

From The Rector's desk

COVID 19 UPDATE

26th February 2021

The latest!

As you will have heard – the Health orders for Church Services have changed as from midnight Friday 26 February. This has now been confirmed by the Archbishop in a letter to the Rector and Churchwardens today

In summary the church has a choice. Either

- We can reintroduce singing to the services but must revert to the 4 square metre rule and the wearing of masks by everyone throughout the service, including anyone who chooses not to sing.
- We can continue with the current 2 square metre per person rule and no compulsory mask wearing but without any congregational singing.
- All other requirements for registration and social distancing remain.

At St Johns this week...

The Wardens and I have decided for this Sunday to provide an opportunity for either option.

- The 8:00am service will continue as is – with masks recommended but not required but no congregational singing.
- The 9:30am service will now incorporate congregational singing of hymns, however masks must be worn by everyone attending throughout the service – even if they do not wish to sing.
- The current seating arrangements using alternate pews and spaced seating within the pew will continue.

These arrangements will be reviewed by the Churchwardens and myself next week and arrangements for next week's services will be advised by email and in the Pew Bulletin.

Friends, I do wish to share with you that Archbishop Glenn has, and continues to express his concerns that it seems to be a grave inconsistency in relation to the restrictions on Places of Worship compared to other community organisation. Nevertheless, you and I are called to be good citizens. I can assure you – Archbishop Glenn and his team are having ongoing discussions with Ministers of Parliament, etc. regarding these inconsistencies. He has also highlighted to them the reality that a number of other states and territories have no such restrictions regarding singing in Places of Worship. At this time, you and I are required to exercise the fruit of the Spirit: **patience**. Let us continue to express our trust in God, through praying that the roll out of the vaccines will be effective. As we pray and have patience let us all look forward to the time when the restrictions allowing congregational singing only by wearing masks will be rescinded.

Your Rector
Fr Robert H