

# A Message from the Rector

Fr. Robert Happer

Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of March:

## **It is time:**

The Public Orders have been modified or removed. Society is now being directed to embrace the concept of getting on with our lives. This directive is primarily for those vaccinated, including the booster. The wearing of a mask is for Public transport and in situations where you cannot socially distance. At St John's, we will adopt the position that wearing a mask during Church Services is now the individual's choice.

Since the pandemic, safety protocols were implemented, which I continued with modification. Last Sunday, I determined it was time to reintroduce the receiving of the sacrament in the sanctuary at the Communion Rails. You can either stand or kneel to receive the sacrament. At this stage, I believe we still have to exercise caution regarding using the **common cup**; therefore, I will not be reintroducing the use of the common cup at this stage – rather, I will be continuing to administer the sacrament by the current practice. You can take and consume the sacrament whilst kneeling (standing) at the communion rails – and then return to your pew.

Being the people of God, it must be more encouraging for us all to return to kneeling 'together' at the Communion rails. This action moves us more tangibly towards receiving the sacrament 'together' as the people of God.

As you return to your pew, there will be an option to light a candle, as I am introducing a sandbox near the vestry door: This will complement the candelabra in the chapel.

It is also time to reintroduce the liturgical team. As a parish, the Parish has been served well by James done the bulk of the work, especially during lock-down. We all appreciate James' commitment to being at all the services. He has performed the duties of preparation and reverently cleaning and caring for the vessels.

## **Children's Ministry**

The meeting with interested people to discuss Children's ministry was helpful and productive. There was an overall consensus. **It is time** for St John's to embrace the commitment to reach out to the children/families of the Parish.

The first step towards Children's ministry is re-establishing the ministry known as Playgroup. It is envisaged that this Playgroup will be inclusive and open to all and will be in English.

God has blessed us through our forebears, and we have great physical resources – the buildings, the equipment for the children, and wisdom through experience. What is needed is human resources. The need will be for a person to 'run' this group and others (regardless of age) to assist. Would you consider asking God how you may be able to help this ministry? Would you please pray that the LORD will raise a suitable leader for this ministry?

Playgroup would be the first step of reaching back into our local community – ministering to young mothers and their little children. The joy and privilege of encouraging them into the ‘life’ of St. Johns could be ours.

### **Working-bee in Lent:**

On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March there will be a working bee at the Church. This working bee will be for cleaning the brass, silverware, and Church furniture. Last year this event was well attended, and the work carried out was evident and much appreciated. St John’s has been indeed blessed with our furnishings, and it is very honouring of those who gave them to keep them in good order. The working-bee will be from 9-12noon. Please mark your diaries and support this important work.

### **Daily Eucharist During the Season of Lent:**

To continue to celebrate our Anglo-Catholic heritage, I have reinstated Eucharist daily. Albeit I sought feedback for a suitable time for a morning Eucharist – I received no feedback. What I have decided is to conduct the **daily Eucharist at 5pm:**

The Pattern for these Services will be:

Monday 5pm

Tuesday 5pm

Wednesday 5pm

**Thursday 10am**

Friday 5pm

**Saturday 8am**

To allow variety, I have produced Orders of Services which combine the Evening Office with a different Thanks-giving. All the services are from the A Prayer Book for Australia (APBA).

Everyone is invited to attend any or all of these Services. Friends, you may consider attending these more intimate Services, which in turn may be an excellent step to returning to Sunday Church after a long period of viewing the Services online.

May the LORD of Grace, continue to give you His Peace: Fr Robert H

