

S.^TJAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector

12 November 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Thanks be to God for the reduction in the spread of COVID-19 in our community. A month ago, we came out of lockdown, and since then have seen a continual improvement in the management of the virus with associated easing of restrictions.

We have now reached the 90% vaccination rate milestone and a further change in regulations have followed. From Monday 8 November, more people are allowed to attend worship and engage in the service through singing, although masks must be worn. Moreover, worship services continue to be open to everyone, both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated.

The following restrictions now apply to anyone attending the church:

- People must register using the QR code at the entrance;
- Social distancing is now at the 2 Sqm rule (4 per pew);
- Masks must be worn when inside the building;
- Fully vaccinated members of the congregation may sing during services;
- Communion will continue to be received in 'one kind' until Advent Sunday;
- Post-10:00am service refreshments are held in the Crypt and Covered Courtyard;
- The use of hand sanitiser is encouraged; and,
- People must not attend worship if feeling unwell.

The current worship schedule continues:

- **Sunday Services**

8am - Holy Eucharist: A said service with a maximum number of 50 people attending. Entry is by the North Porch.

10am - Choral Eucharist: A maximum number of 160 people may attend this service. Entry is by the Tower Porch and refreshments will be served after the service in the Crypt and Covered Courtyard. The Choral Eucharist continues to be livestreamed.

Kids @ Church: Kids @ church will continue meeting online.

- **Weekday Services:**

6:15pm Wednesday - Choral Evensong: A maximum of 160 people may attend, entering by the Tower Porch and seated at the tower end of the nave. The service will continue to be livestreamed.

12:30pm - Lunchtime Eucharists: Conducted in the Holy Spirit Chapel, with a maximum number of 12 people attending.

Weekday Services continued...

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

Resting Space continues to meet fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7:45pm via Zoom.

- **Advent Carols:**

Please note that we will be holding our Advent Carols Service at 7:30pm on Sunday 28 November.

The Future

It is foreshadowed that restrictions will be eased further once the 95% vaccination milestone has been reached around the end of this month. We will look at reintroducing Communion in both kinds at this same time.

It is also expected that the current worship schedule will remain for the rest of this year and into January 2022 to avoid the effect of the imposition of any possible restrictions or lockdowns in the near future.

I will write again about our Christmas service schedule, which we hope will return to a normal pattern. We are also looking at having at least one Orchestral Mass in January.

Bicentenary Service – Thursday 6 January 2022 (Feast of the Epiphany) will be the 200th anniversary of the first ‘unofficial’ service held in St James Church. We are planning to have a service of Choral Mattins at 10:00am that morning followed by lunch to celebrate the event.

God’s blessing be upon you as we prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas,



Rector of St James’