

Notices for Sunday 22 March 2020

1. We have received a message from our Archbishop that as from tomorrow, worship services are suspended until further notice. Our church leaders are carefully checking and monitoring the situation and keeping us informed and we will pass information on to you as it arrives.
2. There will be a special Parish Council Meeting this afternoon to discuss the best way to deal with these most unusual circumstances. We will discuss how we maintain worship, contact with parishioners and also finances as all expenses associated with running a parish will continue despite the suspended services. We ask you to please maintain your offering so that when all has returned to normal, we will have a functioning parish to return to. Details of how you may do this are in the pew bulletin insert.
3. Although we won't have worship as we've traditionally conducted it, we will continue to worship, however, in a non-gathered way. Instead, we will gather via the internet using a live-streaming format. You will be advised how to link into this when the set-up is complete.
4. Morning Prayer will be conducted on the parish Facebook page at 8:00am from Monday to Saturday inclusive. We are willing to adjust this time as necessary to either 8:30 or 9:00am. To link into it, go into Facebook on your device and in the search window, enter Anglican Parish of Maleny. If you don't have an account, you will need to set one up and will be directed to do that when you first open the Facebook app. Facebook is free.
5. For St Mary's, Morning Prayer and Bible Study will continue this week in the church, though we will maintain safe distances and follow hygiene precautions.
6. The Eucharist will continue to be celebrated each Sunday, but through an online platform. We are currently in the process of setting up all that is required to live stream this to you in interactive form via Zoom. Again, you will need to set up a free zoom account. We will send invitations through Zoom to each parishioner who has an email account which you can then accept so you can link into your parish services each Sunday. I believe that it is possible to make a phone connection and listen to the service as it is 'zoomed' in the parish. For those without electronic equipment, a copy of the service with prayers and sermon included will be posted.
7. When the zoom link is established, we will also conduct Bible Studies through Zoom as this platform allows interaction between participants.
8. Weekly Pew Bulletins will continue to be published and will be emailed to those with email facilities or posted to those without them.

9. Contact with each of our parishioners will be maintained as best we can. Since we're not able to meet you as we normally have done, we will strive to ensure all are contacted by phone and electronic means; please contact us to confirm that we have your best contact details. Please complete the form in today's Pew Bulletin and return it to the parish office or to a member of the clergy.
10. As a Christian faith community, we encourage you also to maintain contact with each other in safe ways.
11. Rev'ds Jim and Ann are also offering a 'Dial a Prayer' service, so that if you are troubled about anything and would like prayer, please don't hesitate to phone us. Our numbers are listed in the pew bulletin – or a call to the parish office can provide them. We would also appreciate it if you would provide us with any prayer requests which you'd like us to include in the Morning Prayers or Sunday worship services. We will continue to pray for each of you during this time.
12. Although we were hoping that our churches would remain open, at least for part of the day, to provide a safe sacred space for people to reflect, pray and draw strength and hope, we have received updated instructions from the government through our Diocese that all non-essential business, buildings and spaces where people congregate are to be closed. Unfortunately, this means that our churches, halls and grounds are no longer to be opened or to be used for people to gather. As a result, it become more imperative that we maintain connection in alternate ways, providing support and encouragement for each other through phone or electronic means, praying for each other and holding onto our God, whose Spirit is with us wherever we are, uniting us in spirit with each other and with God. We pray that you will know the close presence of our Lord during these challenging times, that you will be sustained and will experience the peace of God that will hold you through all trials.
13. Above all, remember we are only a phone call away and will do all we can to assist and support you during this time.

Grace, love, and peace; and remember the grace of God will suffice for anything we may encounter, even though it tests us sorely and grieves us deeply. God is our strength and our refuge, a very present help in trouble (Ps 46:1 and hymn 28 in TiS).

Rev'd Ann & Rev'd Jim.