

# From The Church Wardens

## COVID 19 UPDATE

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21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

This week saw the long delayed AVM finally occur via a ZOOM meeting. The reports were circulated and tabled separately. If you didn't receive any of them – please let the Church office know and they will be re-emailed to you.

The Acting Rector's, Warden's and Treasurer's reports had over-riding messages of encouragement and gratitude. Encouragement that we are, as a Parish, negotiating the current times with resilience, determination and positivity both in our spiritual support to each other as well as our finances - despite being unable to draw on any lessons of the past for a way forward. Indeed our faith as a community is one of the few foundation stones available to us that, with the Grace of God, we can be confident will defy the challenges that are currently being made to the biological success and freedoms of humanity as we know it that we have taken for granted in the past. The other foundations being our human intelligence and medical advances and our discipline as a sophisticated society.

That discipline then leads to the second common message of "gratitude" in the Parish Reports. Gratitude for the unstinting work of so many members of this Parish both "in-kind" and financially in maintaining both our spiritual and material support for each other. Gratitude also for your forbearance, despite many misgivings, with a changed, more remote and non-participatory style as we comply both with the Public Health orders and our over-riding, practical, need for us to care for and treasure the physical health of our parishioners – particularly those who are more vulnerable to this pandemic.

### The Current Situation

In that vein – new restrictions were brought back into place this week.

- Firstly – the overriding limit on public gatherings was re-established at 100. This does not materially change our position at St Johns since our limit for the entire Church is 93 and 63 in the Nave of the Church
- Secondly – if you have visited or come into contact with those that have visited any of the areas currently listed on the NSW Public health web site at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx> at the times shown you should only participate in our on line service and **Do not come to Church**. In addition you should take the recommended action (testing, self isolation or as recommended by NSW Health).

**For your convenience currently those areas currently include:**

- **Anywhere in Victoria**
- **Albion Park:** *C1 Speed Indoor Karting; McDonalds* **Batemans Bay:** *Soldiers Club;* **Campbelltown:** *Plus Fitness;* **Belfield:** *Mancini's Original Woodfired Pizza;* **Belmore:** *Canterbury Leagues Club;* **Brighton Le Sands:** *Hurricanes Grill;* **Casula:** *Crossroads*

*Hotel; Planet Fitness; Kmart (Casula Mall); Campbelltown: Bavarian Macarthur ; Macarthur Tavern; West Leagues Club; Carlingford: Carlingford Court; Chippendale: Holy Duck Restaurant ; Harris Park: Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite co-cathedral; Milperra: Frankie's Food Factory (located inside Flower Power Milperra); Mount Druitt: Westfield Mount Druitt North Wollongong: Rashays; Paddington: Love Supreme; The Village Inn; Parramatta: Milky Lane; Picton: Picton Hotel; Pyrmont: Star City Casino; Revesby: Bankstown YMCA ; Tahmoor: Pharmacy for Less; Villawood: Zone Bowling; Wetherill Park: Stockland Mall; Thai Rock Restaurant;*

However this list is constantly updating – so please check the NSW Public Health website for current hotspots.

### **The In-Person service –**

At this stage the in-person service at 8.00am will continue. The Wardens really appreciate the Sidespersons who have manned this each week since we recommenced.

We remind you that **You must re-register and make the declarations required each week** by Wed 5.00pm if you would like to attend. The declarations are changing based on the new outbreak areas so please ensure you can make those declarations confidently each week.

**Please also ensure you maintain the social distancing requirements at all times.** Given the current wave of new infections, our sides-people will likely be masked this week as they greet and assist people in the narthex at 8am. In particular please do not gather or have extended chats in the Narthex. Rather, please chat outside the church maintaining a 1.5m distance as indicated by the red crosses on the pavement. If you feel you cannot maintain a 1.5m distance at all times – masks are provided in the Narthex – feel free to take one.

The automatic hand sanitiser dispenser is now installed in the Narthex which avoids the need to touch the bottle – please use it both on arrival and as you leave.

**Please do not become less diligent as time moves on.** Our COVID safety plan depends on everyone's attention to detail and awareness and any lowering or dis-regard of our standards will necessitate the abandonment of the in-person service.

### **Finally...**

**Please do not forget to maintain your financial support of the Parish.** As reported at the AVM - the Church Wardens are working within the financial resources that the parishioners choose and are able, to provide. So far we have been able to maintain our operations and team, in part due to the Government's "Job Keeper" supplements. However we will need to wean ourselves off those over the months ahead and take up the financial responsibility for maintaining our Parish ourselves, even in the short to medium term absence of a return to our normal Sunday worship and offertory, Op Shop, Fete and other public fund raising initiatives. We would therefore ask that you prayerfully consider your increased financial support of your Parish, within your means, as we move forward – preferably via our Direct Debit system. The account details are on the back page of the Pew Bulletin.

If you have any concerns, needs or questions that we can help with - please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office or the Wardens using the contact details on the back page of the pew bulletin.

**The Church Wardens**

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