

S.^TJAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector

13 November 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings in the name of our Lord! I trust that you are keeping well in this COVID-19 season.

As we prepare for our Advent and Christmas services, it is pleasing to see that the impact of the virus is declining in Australia. We therefore expect some further easing of restrictions on our activities, including worship. Nevertheless, please remember to use hand sanitiser and maintain appropriate physical distancing when at church. Facemasks are provided but are not mandatory.

Moreover, as we approach Christmas, I remind you of the opportunity to purchase Christmas cards, CDs and books from our online shop at: www.sjks.org.au/shop/

Livestreaming Appeal

Livestreaming has provided us with a great opportunity to engage more widely with people through worship, concerts, and seminars, and we are grateful to Simon Turnill who has helped us in this regard. We now have the challenge to permanently install suitable equipment and train people to use it, so that we can go on livestreaming in the future.

We need your help to raise around \$50,000 before the end of the year to purchase the kit required, as well as find enough volunteers to establish a group to run it. I have attached a donation form to this letter, and I encourage you to read it and support this vital project. Alternatively, you can go to: www.sjks.org.au/media-equipment-appeal/

If you are interested in being a volunteer media operator, please talk to one of the Parish staff.

Advent Studies

The book we are studying in the Advent Groups this year is *The Meaning is in the Waiting* by Paula Gooder. Copies of it are available from the Parish Office or through the online shop. The studies commence on Monday 30 November.

Groups are meeting as follows:

- Zoom Groups: Mondays and Tuesdays at 10am;
- St James' Hall Groups: Wednesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 1pm.

Please register by emailing registrations@sjks.org.au or online at www.sjks.org.au/institute

Advent and Christmas Services

The schedule of special services currently stands as:

- Sunday 29 November: 7:30pm – Advent Carols Service
- 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 – Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
- Wednesday 23 December 6:30pm – A Cantata for Christmas
- Thursday 24 December 6pm – Christingle (In church and livestreamed)
10:30pm – Night Eucharist of the Nativity
- Friday 25 December: 8 & 10am – Christmas Day Eucharists

With a reshaping of the liturgy, including the positioning of the Choir and clergy, it will now be possible to seat and extra people in the church for the various Carols services. Online registration for these services is now available.

Livestreamed services can be found on our website at: www.sjks.org.au/church/online-services/

You need to register each time you intend being present at a service, either at the door of the church or preferably online at: www.sjks.org.au/service-registration/

January Orchestral Mass

We are now also planning to hold one Orchestral Mass on 31 January 2021, which will be the St James’ Mass written by Gabriel Jackson for our Bicentenary. While it was sung at the Patronal Festival this year, in January it will be sung with a full orchestra.

Strategic Planning

The Parish is currently reviewing its Strategic Plan and setting new goals for the next five years and we thank Nick Ingram of Clear Thinking for guiding us through this process. Work has commenced with a committee and it has reported to Parish Council. In the next phase, several groups of parishioners will be asked to engage with the process. This will allow people to raise new ideas as well as confirm current strategies.

May God bless you richly as we head into this special time of year of Advent and Christmas.

Every blessing,



The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector of St James’

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Please send this form to:

The St James' Music Foundation,
Unit 2702/5 York Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Alternatively, you can make a donation online at www.sjks.org.au/media-equipment-appeal/