

A note from the Rector

Saturday the 7th of August 2021

The Pandemic:

I commence this weekly communication with the ongoing concerns regarding the pandemic. News regarding hospital admissions, I would suggest, cause us all to stop and pray for these victims of the pandemic. At the time of writing this note, fifty people are receiving intensive care—with twenty-two patients on ventilators. The Delta variant continues its insidious capability to spread within our community, the country of Australia, and many major cities of the world. I invite you to continue to pray, for the eradication of the coronavirus in all its variants.

O LORD, the one true God, we humbly come before you and seek your mercy. We know you are our sure hope and defence. Strengthen those who have suffering due to this pandemic. We ask in your goodness to eradicate the coronavirus. We thank you for the skills and creativity you have given humanity, prosper their endeavours in working towards the total elimination of the coronavirus. We continue to place ourselves in your hands, confident that nothing can separate us from your love. We ask all this in the name of your Son, our Saviour – Jesus Christ. Amen.

I know there are many competing interests in bringing our society back to normal. The reality is that there will be some businesses that may not survive. The unemployment lines have grown and will continue to grow. I have also been praying for the small businesses and their employees:

Heavenly Father, you are our refuge and strength; you have bound humanity together for the common good. Help all in our society during this pandemic. Grant to all hope and protect all from despair and depression. Grant that society will work together for the good and respect for all. Finally, gracious Father, end the pandemic; We ask all this in the name of your Son, our Saviour – Jesus Christ. Amen.

Some pleasing news regarding the pandemic. It has been revealed 50% of adults have received the first of two Covid – inoculation. There are now 22% of the adult population in NSW who have received both inoculations. Part of the NSW government strategies to fight COVID is to reach 70% of the adult population fully vaccinated. We are definitely moving in the correct direction.

Around the Parish:

In today's mail out, I have included a letter from Edward Happer. Edward preached last Sunday, and I pass on his thanks for the encouraging comments regarding the sermon. I am very mindful of my position as Rector and the whole area of nepotism. With all that in mind, Melinda and I commend the letter of our youngest son, Edward, to you. I invite you to continue praying for all the theological students, especially those you may know. These

theological students seek the LORD's direction in their respective lives as they move away from careers and dedicate themselves to the LORD through their studies.

The Church is in lockdown; as a result, we have no groups meeting in person. Zoom has become a helpful tool, so is talking via the phone, or writing letters or emails. There is work that continues. I have taken communion to those who have requested to receive the sacrament. This Sacramental ministry is to those who are not using modern technology. The Public Health Orders still have various limitations to where I can go and whom I may visit.

At a recent zoom staff meeting, I can report that Cynthia has recommenced the mailing out to all of those on her previous list. Cynthia is doing all this work from home, which of course, has limitations. Meg is both working at the Church Office and part of her time at home. At this stage, I must stress that the Church, which includes the Church Office, is in lockdown; if you wish to see a member of staff, phone and you will receive the appropriate directions and limitations.

I had a very encouraging discussion with the Reverend Archie Polous. Archie is the head of ministry development at Moore College. I was asking if there were students available for 2022? Including the availability of any bilingual students. A student who can speak Mandarin would assist Fr Ernest as well as the parish. Years ago, we would have called such a person a catechist. Moore college would expect a theological student to work up to ten hours in a parish, including preparation time. Would you continue to pray that the LORD will open the door for a theological student to minister at St John's next year?

I do apologise to all who attended the 'Chat with the Rector' last week. I had technical difficulties, which meant I was at the start and then at the end of the meeting. Those difficulties have been rectified since that meeting. I have had three zoom meetings since then, with no technical problems.

Everyone is welcome to join the meeting this week:

Fr Robert is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Parish Meeting

Every week on Tuesday evening, 7pm, until the 31st of August

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87882612754>

Meeting ID: 878 8261 2754

From a proud grandparent:

Thomas sent this recent photo of his son Billy, our eldest grandchild. His father gave him his first haircut during the current lockdown. All his curls are gone! The adjacent picture is of Billy helping his dad, Thomas, cleaning the front yard.

I have always encouraged my sons to 'work' no matter what their age. Hopefully, as they work together, they will find satisfaction through working/helping. I am pleased Thomas is keeping this tradition alive!

May the Peace of the LORD be with you all!

Fr. Robert H.

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