

S.^TJAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector

26 October 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We continue to conduct many of our church activities, although with restrictions, remembering that the Spirit of God lives among us and works through us, even though we are dispersed and limited in what we can do.

Thanks to livestreaming technology, our worship services remain a blessing to many people both near and far. In time, it is hoped that there will be further easing of restrictions and that we will move to a more enhanced format in our activities. But until then, we seek to be faithful and responsible in what is done.

Current COVID-19 Restrictions

There is currently enough flexibility to maintain our service schedule, including the Sunday Choral Eucharist and Wednesday Choral Evensong. It is also good to have the church open for people to visit during the week for worship and private prayer.

With the recent easing of restrictions on numbers attending church services, we are now able to accommodate up to 150 people at worship. Nevertheless, the current restrictions still require people register their attendance, use hand sanitiser, and maintain physical distancing. Facemasks are provided but not mandatory.

Having become used to the COVID-19 restrictions and developed a new routine, we are confident heading into the Advent and Christmas seasons to maintain most of our usual activities; yet, we are mindful that this situation can change rapidly. In the light of this, I write to advise you of our plans over the next couple of months.

Please remember, most of our major services will continue to be livestreamed and can be found on our website at: <https://www.sjks.org.au/church/online-services/>

If you wish to attend a service, you need to register each time you intend being present. You can do this at the door of the church either manually or using a QR code on your phone, or preferably do this online at: <https://www.sjks.org.au/service-registration/>

Commissioning of the New Director of the Institute – 1 November

We look forward to the Commissioning of Dr Aaron Ghiloni as Director of the St James' Institute, to be held at the end of the 10:00am Eucharist this Sunday, 1 November (All Saints Day). Dr Ghiloni comes to us from the University of Queensland where he has been a Senior Research Fellow in Religion and Theology. He has a background as a theologian, an educator, an author, and a speaker on faith formation and previously held positions in youth and family ministry, adult education, and theological training for ordinands.

All Souls' Day – 2 November

A Requiem Eucharist will be held at St James' Church on Monday, 2 November at 6:30pm to Commemorate All Souls' Day. The Choir will sing Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* and prayers of remembrance will be said for those who have died over the past year.

Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, our normal daytime Remembrance Day service at St James' will not be held this year. Instead, Remembrance will be commemorated on two occasions as follows:

- Sunday, 8 November at 10:00am (Choral Eucharist for Remembrance Sunday) – our normal Sunday service, but including an Act of Remembrance at the beginning of the service along with prayers, music and sermon focussed on the theme of Remembrance.
- Wednesday, 11 November at 6:15pm (Choral Evensong for Remembrance Day) – This is our normal Wednesday Evensong service including readings, prayers and music set for Remembrance Day.

Advent Carols – 29 November

The Advent Carol Service will be held on Sunday, 29 November at 7:30pm. It will be modified to account for the COVID-19 restrictions but will follow the traditional format.

Advent/Christmas Services

We are planning to conduct the following services over the Advent and Christmas seasons:

- Wednesday 16 December: 1:15pm & 6:30pm – Weekday Lessons & Carols
- Thursday 17 December: 6:30pm – Weekday Lessons & Carols
- Sunday 20 December: 11:30am – An online Children's Christmas Pageant
7:30pm - Nine Lessons & Carols
- Wednesday 23 December 6:30pm – Christmas Cantata
- Thursday 24 December 6:00pm – Christingle (in church and livestreamed)
10:30pm – Night Eucharist of the Nativity
- Friday 25 December: 8:00am & 10:00am – Christmas Day Eucharists

May God keep you safe and bless you with his loving presence as we journey to the end of what has been a challenging and difficult year!

Every blessing,

