

The Rector's weekly Message

Sunday the 22nd of August 2021

Any suggestions?

What wording would you like to see on a sign/banner? This wording would be for the people passing in our community and further afield. At the moment, people's attention is directed to the Live-streamed Services whilst we are in lockdown.

Understandably, we must keep drawing people's attention to the Live-streamed Services. Yet, we have more to say! The Heavenly Father always extends His faithful love. Here is an example of one suggestion:

I am keen to reach out to both our Church and local communities. God's love doesn't stop at the boundaries of the Church property. If statistics are correct – more people are searching and re-assessing what is essential in their lives. **Life-line** has received over 13,000 calls in one day, proving that more people are calling for help. Would you please pray as we try to connect with our local communities those who are searching for greater meaning to life? I am praying they come to know and experience the love of God.

When O Lord?

The Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, has announced today, Friday the 20th of August, that lockdown of Greater Sydney is to remain until the end of September. This is not a surprise with the case numbers of those contracting COVID still rising. What was pleasing was to hear that 5.6 million people have received their vaccination. 54% have had one, with 29% who are now fully vaccinated. I share these numbers as a cause for us all to give a prayer of thanks to the LORD for his good providence. A true joy for the Christian is the reality we know; God is with us, even though we may be experiencing loneliness, being sad or even worried about our present situations. God is with His people, all who call upon His name. I commend the prayer included in the two previous weeks of the Rector's Weekly Message.

Parish Fete, Fair.

Pat, the Wardens, and I have been keeping a watchful eye on whether the Parish Fair would be possible to proceed. Obviously, even if we are to come out of lockdown in late September, we would not be permitted to have the crowds we would desire to attend the Parish Fete. Therefore the Parish Fete for 2021 has been cancelled. I know that this is a disappointing decision, yet it reflects the situation we find ourselves in. My thanks to Pat Gaudry and her team of willing workers. I appreciate all the work carried out behind the scenes. Melinda & I were looking forward to experiencing the Parish Fete, and we will now have to wait until 2022.

Feeling:

Lonely?



Worried ?



Sad?



We are praying for you!

Need to talk? Phone: 9498 2744

God's mercies are new every morning!

Sing to the LORD!

Dr Brett McKern has organised for us all to have an opportunity to sing. The Singalong will commence at **6pm, Friday, the 27th of August**. The Hymn sheet is also attached. The zoom details are:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79319494674?pwd=THJxdEM2dGl1dGtDVXJDU2t3cHhjUT09>

Meeting ID: 793 1949 4674

Passcode: fXuxR9

I hope you will be able to join others from the parish for the Singalong. I remind everyone that we all have to 'mute' our mics to hear the music once we start singing. The Singalong will be a new experience for many of us, which I hope will be a fun event. Thank you, Brett, for the initiative and for organising this event.

Anglicare:

A colleague has approached me to explore the possibility of Anglicare working from St. Johns. The discussion is in its very early stages, and I will bring to the Wardens the proposals as they begin to formulate how and if they can offer a counselling ministry under the Anglicare banner. I bring this to your attention so you can start to pray as we seek the LORD's guidance of this ministry at St Johns should be supported. Anglicare is in the process of seeking a government grant to establish this short-term ministry. I am so pleased that even in shutdown, opportunities for new fields of ministry are being explored.

Afghanistan:

The images of the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban are disturbing. The fear of reprisals for all who assisted the coalition forces during the twenty-year war is becoming a reality. The Taliban also deny this truth. You and I can feel helpless and watch in horror, yet there is more that we can do. Do not underestimate the LORD as He is sovereign. I include the following prayer for your consideration:

O God, our heavenly Father, look mercifully upon the unrest in the world, especially Afghanistan, and draw all to yourself and to one another in the bonds of peace. Grant understanding to all the nations involved, with an increase of sympathy and mutual goodwill; that they may be united in true brotherhood wherein justice and mercy, truth and freedom, so that the sacrifices of those who died may not be in vain, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Archdeacon Robert Sutherland will be preaching during the following Live-streamed Service from Brisbane Cathedral this Sunday. The Service will be a lament for Afghanistan.

Sunday the 22nd at Noon

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNK4UfKhyzHdskN-s_Q9e4Q

May the Peace of the LORD be with you.

Reverend Robert Happer.
0401950724