

Responding to Coronavirus (Covid-19) Wednesday 1st April 2020 11:00am

Hello Dear Friends

I write with an update for you (as it stands at the time of writing). You all are held in prayer and I hope this time is not too worrying for you. Thank you all for taking such great care of each other by phone calls, emails and texts. I am so thankful for technology and the joy of FaceTime to keep us all connected.

Here at the bottom of York Street all seems very quiet with most of the shops, including our OpShop, and cafes closed. It is good to see the community mindedness of the people of Albany as they remain home as much as possible. There remains a spirit of compassion and kindness rekindling and replacing the initial fear.

Until further notice all gathering for services, meetings, prepare for worship, lenten studies, home groups and Church Watch are suspended. As from midnight on 30th March only two people can congregate with one another in public.

Team meetings, committee meetings and parish council meeting will be conducted by computer conferences - we will all, no doubt, be technological wizz kids soon!!!!

We have implemented live streaming of services on facebook - If you use facebook please "like" the following pages Anglican Parish of Albany and Anglican Parish Albany Service Stream for live services or recordings. We will also put a link on the website so you can watch the recordings. It is amazing to have so many join these services. Someone said, " it was lovely to come to church in my pyjamas" !!!!!

Palm Sunday Service Booklets will be emailed to you and are also available in the church entrance.

Livestream service times are:

8:00am Morning Prayer (Monday - Saturday)

5:00pm Evening Prayer (Monday - Saturday)

9:00am Sunday Eucharist 7:00pm Sunday Compline

12:00noon Meditations and Narratives Monday to Thursday during Holy Week

9:00am Good Friday

11:00pm Saturday - First Light

9:00am Easter Day

Responding to this situation is an interesting test of our Christian lives, worship and mission. Many people will be shocked by the speed of events, the very significant changes we are experiencing, and by the threat to life, to incomes and to jobs. We especially need to look out for the fearful, the vulnerable, the lonely, the disabled, those at risk of domestic violence and the quarantined/self-isolated. We have a responsibility to minister to all in prayer and witness.

Caring for you:

As we face the uncertainties of the coming weeks as the coronavirus presents itself in our community and we take actions aimed at limiting the extent and speed of spread we are a separated people.

You should all be receiving a regular phone call. Please let us know if you have any needs at all. The phone calls that we make are a new way of “doing” church and enable us to love, to care and to build community despite our separation.

Please let me know if you're not receiving calls.

You may also have friends or neighbours who would benefit from a phone call or pastoral care. Please feel free to ask permission to pass on contact details to us.

Contact details

Please ensure we have up to date contact details for you.

Pew Sheets and Information will be available for collection at the Church entrance or ask if you would like us to deliver to your mail box.

Offerings

As we are concentrating on less contact, you may wish to avoid cash offerings and consider direct giving . If you wish you may make your free will offering via your own bank with on line banking.

Anglican Community Fund

BSB: 706-001

Acc: 3000 3081

Please consider making you regular donation using this method so as to help keep the church operating through these difficult times. If you intend to drop in at the church during the week and give a cash donation there are envelopes and a donation box in the entrance or Eftpos at the office.

Useful links

Not being able to share or receive Holy Communion falls particularly hard on some. This article from Oxford, hence the reference to Bishop Steven, explains how a different form of communion was envisaged in one part of the Book of Common Prayer: <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/blog/thoughts-cloistered-house>

Please note that from midnight 31st March additional travel restrictions are in place that will prevent some travel across our Diocese. Please see the following link for more information:
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-27/coronavirus-restrictions-announced-on-travel-across-wa/12096634>

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close
Remember those that have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love during this time when we
cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
Of God to our neighbour. Amen.

IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, ISOLATION AND ANTICIPATION

Almighty and All-loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19
in Australia and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss
of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.
Give wisdom to policymakers,
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,
comfort to everyone in distress
and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown.
Amen.

Archbishop Michael Jackson Dublin & Glendalough

Retreat to the things within:

Dear God, a door on the world is momentarily closing;
There is much anxiety and fear about the future.
Open the door within my soul that I may take repose
upon your eternal changelessness and love.

Let me nourish the things within: my home, my garden,
my family, the autumn leaves and cooler nights, and
more time to pray for many who are ill and dying,
for carers, doctors, scientists and researchers.

For the time being, this is my cell with you and others;
my cloud of unknowing, my place apart in waiting.
Let me trust completely in you, believing that
'All shall be well; all manner of things shall be well.'

dtw. with gratitude to Julian of Norwich

Blessings

Karen

