discussion and reflection, I have had to tweak the times again so that they will best suit celebrant and the Religious Education Program.

**The vigil Mass times remain the same: Holy Assumption Church: Confessions 3pm - 3:45pm, Mass 4pm. St. Mary Church: Confessions 4:30pm – 5:15pm, Mass 5:30pm.**  
**Sunday Mass Times: Holy Assumption Church: 8am — St. Mary Church: 10am and 11:30am**

This little tweak of the mass times at St. Mary Church is to facilitate our Religious Education students to receive RE before Mass and then to participate in the celebration of the Mass immediately following.

Again, I thank you for your understanding and support in making this all possible. I know we are creatures of habit and can find change difficult, but at times it is necessary and good. I also know we can also be reactionary by saying, "they are taking away 'my' Mass, I'm going elsewhere. "

If I may; imagine you had dinner at your brother's house every Sunday, but the time came when your brother could no longer host, but your sister said, I'll host dinner at my place at the same time, but you said no, I'm going to the neighbor's house for dinner, it's closer. Hmm, two things, your brother just realized, you came to his place for dinner every Sunday not because you loved him and wanted to support him and the family, you came because it 'suited you.' Your sister and the other family members feel slighted because you would rather go to a neighbor's house than be with them.

You see, our gathering on a Sunday isn't just about going to Mass, it is about us gathering as a family. Our presence is a moral support to each other, it's praying for each other, and being prayed for by our brothers and sisters. The times of our family meal haven't changed that much, what has changed is in which family member's home is it being celebrated.

May the God who loves us, help us love one another. May the God who cares for us, help us to care for one another. May the God who is always faithful, help us to be faithful to one another.

*Fr. Martin*