

From The Churchwardens

COVID-19 UPDATE AND PARISH NEWS

27 October 2020

The last fortnight has seen more people deciding they would like to return to in-person worship at 8:00AM. As some confidence returns and the infection levels remain low, the Churchwardens expect that this will continue and if you are not in a vulnerable group and are able to make the declarations as regards potential contact with COVID-19—we would all be delighted to see you again at church. Remember that the limits on numbers based on the floor area continue so you should pre-register with the office by Wednesday each week and at St John's you must wear a mask whilst you are at church.

We are delighted that as I (Chris Russell) write this, The Cathedral Singers are finalising a COVID safe plan to resume rehearsals. The plan will include all the NSW Health requirements that only five singers may sing at once, they must remain seated in the same place throughout the rehearsal and must be 5m from anyone ahead of them, including the conductor. However, it is a start and as the government grows in confidence we continue to hope and pray that we may see some form of carol music in time for Christmas.

As reported previously, the Op Shop team will be recommencing its sale days on 21 November. The format will be adapted to the requirements of our COVID plan and NSW Health regulations, but in essence you will be welcome to come and view the many useful and interesting items that have been stored up over the last 6 months and make your purchases on either 21 November or 12 December this year. We will, however, need a number of volunteers to be COVID Marshals on the day. If you are not in a vulnerable group of suffering from a chronic condition that increases the COVID-19 risk and would be able to help in this role, could you please let Jan McLachlan know via phone on 0408 641 037 or on her e-mail at janmclachlan@bigpond.com. We will be holding a briefing for those Marshals on 4 November at 5:30PM at church. In addition, if you would like to help by serving at the sales tables and are not in a vulnerable group or suffering from a chronic condition, it would be greatly appreciated—so could you please let Meg at the office know as soon as possible.

We also advised you of the initiative of the WEGS ladies in the establishment of a permanent shop in the entrance area of the church office just above the crypt. This shop will enable parishioners to pick up their jams, cakes, greeting cards, jewellery or other craft items normally sold on the first Sunday after the service at any time that the church office is open during the week (currently Tuesdays and Thursdays). If you would like to join WEGS and/or help these hard-working ladies either in baking, jam making,

homemade crafts or in manning the shop—please contact Rhonda Cramer or Robyn Kerr via the church office.

The Archbishop has reminded us that it is one year since the diocese as one prayed to God to deliver us from the terrible drought that we have seen for the last four years. This is of course very close to home for me as an agricultural scientist, but also to all of us who depend on our farmers for our food and much of our prosperity as a nation. In some areas now there is too much rain, which is sadly again costing farmers in the short term. However, as my father always told me—in the end ... *“there is always more money in mud than dust”*.

It is therefore only appropriate that we now give thanks to God for delivering us from that drought—with only 3% of the state now still officially in drought and those areas also likely to be declared drought-free soon. The Wardens would encourage you to join with them in giving thanks for this drought-breaking rain and the Archbishop has prepared a short video in this regard, including a diocesan prayer of thanksgiving. It can be found at <https://vimeo.com/472407460>.

Finally ...

Thank you for your patience and continued support as, with God’s guidance, we walk the line between risk reduction, compliance with the Health Orders and the meaningful operation of our community of faith. We look forward to seeing you each Sunday—either at church at our 8:00AM in-person service or on-line at 9:30AM.

The Churchwardens Chris Russell AM JK Seo James Winter