

19 March 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Although we're living in uncertain times right now, please take courage because God is good & God is always in control. If you are feeling unsettled or unwell, let me encourage you to rest, eat well, sleep well &, if need be, contact your GP. Given our Prime Minister's announcement yesterday (Thursday March 18) & the subsequent announcement from our Archbishop Glenn Davies, I need to let you know of some important decisions that have been made at this stage concerning our church. We will of course continue to monitor & review these decisions as required, as further information arises. Please be assured that people's safety & wellbeing is paramount & that decisions made seek to love & honour God & love you & our wider community.

After meeting with several other Senior Minister's yesterday, subsequent discussions with our Archdeacon & our Wardens & a meeting with our staff team this morning, I'd like to let you know of our immediate plans at this stage:

#### **SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES**

The Archbishop announced yesterday that *In light of the Prime Minister's announcement this morning, banning enclosed gatherings in excess of 100 people, I have decided that the Anglican Church in Sydney should suspend all public church gatherings until further notice.*

Accordingly, our church leadership has suspended our Sunday church services until further notice. Instead, the plan we are working on for Sundays is online church services, which we will email you a link to, for you to view & engage with at the time you'd normally have church on Sunday. You should receive this email approx. 30 minutes before your scheduled service time.

Any resources or links for Vine Kids & Sunday Tribe may also form part of that email.

#### **SMALL GROUPS**

The guidelines provided by our Archbishop state that *If you can ensure that non-public groups meeting in homes are able to operate with appropriate social distancing (e.g., in a large space maintaining a 1.5 metre distance between people) then it may be possible to continue to meet in this way.*

Accordingly, we are encouraging our small groups to keep meeting in whatever form each group decides & is comfortable with, as a constant & continual source of Christian fellowship & encouragement.

If meeting on site at KAC or in homes, we ask that each group member always maintains safe practices around social distancing, such as maintaining a 1.5 metre distance between people, hand washing before & after meeting, no physical contact, no serving of food, & follow other safe practices as outlined by NSW Health guidelines, including self isolating if need be.

If groups prefer not to meet in person &/or are unable to maintain appropriate social distancing, we recommend the internet tool *Zoom* as a way of continuing to meet together. Zoom is free, very simple to use & allows you to continue to gather remotely in exploring God's word, praying for each other & spurring one another on towards love & good deeds. Here's a short 'how to' video regarding Zoom: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJq\\_OM5VcDY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJq_OM5VcDY)

**Kellyville Anglican Church**

45 President Road, PO Box 29, Kellyville NSW 2155

Phone: (02) 9629 6255 / Email: [office@kac.sydney](mailto:office@kac.sydney) / [www.kac.sydney](http://www.kac.sydney)

### **OTHER GROUPS**

The guidelines provided by our Archbishop state that *We consider youth groups, children's ministries and other mid-week meetings, including ESL, to be public gatherings and therefore they ought to cease.*

Accordingly, a number of our other ministries are unable to operate, some of which may have online options, details of which will be provided by those leaders to their groups as soon as possible.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

As the guidelines provided by our Archbishop state that *There is no mechanism under our ordinances to have a "virtual" AGM*, our AGM for KAC is postponed (from Sunday 29 March) until further notice.

### **HILLS MISSION 2020**

As discussed & agreed yesterday by the Senior Pastors of our Hills District Anglican Churches, ALL Mission 2020 events have been postponed. Please be assured that the team is planning to bring THERE IS HOPE to 2021 & dates will be confirmed when possible.

### **THANKSGIVING SERVICE for IVAN LEE**

The Archbishop has advised that the Thanksgiving Service for Bishop Ivan Lee has sadly needed to be cancelled.

He knows that many of us will be saddened not to gather in celebration of Ivan's life and ministry, but if you would like to pray for Virginia as she commences a new stage of her life, that would be greatly appreciated.

### **Prayer**

Please pray that God will be glorified, that His people will be strengthened & not afraid & that we will serve one another & our wider community in love in these difficult times.

Pray also:

- for those who may be feeling unsettled &/or unwell
- for those on the front line caring for the vulnerable & ill
- that we will continue on strong in our mission of bringing people (ourselves & others) to Jesus.

Your partner in Christ's Service,

Mike Heptonstall  
Senior Minister