

From The Churchwardens – 22 April 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

It has been very encouraging for us all to see the number of people who are joining us for our Sunday “virtual” services. Our “congregation” has not only been from our Gordon parishioners but has also included Christian community members from regional areas and interstate and even from overseas.

We remind you of the following arrangements to join the weekly service:

- 1) The Order of Service for the each Sunday is posted on the website and sent by separate e-mail to our parish mailing list.
- 2) To join our Sunday service at 9:30AM, click <http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgordon> to open St John’s Facebook page on your browser.
- 3) Scroll down to “Posts”.
- 4) If you are watching during the livestream, it should be the first posting. If you are watching later, you will need to scroll down through the posts until you see “St John the Evangelist was live” for the day’s service that you wish to view.

While viewing services, Facebook may ask you to Create New Account - you can ignore this (you may need to click on the “Not Now” button)

The “*Have a Yarn*” (HAY!) project continues and those who would like are being contacted each week to check if we can help in any way or just to “Have a Yarn!” If you would like to be part of this programme either as a parish contact person to ring a few people each week or would like to keep in touch with us each week just to “Have a Yarn” – or if you need help with anything within our ability that can’t be done by your friends and family – please let Cynthia or Meg know at the parish office on 02 9498 2744 or e-mail on office@stjohnsgordon.org.au. Alternatively, feel free to contact any of the Churchwardens – Chris Russell, James Winter or JK Seo at the contact details on the back of the pew bulletin at any time. All calls will of course be in confidence.

The **Helping Us Group** has also been established and will meet via ZOOM for the first time over the next week. Thank you to those who have volunteered to be part of that group! If you need assistance for jobs you can’t do yourself – please let Meg or Cynthia at the office know by e-mail (office@stjohnsgordon.org.au) or phone on (02) 9498 2744. One of your fellow parishioners in the group will then contact you to make arrangements. Remember this service is for small maintenance or other handyman jobs within our capability that do not require a licence (like plumbing or major electrical) and do not involve work, health and safety hazards including working at heights. If you would like to be part of this group of volunteers and have your own tools – please let Meg or Cynthia at the church office know or contact Chris Russell.

New Initiatives and Updates

As alluded to in the Easter bulletin – we have now secured business licences for the use of ZOOM Meeting for our Bible Study and meeting groups. In that vein we will be commencing a weekly Thursday night discussion group under the guiding hand of Bishop Michael based around the *Lectio* Bible Study programme which many of us receive by e-mail. The following arrangements will apply:

- 1) For any of you not yet receiving this series –*Lectio* is free for St John’s parishioners and the Churchwardens could not recommend it more highly. All you have to do is let the church office know and Meg or Cynthia will ensure you are added to the e-mail list. The notes are written at three levels - “Gold” for those who are looking for a shorter but focussed analysis of the reading ; “Frankincense” for a more in-depth discussion and “Myrrh” for a detailed analysis for those who wish to develop their biblical study to the fullest extent. Please let Meg know which notes are most appropriate for your needs. We are very fortunate to have a Missioner with the scholarship, intellect and outstanding communication skills of Bishop Michael Hough, who provides a resource we should all take advantage of in our devotions.
- 2) Each week those who receive the *Lectio* notes will be e-mailed with the details of the Thursday night discussion including the particular passage(s) from the *Lectio* series that will be the focus of the study for that week.
- 3) Bishop Michael has indicated that he will be following the Book of Revelation and will restart the series for the Thursday night discussions (even though current *Lectio* subscribers have been working through that Book since the start of the year).
- 4) The weekly discussion group will commence on Thursday 30th April at 7:30PM AEST. The ZOOM meeting format will allow two-way discussion and each Bible Study will be for approximately an hour.

Can you please e-mail Meg at the church office on office@stjohnsgordon.org.au and let her know of your interest so you can be added to the e-mail list and receive the meeting log-in details.

Offertory and Cash Flow

The Churchwardens are closely monitoring our cash flow. The Federal Government’s “Job-Keeper” programme has now been helpfully incorporated to help ensure that our maintenance and office services can be maintained. The Treasurer can advise that our cash position is stable and with your continued financial help, frugal expenditure and careful monitoring by the Churchwardens, the parish holds sufficient cash reserves to meet our obligations and run the parish, despite the current absence of services and the operation of the Op Shop.

We are, however, very dependent on members of the parish who are able, reviewing and/or maintaining their level of financial support despite the lack of direct contact on Sundays. We would prayerfully request that you review and continue with or increase your weekly giving as your personal circumstances allow—bearing in mind the current unusual and difficult situation that we find ourselves in.

We note that a number of parishioners do not use Internet banking and would prefer to go to the bank and pay their weekly offertory directly into the church account. You can easily do this at any branch of any bank simply by quoting the BSB number and account number below to the bank teller. Alternatively, you can leave your offertory in an envelope addressed to the Treasurer at the church office when it is open—usually on Tuesday or Thursday (ring first to check on 9498 2744). If all else fails, you can contact any of the Churchwardens of the Acting Rector at any time using the contact details in this bulletin.

If you are not already using our direct debit system—we encourage you to transfer your weekly offertory to the St John’s account at:

Account Name:	St Johns Church Gordon
BSB:	032083
A/C:	810231

Thanks again for your prayerful support and if you would like to discuss any issue with any of the Churchwardens—feel free to “have a yarn” at any time (contact details on this bulletin).

The Churchwardens

Chris Russell AM

JK Seo

James Winter