

S.^TJAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector

15 December 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

COVID-19 Restrictions, December 2021

As of 15 December, a new Public Health Order has mandated a further easing of restrictions in the general community, and for churches in particular.

The following COVID-19 restrictions now apply to churches:

- Both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people can attend worship;
- Proof of vaccination is not required;
- Masks are no longer required, but are still strongly recommended for people while attending services inside church buildings;
- Congregational singing is permitted without masks;
- There are no density limits in churches (which were previously one person per 2sqm); however ministers, servers, and choir members will continue in the distanced seating pattern until the end of January;
- COVID safety plans are optional;
- QR code check-ins are still required places of worship and for weddings, funerals, and memorial services;
- Weddings are permitted with no person limit – eating and drinking are allowed while standing and dancing is permitted;
- Funerals are permitted with no person limit – eating and drinking are allowed while standing.

Omicron Variant

Despite the easing of restrictions, we are aware of the current spread of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus. While it does not seem to be as fatal as other variants, it is nevertheless highly infectious and therefore spreading rapidly. In response, we need to be cautious in how we respond and therefore encourage parishioners to:

- Be fully vaccinated;
- Stay at home if feeling unwell;
- Wear masks while in the church building;
- Keep appropriate social distancing where possible; and,
- Use hand-sanitiser regularly.

Worship

The following worship schedule will continue through to the end of January:

Sunday Services: 8am – Holy Eucharist

10am – Choral Eucharist (livestreamed)

Weekday Services: 6:15pm Wednesday – Choral Evensong (livestreamed) and resuming 2 Feb 2022

12:30pm – Lunchtime Eucharist

Morning and Evening Prayer will continue on Zoom each weekday (8:30am – Morning Prayer; and 5:00pm – Evening Prayer)

Christmas Service Schedule

The following services are scheduled for Christmas:

Wednesday 15 December: 1:15pm – Lunchtime Lessons and Carols

6:30pm – Candlelight Lessons and Carols

Thursday 16 December: 6:30pm – Candlelight Lessons and Carols

Sunday 19 December: 8:00am – Holy Eucharist

10:00am – Choral Eucharist

7:30pm – Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 22 December: 6:30pm – Candlelight Lessons and Carols

Friday 24 December: 6:00pm – Christingle

10:30pm – Night Eucharist of the Nativity

Saturday 25 December: 8:00am – Sung Eucharist of the Nativity

10:00am – Choral Eucharist of the Nativity

Sunday 26 December: 8:00am – Holy Eucharist

10:00am – Sung Eucharist

Bicentenary Service – Thursday 6 January 2022 (Feast of the Epiphany)

On Thursday 6 January 2022 at 10:00am, we will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the first (unofficial) service held at St James' Church. The service will be Choral Mattins based on the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), which would have been used on that occasion. The Choir of St James' will lead the music.

The Guests of Honour will be Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson. The preacher will be The Rev'd Dr Erica Mathieson, a former staff member at St James', and Bishop Richard Hurford OAM, a former Rector, will preside.

Orchestral Masses in January

Two Orchestral Masses will be conducted in January on Sundays 23 and 30 January. On Sunday 30 January we will premiere the orchestral version of *Mass of St James'* written by Gabriel Jackson for our Bicentenary.

God's blessings upon you as we approach the celebration of the incarnation of our Lord,

Rector of St James'