

From The Churchwardens

COVID-19 UPDATE

7 July 2020

As you will be aware—the border has now been closed for anyone travelling from Victoria to NSW. Anyone travelling to NSW has to complete the same quarantine requirements as for overseas arrivals; hence for those attending our 8:00AM in-person service or intending to attend the AVM in person on 19 Jul, an additional declaration will be required that you have not visited Victoria or been in contact with anyone who has been in Victoria, in the last 14 days.

However, if you are well and not in a vulnerable group, we hope you will join us each Sunday as we wean ourselves off the on-line alternative. You will need to make the COVID-19 declarations when you apply each week by Thursday noon, preferably by e-mail (office@stjohnsgordon.org.au) or via phone (9498 2744—leave a message if no answer).

As from 1 July—the 50 person limit on services has ended and a four square meter per person rule now applies. The effect of this is to raise the limit on attendees to 63 (based on the area of the nave of St John's), so there is currently plenty of capacity to increase our attendance and we encourage you to do so.

[The Annual Vestry Meeting](#)

This year's delayed AVM will be held at 11:00AM or as soon as practical after the 9:30AM on-line service on 19 July. As previously advised—this meeting will be a combination of an in-person and on-line Zoom meeting (in both cases, based on pre-application). The agenda for the AVM will simply meet the governance requirements of the Ordinance and will be e-mailed separately. The meeting will be one hour in duration and any questions related to the reports should be e-mailed to the church office in advance of the meeting so that they can be considered and addressed either individually before the meeting or, if generally relevant to the meeting agenda, at the meeting.

As defined in the Parish Ordinance, if you have attended church either on-line or in person in the last three months, you are able to attend and vote in the elections. Please make that declaration in your application.

All the reports related to the meeting have been e-mailed or mailed and other than the Acting Rector's report, Treasurer's and Wardens' reports, will be taken as read and not spoken to at the meeting and a resolution that they be received will be put.

Financially ...

The financial report and budget have now been distributed and will be addressed at the AVM.

We should all be appreciative that the parish appears to have come on board with the on-line replacement options for the service collections and as mentioned by the Treasurer, we have seen the offertory return to similar levels as for last year in recent months. The Churchwardens are cognisant that on-line or remote offertory is out of the comfort zone of a number of parishioners and are grateful for the flexibility they have shown in continuing the financial support via one of the more remote methods we have offered.

We would encourage as many of you as are able to convert to a direct debit programme—however, all the banking details to enable you to directly deposit your offertory into the church account are shown on the back page of the pew bulletin.

Finally ...

In reviewing the year whilst preparing for the AVM—there is no doubt this is a year requiring flexibility, patience and a sensitivity to the needs of the community in the face of a silent adversity not encountered previously in our lifetimes. The Churchwardens, like everyone, are very unsure that we will continue on an upward path to normality in a world which seems to be in many cases spiralling towards greater tragedy and economic loss. We will, therefore, continue to stay informed, take advice, monitor and at all times support the

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Acting Rector in his spiritual care of the parish whilst ensuring we take all and any required action to minimise any risk to our congregation or indeed to the wider community.

Remember that if there is anything the parish can help you with—we have the support infrastructure in place thanks to our staff and supporting volunteers. All you have to do is let Father Ernest, the church office or any of the Churchwardens know.

The Churchwardens

Chris Russell AM

JK Seo

James Winter