

S.^TJAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector

31 August 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

COVID-19 Restrictions until the end of September

You should be aware by now that we remain in lockdown until the end of September. It is encouraging, however, to see so many people responding to the call to be vaccinated in an effort to create a safer environment for the whole community. Hopefully, we will, see an end to the lockdown and a return to restrictions in about a month's time. In the meantime, the Church and Parish Office remain closed to the public and services will be livestreamed.

Dedication Festival Cancellation

Unfortunately, with the ongoing lockdown and subsequent worship restrictions, it has been decided to cancel the Dedication Festival, which was to have been held on the weekend of 9 and 10 October.

Nevertheless, it is hoped that we will have few restrictions by the time we get to Advent / Christmas in December, and will be able to conduct our usual services then.

200th Anniversary of the First Church Service – 6 January 2022

As we look for another moment to celebrate our Bicentenary, it is noted that Thursday 6 January 2022 (Epiphany of our Lord) will be the 200th anniversary of the first service held in St James' Church. It was an unofficial service conducted by The Rev'd William Cowper for the workmen engaged in the construction of the building.

This is an important moment in the history of our church, and provides the next opportunity for us to celebrate our story. We are contemplating conducting a BCP service of Choral Mattins (as would have been originally held) followed by lunch. Please note the date.

Evening Prayer on Zoom – Weekdays at 5pm

Online Morning Prayer continues to be very popular. In the light of this, the Parish has instituted online Evening Prayer at 5:00pm from Monday to Friday. You are welcome to join us by either going to the 'What's On' tab on the Parish website, or by using the Zoom contact link:

Meeting ID: 854 3102 0954; Passcode: prayer

Morning Prayer continues each weekday at 8:30am.

Parish Morning Teas on Zoom – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30am

The online Morning Teas have been well received as a means to providing some fellowship while in isolation. They are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30am-11:30am, and all are welcome join in. You can access the morning teas through the 'What's on' tab on the Parish website, or on Zoom using:

Meeting ID: 824 6745 4369; Passcode: cuppa

Committal Service for Tom Alvisio – 2 September at 10:00am

The Committal Service for Tom Alvisio will be held this Thursday, 2 September at 10:00am and will be livestreamed. It will be able to be accessed at: <https://streaming.naoca.com.au/e/ffe57109-52cc-42cb-b948-a5ad334fb054> using the PIN 4273. A Memorial Service for Tom will be held in St James' Church at a later date, once we are over the current COVID-19 restrictions.

As I am sure you will appreciate, Tom did not have the financial capacity to fund a funeral. Several parishioners have banded together to facilitate these activities, and a fundraising appeal has been established by Dr Ross Hindmarsh, to which you are encouraged to donate. If 40 people donate \$150, all costs will be covered.

Enquiries may be made to Ross on 0414 660 839. Direct transfers of money can be made to the following account: R and E Hindmarsh; BSB: 082338; Account No: 453051388. Please add your surname in the Description on the transfer details and send to ross@hindmarshsydney.com.au

Conclusion

We are living in very challenging times, with internal conflict in Afghanistan and Myanmar, natural disasters in Haiti and the United States, the ongoing challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, and rising political, economic, and environmental changes.

Nevertheless, Jesus encouraged his followers not to be troubled but to trust in God. Down through history people have, time and time again, responded to the challenges around them, knowing that God can give us the understanding, wisdom, and strength to change if we seek it.

*God did not give us a spirit of cowardice
but a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.
May we rekindle the gift of God within us. Amen.
(See 2 Timothy 1: 6–7)*

Every blessing,



The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector of St James'