

WHY CAN'T WE ATTEND MASS AND RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS?

In an acerbic commentary on the diktat that has seen the Church's bishops world-wide conform their behaviour to the demands of the secular arm, the Roman Forum's John Rao remarks:

"[T]he believing population has been deprived of its right to worship openly and to gain access to the sacraments not through the guns and whips of the oppressors, but with the full agreement of the successors of the Apostles... These sad and lamentable prelates have made it crystal clear to the entire globe that laundromats and abortion mills are more 'essential' to the life of man than the grace of Christ... How foolish must we consider the priests of the Black Death who perished to give last rites to the sick in comparison with the sensible bishops of the present, huddled in their pointless palaces, warning the clergy of the physical dangers of shepherding the sheep? Admittedly they are filled with a kind of 'holy terror': the fear that, should they open the doors of the generally empty churches of the 'renewal'—where social distancing is actually simple to maintain, even under normal circumstances—someone who enters might claim to have fallen ill and litigate. At that point a true disaster would ensue. The last pieces of property... might then be taken away from them."¹

Why is it that in Australia we can attend the supermarket, the petrol station, the laundromat and the dry-cleaner while maintaining 'social-distancing', but are not permitted to attend Mass, receive Communion and the Church's sacraments on the same basis? It is because the secular rulers in the country do not recognize attendance by Catholics at the ceremonies of their religion is an essential service—AND OUR BISHOPS AGREE WITH THEM! As we have remarked on previous occasions one must doubt whether the vast majority of the Church's bishops believe in God.

The newspapers here are full of a report of a Royal Commission of Enquiry that, at the time he was a junior priest of the diocese of Ballarat, George Cardinal Pell had been aware of the sexual-predatory behaviour of two priests and a religious there; full, too, of the fears of the Catholic hierarchy of suits for damages in consequence. This has only served to confirm the unlikelihood that any Australian bishop will emerge from the Masonic cadre constituted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to buck the directives issued by State governments and offer to the faithful under his care attendance at Mass and the sacraments. There is not one Australian bishop who would risk arrest and imprisonment by publicly refusing to regard the administration of the sacraments as of less importance than the purchase of the necessities of life; not one who is a leader in the train of the Apostles. In short, there is not one of them who realises—not just understands but *realises*—why it is that he wears red!

¹ Reproduced at <https://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2020/05/a-controllable-pandemic-has-been.html#more>

The point was made by one of the few bishops who looks like a leader in Christ's Church, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, former Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, in an interview published on the American website, *The Remnant*, on 29th April 2020, in which he addressed the state of the Catholic Church in Italy as a result of the restrictions of the Italian government as a consequence of the depredations brought about by the Corona Virus. An extract from the interview—the part that deals with the calculated subservience of the Italian Bishops Conference to the Italian government—is set out in the *Appendix*. *Mutatis mutandis* what the Archbishop has to say there applies to the Australian bishops, jointly and severally. Archbishop Viganò has now been joined by a number of others in a joint letter published on May 8th. The letter is, regrettably, weak in that it does not assert the *rights* of Catholics to receive what is their entitlement but appeals to the general goodwill that they be accorded them, an ineffectual exercise.

Dear fellow Catholics, press your bishop for an explanation as to why he has not acted to protect your rights to attend Mass and receive the sacraments. Do it now!

Michael Baker

May 10, 2020—*Fourth Sunday after Easter*

Appendix

[Extract from interview with Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò]

Q. Many faithful and priests have felt abandoned and unprotected by the Episcopal Conference and the Bishops.

A. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, we need to point out that the Bishops' Conference has no authority over the Bishops who each have full jurisdiction in their own diocese, in union with the Apostolic See. And this is even more important once we have understood that the CEI (Italian Episcopal Conference) has been all too compliant and indeed, has been under the thumb of the Italian government.

Bishops should not wait for a body without any jurisdiction to tell them what to do: it is up to each of them to decide how to act, with prudence and wisdom, in order to guarantee the Sacraments and the celebration of Mass to the faithful. And they can do so without having to ask either the Bishops' Conference or the State, whose authority ends at the entrance to our churches, and there must stop.

It is unheard of that the Italian Bishops' Conference would continue to tolerate such abuse, which undermines the divine right of the Church, violates a law of the State and creates an extremely grave precedent. And I believe that the statement issued [by the Italian Bishops' Conference] on Sunday evening [April 26] is also proof that the leadership of the Italian Episcopate agrees not only with the means but also the ends that this government is proposing.

The supine silence of the CEI and of almost all local Ordinaries has revealed a situation of subordination to the State that is unprecedented, and that has rightly been perceived by faithful and priests as a kind of abandonment. The scandalous raids on churches by law enforcement, even during the celebration of Mass, are emblematic examples of this abandonment. Such sacrilegious arrogance should have provoked an immediate and vehement protest by the Vatican Secretariat of State. Italy's Ambassador to the Holy See should have been summoned and presented with a harsh note of protest against the government's grave violation of the Concordat, and the Holy See should have reserved the right to recall the Apostolic Nuncio to Italy if the illegitimate measure had not been withdrawn.

Cardinal Parolin, who has backed President Conte, is in a terribly embarrassing spot and a conflict of interest. It seems clear that, instead of protecting the sovereignty and freedom of the Church in fidelity to his lofty institutional role as Secretary of State, Cardinal Parolin has shamefully chosen to side with his lawyer friend. Not even the economic interests of the so-called Catholic volunteer service could justify taking this option...²

² The whole interview is available here— <https://remnantnewspaper.com/web/index.php/articles/item/4875-will-the-italian-church-ever-rise-again-abp-vigano-on-government-prohibition-of-masses-and-pope-s-call-for-obedience>