

31 March 2020

Dear Friends

Hopefully we are gradually becoming used to our changed way of life. It's during times like this that we need to give thanks to GOD for the many blessings He showers on us each day. It is important to remember that GOD did NOT cause this virus; but He is walking with us as we journey through these strange and different circumstances.

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, continues to evolve. Please pray also for our political leaders as they do their work as well – through governments at every level. It's pleasing to see that political point-scoring is being kept to a minimum – for the moment at least.

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 watching and worshipping with us is small, our on-line community is growing. The broadcast itself reaches many people in all parts of the world. People from many countries are liking our broadcast and/or following us on Facebook. In addition to Australia, there have been people from England, Puerto Rico, Burma, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Turkey, Cambodia, Canada, Nigeria, Zambia, Japan and Brazil. Thank you to all who tune in each day. 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 Sunday morning.

I am trying to keep our website as up to date as possible. This letter is published in our pew sheet and on our website – just click on CHURCH and then on NEWS.

Thank you for your messages of love and support. I think that GOD is giving us an opportunity here to change the way we do church. It will always be important for us to meet as a face-to-face community when the current restrictions are removed. One of the things I am seeing from this experience is that there are people who have a hunger for JESUS, for fellowship with others who have a similar hunger for our LORD and Saviour. Whether we share our faith and the gospel message with people face-to-face or on-line, we need to become stronger prayers, more regular readers of GOD's Word the Bible and through this become more humble and active disciples of CHRIST. The Prophet Micah [in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible we read in Church] at chapter 6 says this: <sup>8</sup> **He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.** This same passage is expressed in the Message version of the Bible like this:

<sup>8</sup> **But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what GOD is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.**

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. If you don't have internet access or prefer not to give electronically, give our Treasurer Edith a call and she can work with you on the best way to do this.

If you would prefer to make a **DONATION**, it may be done as follows:

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 donate.

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS **BACK** THIS COMING SATURDAY NIGHT before going to bed – church is at 8am and it will be Palm Sunday

Please continue to Pray, continue to care for each other, stay safe and Stay at Home – and only go out if you absolutely must.

Blessings  
Fr Steve