



Anglican Parish of Gisborne

COVID-19 Pastoral Update
March 21st, 2020

Dear Friends,

Following the meeting of Parish Council today, the following decisions were made regarding worship and meetings through to Easter.

As you are aware, this is a difficult time for the community, and keeping things 'as usual' is both challenging and pastorally demanding.

The following was resolved:

Given the prevailing public health challenge and guidance from Fr Dennis, the following changes will occur:

- Worship Services will cease across the Parish following the last service at each centre, this weekend, effective March 22nd, 2020
- Each Church centre will be open as much as possible during the week for personal reflection, prayer and sanctuary.
- Each Church Centre will be thoroughly cleaned to minimise the spread of any communicable disease.
- Online services and support materials will be available for parishioners to access.
- Materials for Sunday can be delivered if requested.
- Pastoral emergencies will be responded to as required.
- Online stewardship (offertory) will be available on the Parish Website to enable ongoing giving and support of Parish projects, mission giving and functioning.
- Offertory Envelopes can be collected by the Treasurer and his team if requested.
- Op Shops will continue if possible, at the discretion of the Parish Executive in consultation with Janine and Chris. Please note the next point:
- **YOUR OWN PERSONAL HEALTH PLAN MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY ROSTERED ACTIVITY. IF YOU ARE NOT WELL OR NOT SURE, PLEASE STAY HOME AND LET US KNOW YOU ARE OKAY.**

During the Easter period, there will be only two services observed in the Parish

- Good Friday will be an outdoor observance at a place to be determined
- Easter Dawn New Fire will go ahead at Church of the Resurrection Car Park, 6 am.

The ANZAC Day stall and the Autumn Leaf Festival has been cancelled. The Stall may re-appear later in the year.

Online resources are best accessed from the front page of the Parish website

www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au

Stewardship/Offertory page will be active as from tomorrow from the same site.

Please continue to be faithful in prayers and contact with one another.

Fr Dennis Webster
together with the Parish Council

Loving God,
in this time of anxiety and uncertainty,
help us to focus on your presence with us
knowing that when two or three are gathered
you are in our midst.

Settle the sense of panic in our community
and bind us together as your body
to reach out in faith, hope and love.

Thank you for the gift of medical science:
bless all who are working on both relief and protection.

Heal the sick, and guide the eyes, ears and hands
of all who are caring.

Above all,
thank you for your blessings to us
as we continue to be your people in adversity,
providing leadership and compassion as required.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.