



ANGLICAN PARISH OF KYNETON

***St Paul's Kyneton
& St John's Malmsbury***

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PASTORAL LETTER FROM FR IAN

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Following up from my email a couple of days ago, I would like to reiterate that we are living at the moment in rapidly changing times as we face this Coronavirus pandemic. What is most important in my mind is that there are still opportunities to serve the needs of people and yet also protect everyone in the best ways we can. Outlined below are some ideas and plans, some of which may change with very little notice.

WORSHIP

We are pausing the way we normal have worship and are doing things differently. There are still spaces for people to sit in the church 2 metres apart and we must adhere to the necessary practice of good hygiene. Please adhere to the notice as you enter the worship space. Washing/sanitizing hands on the way in and out please. No shaking hands and keep the required distance from each other. Our space is receiving more than regular cleaning and disinfecting surfaces door knobs etc is happening following all our gatherings. SORRY, but there cannot be any Morning Tea or meals together as a parish family until further notice.

If you are unwell, please stay at home and call your local doctor or local hospital. It would also be good to let myself or someone else in the parish know, so we can keep you in our prayers and call you.

If you are in a high risk category please stay home. We are endeavouring in this time to keep in touch and we will also be uploading a video of worship as we gather. We will send out the link so that people can watch it at home. This won't be live at this stage, but as close to it as possible. There are also a number of other TV and online options that people can make use of: 'Mass for you at Home' and 'Song of Praise' are just two. Revd Mel from Woodend is live streaming the St Mary's Woodend service too at 11am on Sundays.

OPEN CHURCH & PASTORAL CARE

Our Church doors will be open, but not all the time during the day as per normal. The times will be listed in the pewsheets each Sunday and I will be there. This will be an opportunity for individual prayer, structured prayer as in Morning or Evening and also an opportunity for Pastoral conversations as needed. Sundays too will be somewhat different and will continue to work on how to best make that happen. Times will also be posted on the website and a noticeboard outside the main door. The reason for not being open all the time is to:

- a. Be more available to people who may want to be prayed for in person
- b. So that where people spend time and sit can be monitored (to help with the cleaning regime). We don't want to have to disinfect everything constantly.

Please be aware that even these changes are subject to change, depending on what happens in the coming days, weeks and even months.

GIVING

Several people have asked me the question now about giving. So I am responding to those questions, not trying to be mercenary. But people have started asking questions like "How can I contribute if I am not coming or at some stage will have to stop coming." I know the initial thought around this is "What do I do about my offering." There are a couple of responses to that question and then I want to add a third.

1. If you are still coming a offering can be given, but the plate will not be handed around. A bowl will be located near the entrance and people can place their offering as they leave.
2. You can directly deposit your offering into the church's bank account. Currently some people do this either fortnightly or monthly generally. For those who would like to access this method the details are as follows
Kyneton Anglican Parish Council
BSB 083-713
A/C 51586 7674
3. Giving is always more than about money. We can all pray. Use the prayers that will come out in the pewsheets and in other email notifications that I may send out or deliver to you, or you may find on the website. Call each other for conversations that can provide encouragement and connection. These are simple that cost very little. As a friend of mine used to say "Don't give me a ring, a telephone call is cheaper!"

IN CONCLUSION

It is my hope that we all stay healthy and well during this time and it is going to be a priority for myself and a few of us to make sure we stay connected with you, regardless of whether you are able to come and be here. Please also don't ever hesitate to be in contact with me as well during this time. You are all highly valued and loved sisters and brothers in Christ.

May Christ the Good Shepherd
enfold you with love,
fill you with peace,
and lead you in hope
and the blessing of God,
ever creating, redeeming and giving new life,
be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

With love and prayers,
Fr Ian

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