

S.^TJAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector

9 December 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In Advent we eagerly await the celebration of God's coming to live among us in the person of Jesus. This is a time of anticipation in which we look forward to that birth at one time that leads to continued rebirth, both in our hearts and in the corporate life of the people of God through history.

We happily note the further easing of COVID-19 controls. We are now benefitting from the infection management practices that were instituted earlier in the year, and that allows us to look forward to the celebration of Christmas in a more traditional way. Thanks be to God!

Latest COVID-19 Restrictions

The Archbishop has written to all parishes advising them of the new government guidelines that came into place on 7 December. In summary, they are:

- The 4 sqm rule has been replaced by the 2 sqm rule, which increases the capacity for church attendance, including weddings and funerals, to: 170 (Eucharistic services) and 180 (Non-Eucharistic services);
- Masks continue to be provided for people attending worship and who wish to use them;
- The Choir may be expanded in size and must be located at least 5 metres from the congregation;
- The congregation may sing the hymns quietly, and it is recommended that masks be worn when doing so;
- Recording of contact details, the time attending, the use of hand sanitiser, and cleaning of surfaces between services continues to be required.

Advent and Christmas Services

The schedule of special Christmas services currently stands as:

- 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: 8am & 10am – Christmas Day Eucharist

Please note that numbers for these services are filling up and it is necessary to register your attendance, which can be done at: <https://www.sjks.org.au/service-registration/>

Livestreamed services have been a great blessing to many people and continue to be available on our web site at: <https://www.sjks.org.au/church/online-services/>

Livestreaming Appeal

There has been a good response to the appeal for the purchasing of media equipment for livestreaming. Around \$35,000 has been raised so far which means we only have \$15,000 to raise to complete the project. Please go to www.sjks.org.au/media-equipment-appeal/ if you would like to make it a reality! If you are interested in being a volunteer media operator, please talk to one of the Parish staff.

January Orchestral Mass

As mentioned in my last letter, we are planning to hold one Orchestral Mass at 10am on 31 January 2021. On this occasion, the Choir will sing our Bicentenary *Mass of St James'* written by Gabriel Jackson.

May you know God's love and joy as we continue our journey through Advent to Christmas.

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector of St James'