

S.^TJAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector

4 March 2022

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

PROGRAMME FOR MARCH

Retirement

Last Sunday, I announced that I intend retiring later this year. It is planned that my last Sunday will be 24 July (the Patronal Festival). I will then go on leave until my 'official' retirement date. No doubt, there will be much more said about this in the fullness of time, as it is still some time off.

Prayers in Time of Crisis

There are many things calling for our prayerful attention at the moment, not least of which are the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces and the floods in Queensland and New South Wales.

*God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.*

(by Archbishops Justin Welby & Stephen Cottrell)

*All things look to you, O Lord, to give them their food in due season:
look in mercy on your people, and hear our prayer for those whose lives and possessions
have been destroyed by floods in Queensland and New South Wales.
In your mercy restore your creation and heal our land.
So guide and bless your people, that we may enjoy the fruits of the earth
and give you thanks with grateful hearts, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Flood Appeal: Anglicans In Development (part of ABM) has established an appeal to support the most vulnerable people affected by the floods in Eastern Australia. Details can be found here: <https://www.abmission.org/appeals/emergency-appeals/eastern-australia-flood-appeal/>

COVID-19 Regulations & Worship Arrangements

The NSW Government has removed almost all COVID-19 restrictions on church services; however, we believe it is still time for caution. We therefore recommend that those attending worship or other church activities should:

- Be fully vaccinated;
- Stay at home if feeling unwell;
- Wear masks while in the church building and not remove them to sing;
- Keep appropriate social distancing where possible; and,
- Use hand-sanitiser regularly.

Nevertheless, services of worship are open to all people, whether vaccinated or not.

Please note:

- **Communion in both kinds** will be offered from this Sunday 6 March, but there is no expectation that communicants must receive the chalice.
- **Sunday Morning Tea** after the 10am Choral Eucharist will recommence on Sunday 13 March in the covered courtyard.
- **Kids @ Church** will also recommence meeting in the crypt from Sunday 13 March.

We will look at further changes to the liturgy as the month proceeds.

Memorial Service for Archbishop Desmond Tutu – 6 March

On Sunday 6 March an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving for the Late Desmond Mpilo Tutu, OMSG, CH will be held at 4:00pm. Her Excellency the Governor will be the guest of honour.

Parish Annual General Meeting – 20 March

The Parish AGM will be held in the church on Sunday 20 March from 12:00 noon. The meeting will receive the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021; elect Wardens, Parish Councillors and Parish Nominators; and conduct any other business pertaining to an AGM. Reports will be available in the Baptistry and online from 6 March at: www.sjks.org.au/parish-agm/

Holy Week & Easter – 10 to 17 April

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Stephen Pickard as our guest Holy Week and Easter preacher this year. Bishop Stephen is a friend of our Parish and has recently retired as Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Every blessing,



The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector of St James'