

S.^TJAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector

8 October 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I trust that, as we have made our way through this past 15 weeks of lockdown, the Spirit of Christ has been with you as a guide, strengthener, and blessing. It has certainly been a challenging time, and I thank the staff and many volunteers at St James' for their support, good-will, and patience.

It is now pleasing to see the gradual easing of COVID-19 restrictions beginning this Monday, 11 October. These changes will take place in three stages over the next two months, following the achievement of 70%, 80% fully vaccinated milestones and the commencement of December. It needs to be remembered, however, that this plan is always subject to amendment!

On Tuesday 12 October, St James' Church will reopen to members of the public who are FULLY VACCINATED. The following COVID-19 Restrictions will apply to anyone attending the church:

- People must register using the QR code or written register at the entrance and show evidence to the sidespersons that they are fully vaccinated;
- Physical distancing under the 4 sqm rule is required, with seating at the green dots on the pews unless from the same household;
- Masks must be worn while inside the building;
- Members of the congregation are not allowed to sing during services;
- Communion will be distributed 'in one kind';
- There will be no refreshments after services;
- The use of hand sanitiser, and the cleaning of surfaces between services will be required; and,
- People must not attend worship if feeling unwell.

Worship

The following worship schedule will resume:

- **Sunday Services (from 17 October):**

8am - Said Eucharist: A maximum number of 30 people may attend this service. Entry is by the North Porch, and all will be seated at the sanctuary end of the nave.

10am - Choral Eucharist: A maximum number of 68 people may attend this service. The Choir will sing, but members of the congregations are NOT ALLOWED TO SING in the service. Entry is by the Tower Porch, and all will be seated at the tower end of the nave. The Choral Eucharist will continue to be livestreamed at 10am.

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

- **Weekday Services (from 18 October):**

6:15pm Wednesday - Choral Evensong: A maximum of 68 parishioners may attend, entering by the Tower Porch and seated at the tower end of the nave. The Choir will sing, but members of the congregations are NOT ALLOWED TO SING in the service. Choral Evensong will continue to be livestreamed at 6:15pm.

12:30pm - Lunchtime Eucharists: Weekday Lunchtime Eucharists will recommence at 12:30pm from Monday 18 October and will be conducted in the Holy Spirit Chapel. A maximum of 6 people may attend this service, entering by the North Porch. Communion will be received in one kind.

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer: Morning and Evening Prayer will continue to be conducted on Zoom each weekday. 8:30am – Morning Prayer and 5:00pm – Evening Prayer.

7:45pm Tuesday - Resting Space: Resting Space will continue to meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 7:45pm via Zoom.

Vaccination Status

It is important to note that you will be required to demonstrate vaccination status upon entry to the church. This can be done by showing your vaccination certificate electronically on your phone or device, or with a hard copy. To ease any delays, it is asked that you have your vaccine certificate already downloaded and ready to show the sidespersons at the door.

Registration – QR Code, Scanner, and Written

All people entering the church also need to register their attendance, usually by using the QR code at the door. For those who do not have smart phones there is also the opportunity of registering on a form.

It has been brought to our attention that some people may have received cards that can be scanned into the QR system. The church currently does not have this technology but is investigating the possibility of obtaining it. In its absence written registration will need to be used.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will reopen to members of the public from next Monday, but many office staff will continue to work from home. As with worship, visitors must wear a mask, and register their attendance using the Hall QR code. Only a limited number of people will be allowed in the office area at any time.

Visitors to the office should make appointments before attending to ensure that the person they wish to see will be available.

The Future

The second phase of the easing of restrictions will occur after the 80% vaccination milestone has been reached. It will be at this stage that fully vaccinated, partial vaccinated, and unvaccinated people will be able to attend church and Institute events but with continuing restrictions. This could occur as early as Monday 25 October, depending on the ongoing rate of vaccination.

Other changes may occur at this time, and I will write to update parishioners when these become clearer. Nevertheless, now is the time to start renewing the Parish's worship rosters and review activities for the remainder of this year.

Conclusion

Once again, I thank everyone for their support and flexibility during the past three months. It has been a most unusual time in the life of the community and especially in the context of our parish. These experiences will also become part of the history of our church, notably in this time of its bicentenary.

May God bless you richly in this time of change,

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'