

26 March 2020

Dear Friends

We are certainly living in strange times. Who would have thought that there would ever be a time when we would have to close our Church building for public worship? Who would have thought that we would not be able to use our Church building for ministry purposes? But that is the situation in which we find ourselves.

Please continue to pray daily for our Bishops – Peter, Sonia and Charlie as they lead us through these un-charted waters. The situation as we are all aware, changes by the hour – even in some cases by the minute. Up until Monday morning we could spend quiet time in the Church but then it changed – initially we were told that the building had to be locked and not used – and then it changed again on Monday evening when we were told that clergy could live-stream services from the Church as long as there were no more than 4 people in the Church and that they kept the appropriate social distance between them.

Our live-streaming through Facebook-Live of Morning Prayer at 8am and Evening Prayer at 5pm and Mass on Sunday morning at 8am has had a wonderful impact and seems to be a blessing for those who are able to tune-in. Whilst the number of people actually watching and worshipping with us is small, the broadcast itself reaches many people in all parts of the world. The figures from Wednesday morning indicate that the broadcast reached over 860 people. Wednesday Evening Prayer reached 1765 people – absolutely amazing. A man from Latvia in northern Europe “liked” the broadcast, and there have been people from Turkey, Cambodia and Thailand tuning in along with people from Sydney, Coonabarabran and the Hunter Region being fed by JESUS each morning and evening. If you do have internet access but are not on Facebook, you are still able to join us for Morning (8am Monday to Saturday) and Evening Prayer (5pm each day) and Mass at 8am on Sunday by clicking on the appropriate link on the main page of our website. The address of our website is:

<http://www.stjohnsraymondterrace.org/>

Scroll down the page and just below the 5 buttons

Baptism Marriage Funeral Map Contact

there will be some boxes – one called **DAILY Morning and Evening Prayer**

and

one called **SUNDAY SERVICE WILL NOW BE BROADCAST ONLINE**

Within these boxes there is a link to our Parish Facebook page where our services of Morning and Evening Prayer are broadcast LIVE each day and Mass on Sundays.

It is important that we all continue to support the Church through our giving. If you have internet access, you might like to consider making a direct deposit into our parish account. Thank you to those who already use this method. The parish account details are as follows: BSB 705-077 and the Account Number is 00041040 – and our account is with the Anglican Savings and Development Fund.

At the top of the webpage there are 7 headings – the first of which is Church. If you click on Church, another menu appears. The 7th topic on this menu is DONATE. If you click on that, there are some steps to follow on that page in order to make a donation.

Please Pray, Stay Safe and Stay at Home – and only go out if you absolutely have to.

Blessings
Fr Steve