

3 April 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It is good to be back with you after my long service leave, however what a moment in time to return! Our lives and society have taken a dramatic turn because of COVID-19, which understandably has created considerable disruption and anxiety. Much of this week has been spent having meetings and briefings on how we are to operate in the foreseeable future.

Before I proceed further, however, I wish to thank and commend Fr John Stewart for his leadership of the Parish at this time, along with the St James' team; they have responded in a timely, effective and creative way to the current crisis. We are indeed blessed to have a dedicated team of clergy, teachers, musicians, administrators, and Parish leaders who offer their skills in God's service and for the benefit of us all.

Worship

Worship is now being undertaken on-line. Please note that Sunday services will continue to be live streamed at 10am. Morning Prayer is being held on weekdays at 8:30am using the Zoom Conferencing Service. If you would like to join the group please contact Christopher Waterhouse on christopher.waterhouse@sjks.org.au

Our Holy Week preacher, the Rev'd Catherine Eaton, has recorded all her sermons and they will be delivered each day as part of the service. We have also recorded the mid-week services and they will be broadcast as done previously through links on the Parish website and on Facebook.

The service schedule for Holy Week is as follows:

Sunday 5 April	10am	Choral Eucharist for Palm Sunday
Monday 6 April	6:30pm	Holy Eucharist for Holy Monday
Tuesday 7 April	6:30pm	Holy Eucharist for Holy Tuesday
Wednesday 8 April	6:30pm	Holy Eucharist for Holy Wednesday
Thursday 8 April	6:30pm	Holy Eucharist for Maundy Thursday
Friday 9 April	9am	Stations of the Cross
	12 noon	Liturgy of the Cross (shortened)
Sunday 11 April	10am	Choral Eucharist for Easter Day

Despite this time of difficulty, it is our hope that you will be blessed by God this Holy Week and Easter, especially through the reflections of Mother Catherine.

Pastoral Care

This is an important time for us to care for one another. While it is not appropriate to physically visit people or gather, we can still do so virtually through social media, telephone, text and email. I encourage you to do this, and if you have special needs to contact one of the ministry team.

The St James' Institute

The St James' Institute is continuing to operate through the Zoom Conferencing Service. At 2pm this Sunday there will be an interview with Mother Catherine Eaton, our Holy Week preacher. If you need further information, please visit sjks.org.au/institute. A number of books and resources relating to the Institute programme are available at sjks.org.au/shop.

Music @ St James'

We are thankful for our musicians who have continued to serve us, although in a reduced format. Nevertheless, the concert programme at the church has been postponed for the time being. There is, however, a plan to conduct some Wednesday lunchtime concerts on-line.

Administration

Both the Church and Parish Office are closed to the public. Staff are principally working from home, although one staff member will attend the office each day to collect the mail and clear messages and emails. Contact with staff members is best made by telephone or email. The principal contact details are as follows:

Parish Office:	8227 1300	office@sjks.org.au
Rector:	8227 1303	rector@sjks.org.au
Associate Rector:	8227 1304	john.stewart@sjks.org.au
SJI Director:	8227 1305	christopher.waterhouse@sjks.org.au
Head of Music:	8227 1306	music@sjks.org.au
Churchwardens:		warden1@sjks.org.au

Offertories and Donations

Clearly, the COVID-19 lockdown will have a big impact on the parish finances, including rents from St James' Hall and our offertory and donation income. I encourage you to maintain your giving as best you can so that we will be able to function effectively both now and once this crisis is over. If you are not using a direct credit facility, please consider doing so. The details are BSB: 032 007, Account No: 250025, Account Name: Churchwardens St James' General A/c. Alternatively, you can make an on-line donation at: sjks.org.au/donate

Finally, while it is normal to feel anxious in times of uncertainty such as this, it is also an opportunity to turn to God and seek to grow spiritually. Through the spiritual disciplines of reading the Bible and other edifying books, by way of prayer and meditation, fasting, seeking simplicity of life, and the care of others, we can flourish in our relationships with God and each other.

Every blessing,

