

# The Rector's Weekly Message:

Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2021

## Thursday 10am Communion Service:

I will be recommencing this weekly Service from **Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October**. This Service of Holy Communion will follow the format we were using before the Public Health Orders required us to go into lockdown. The observance of the Public Health Orders of wearing masks, observing the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule, and signing in will be a requirement for the attendance of this Service. There will be assistance available to sign in if it is required.

I am looking forward to the fellowship of this group. Why not consider marking your diary and include this Service as part of your week.

## Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October

Praise the Lord! Next week we can meet in person at both Sunday Services. I hope you have a sense of excitement regarding the freedom to attend Church Services again. In our joy to return, please be mindful that some of our members will not be attending Church in person but rather watching the lived streamed Service because of their 'immune status'.

There will be Public Health Orders which will all have to observe.

- ✓ Thank you for wearing masks in Church; it is mandatory.
- ✓ Thank you for Signing in using the QR code – assistance can be given; it is mandatory.
- ✓ Thank you for observing good Hygiene practices; the Hand sanitiser stations are working well.
- ✓ Thank you for sitting in the appropriate pew – this allows us to adhere to the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule.
- ✓ You can follow the hymns in the Hymnbooks, albeit no congregational singing.
- ✓ The liturgies do have more 'said' responses to encourage congregational participation.
- ✓ Distribution of Holy Communion will be coming down the outside aisles and returning to your pew through the centre aisle.
- ✓ Thank you for not congregating in the Church after the Service; you are encouraged to spend time talking outside in the fresh air. The wearing of masks would be appropriate.

These changes in the Public Health Order is another indication that we are moving towards normality. Yet, I must stress that all of November does not allow for congregational singing at this stage. The removal of restriction on Congregational singing is expected to be removed in stage Three of the NSW Road Map to Recovery, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

***A separate email will be sent out during the week to confirm the current Public Health Orders and how they affect the worship services.***

## Deputy Organist & Music Director.

Nicola and I have worked through the Public Health Orders and how the Services will be conducted until we move into stage three of the **NSW road to freedom** which for Church Services is the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

Nicola will be organising 'singers' for both the 8am and the 9:30 am Sunday Services for stage two of the **NSW road to freedom**. This stage commences on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October up to and including the 29<sup>th</sup> of November. During stage two, there is no congregational singing. Hence the importance of Nicola co-ordinating singers for both services.

Nicola and I have commenced a preliminary discussion of the Advent and Christmas celebrations for this year. Also, this year all the work behind the musical aspects of the various Services will not be shared between the Organist /Musical Director and his deputy. Rather, Nicola will have the responsibility, and I suggest ably supported by every member of the Parish.

## **Marriages at St John's.**

On Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, I will be conducting my first marriage at St. Johns. Another wedding was planned for August, but that was cancelled due to the August Public Health Orders prohibiting weddings. Thank you for all who have been praying for Bethany and Regan as they prepared to exchange those solemn vows. Thank you also to those who assisted in the practical side of the Service, having the Church organised for this special event.

On Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, I will be conducting the marriage of Catriona and Inzu also at St John's. The Public Health Orders' frustration has now given way to joy as this happy couple can have more people attend their special day. Both Dr Kern & Nicola will be enhancing this Marriage Service with their respective musical and singing skills. Another good event in the diary. It was rightly mentioned to me that it looks like *normality* is returning to the life of the Church.

## **Joys all around us:**

Melinda & I received from my daughter-in-law a short clip of our granddaughter. Dorothy had the drum sticks in hand and enjoyed herself on her father's drumkit. Her enjoyment was contagious. The joy of watching grandchildren grow is truly a blessing from God.

The bottle-brush trees are flowering and have attracted the Rainbow Lorikeets. These beautiful birds are both timid and, at the same time, allow people to get close to them before taking flight. Yesterday there was a pair of King Parrots in the front yard of the Rectory. I was watching them as I enjoyed morning tea on the verandah.

It has been a great joy to witness various individuals starting to return and volunteer their time in some aspect of the life of the Parish. The business of those sorting the donating goods for the Op-Shop is a prime example. Today not long after the last person went home, leaving the sorting areas clear – more donated goods arrived. I have spoken to some of those leaving donations, and the vast majority appreciate the Church offering a place to leave their unwanted goods and at the same time provide an opportunity to help others.

Congratulations to one couple who have placed an order for a new car. It is an electric car, a Tesla. When describing the vehicle, they said it doesn't have a brake pedal. At first, I was sure they were pulling my leg. A quick google search affirmed that this vehicle doesn't have a brake pedal when you remove your foot from the accelerator pedal – the 'brakes' are engaged. I will be keen to have a look at their new car when it arrives. The advances in technology are incredible.

## **A Prayer of grateful heart:**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they were created and have their being. You are worthy, Lamb of God, for you were slain, and with your blood, you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign with you on earth. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever. Amen (Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13)

*May the peace of the LORD be with you:*

Fr Robert H  
0401 950 724