

27 May 2020

Dear Parishioners,

So far, everyone seems to have remained in good heart over this time of pandemic. I encourage you to keep in touch with each other through the many ways available. I also expect that some of you will be getting a little frustrated, sad, or fearful as time passes. Remember that, although in isolation, God remains active in our lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Seek strength and encouragement therefore, by reading the Scriptures, prayer, and taking time for contemplation upon the God of compassion and healing.

Easing of Restrictions and Attendance at Services

I am pleased to announce the easing of some restrictions for attendance at church services. The Parish Council has endorsed the following arrangements as from Sunday 31 May 2020 (Pentecost Sunday), We are also aware that these arrangements may be adjusted over time, especially with respect to numbers attending services, and will keep you informed accordingly.

General

The government has advised that a limited number of people may attend religious gatherings, which does not include those necessary to conduct of the service. People attending services need to do the following:

- register their names through the online ticketing service on the Parish website Online Services,
- not attend the service if feeling unwell,
- adhere to physical distancing guidelines and sit in the church at those places marked by a green dot,
- use hand sanitiser when arriving and leaving,
- be willing to have a temperature check conducted at the door, and
- must not sing during the choral services because of proximity to others.

We understand that it is important for people to take responsibility for their health and not venture out if they are unwell or are at risk of being infected, which is why we will continue livestreaming some services.

Given our number of parishioners, we also ask that people only register for one weekday service and no more than two Sundays a month to allow more people to share in the limited spaces that are available.

We also advise that, at this stage, there will be no refreshments served after services.

Sunday Services

8am - Said Eucharist: A service of Holy Communion will be conducted at 8am. A maximum number of 10 people may attend this service. Entry is by the North Porch and all will be seated at the sanctuary end of the nave. Communion will be available in one kind and will be received standing at the chancel steps.

10am - Choral Eucharist: The Choral Eucharist will continue to be livestreamed at 10am. A maximum number of 10 people may attend this service. Entry is by the Tower Porch and all will be seated at the tower end of the nave. There will be no Communion available to parishioners attending this service.

Kids @ Church: Kids @ church will continue to meet on Sundays at via Zoom Conferencing.

Weekday Services

6:15pm Wednesday - Choral Evensong: Wednesday Choral Evensong will continue to be livestreamed at 6:15pm. A maximum of 10 parishioners may attend this service, entering by the Tower Porch and seated at the tower end of the nave.

12:30pm - Lunchtime Eucharists: Weekday Lunchtime Eucharists will recommence at 12:30pm from Monday 1 June and will be conducted in the chancel. A maximum of 10 people may attend this service, entering by the North Porch and seated in the choir and clergy stalls in the chancel. Communion will be received in one kind while standing at the sanctuary steps.

8:30am - Morning Prayer: Morning Prayer will continue to be conducted each weekday at 8:30am using Zoom Conferencing.

8pm Tuesday - Resting Space: Resting Space will continue to meet weekly on Tuesdays at 8pm via Zoom Conferencing.

Other Activities

Home Visits: The clergy will not be undertaking general visiting of parishioners; however, they will be available to visit where there is a clear need. Arrangements will need to be made directly with one of the clergy. The use of physical distancing, hand sanitiser, and PPE will be necessary.

Study Groups: Study Groups will continue to meet using the Zoom Conferencing format.

Sister Freda Mission: The Sister Freda Mission will re-open this Sunday 31 May, operating on a reduced basis from the western end of the church next to the coffee cart.

Parish Office: The Parish Office will re-open to parishioners only from Tuesday 2 June, operating Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm. As many staff will still be working from home, visitors will need to make an appointment with the staff member they wish to see to ensure that they will be present.

The Church: Except for services, the church will remain closed to the public.

Additional Matters

Stewardship

As we come to the end of the financial year we remind parishioners of the need to review their stewardship arrangements and of the opportunity to make tax-deductible donations to the Sister Freda Mission, the Church Conservation Appeal, the St James Music Foundation, and St Laurence House. A brochure is attached, and can also be found here: <https://www.sjks.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Donations-pamphlet-2020.pdf>

St James' Hall Ordinance

Because of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on our strategic planning, the Parish is seeking an extension of twelve months to the current St James Hall Ordinance. A copy of the notice and proposed ordinance can be found here: <https://www.sjks.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Ordinance-2020-notice-website.pdf>

Every blessing,

