



# GUNNEDAH ANGLICAN CHURCH

**In Touch // 22 March 2020**

## **STRENGTHENED THROUGH THE SHUT DOWN**

### **Bible Readings**

Deuteronomy 6:1 – 9                      Page 178  
Hebrews 10:1 – 25                      Page 1190  
Pre-reading for next week's Sermon  
John 4:43 – 52

### **Mission Statement**

Love God, Follow His Word, Seek the Lost,  
Equip them for His Kingdom.

**Senior Minister:**

**Associate Minister: David Piper 6742 7970**

Church Office: 6742 0038 Wednesday 9am – 3pm; Friday 12pm – 3pm

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# WELCOME

Welcome to all who are visiting with us today!

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

John 3:36

## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM NSW BISHOPS, WED 18TH MARCH

"In light of the Prime Minister's announcement this morning, banning enclosed gatherings in excess of 100 people and in order to express Christ's concern for all people, especially the elderly and vulnerable, we have decided that the Anglican Church in New South Wales and the ACT should suspend all public church gatherings until further notice. The Dioceses of Sydney, Newcastle and Canberra & Goulburn will suspend services from Sunday, 22 March and the Diocese of **Armidale**, Bathurst, Grafton and Riverina will suspend services from **Sunday, 29 March 2020**.

"We are encouraging all our churches to consider providing their services online or by other communication methods. Where this is not possible our Dioceses will ensure that online services and other resources are made widely available. We shall make every effort to care for our church communities and the wider public, especially those who are isolated and vulnerable.

"We call on all Christians to pray for health workers and those seeking to develop a vaccine, and to pray that the spread of this disease may slow. God's love for all people has not diminished, nor his sovereignty over his world. Therefore, we urge all people to trust in God's goodness and mercy in this crisis, and we encourage Christians everywhere to show Christ's love to those affected."

## SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

- 1) No public gatherings after Sunday 22nd March, until further notice. This includes church services, youth group, play group and school scripture.
- 2) Small groups (Bible studies, committee meetings) can still operate providing that the following guidelines are followed:
  - a) careful hygiene and social distancing (1.5 metre gaps)
  - b) sick people (of any sort) stay away
- 3) Funerals will be graveside only, perhaps with memorial services at a later date.

## MEETING WITHOUT MEETING

In the light of the situation, our challenge is how to love others while heeding the encouragement of Hebrews 10:25

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

In such difficult times, we need the encouragement of each other all the more! Details follow about how we will seek to do that, though the situation will be constantly under review.

## KEEPING IN FELLOWSHIP – THE PAPER OPTION

We can continue to share together in reading the same prayers, passages, and message each week.

Put aside time each Sunday morning, or another time in the week, to read the Bible, pray and read or listen to the sermon. And make an effort to call at least one other person to talk, pray, and to ask 'what is this Bible passage saying to you?'

Copies of the notice sheet and a printed sermon will be available in a box outside the church office each Friday afternoon for the week following.

If you would like it

### **KEEPING IN FELLOWSHIP – THE ONLINE OPTION**

We aim to have an online church service next Sunday 29th, either to watch live or pre-recorded. You will be doing yourself a favour to continue your time in fellowship.

Also, I'm sure our Facebook page will be more active at this time.

Audio and text versions of notices and sermons will be available online.

### **SMALL GROUPS**

Small groups can choose whether they continue to meet or not. But whether they meet in person or not, I encourage groups to stay in contact. If you can't come, then still do your Bible study then call another group member and talk about it!

Small groups are welcome to use the church hall or potters room if they want to spread out a bit more and practice social distancing.

### **CARING FOR EACH OTHER**

Christians have distinguished themselves in crises by continuing to care for others. So if you need practical help with shopping, picking up medications, or sermons/bulletins/CDs delivered, please don't hesitate to call!

If you are willing to help those in need with shopping, deliveries, phone calls, or other options, please talk to David or Julie.

I urge everyone to call at least 2 people from the congregation to keep up the fellowship, and to check on each other. Perhaps choose 1 person close to you, and one who may be more isolated. If you would like suggestions of some more isolated people that you could call, then talk to David.

### **GIVING**

David will still be working full time and our budget remains the same. Now is a good time to switch to electronic giving. Details are: Gunnedah Anglican Church – BSB 082842, Account Number 676329471.

Alternatively, you can make deposits directly at the bank, or save up your weekly envelopes until we can meet again.

### **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – 29TH**

Please join in praying for our nation and world at this time. More details next week, whether on paper or online.

### **FINAL WORD**

Read more about how we can respond in my sermon. I can see great opportunities for growth during this time. God wastes no opportunities in our trials! God can really grow our faith, our love and care for each other, and our witness to our community.

Romans 8:38-39: *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **CONTACT**

Office hours remain the same

Contact David on 0404 027359 (the home phone isn't working)

### **Parish Vision Prayer No 3**

**Heavenly Father,**

**Please be at work in our community opening many hearts to the gospel and using us to shine as a light for you, that many would be drawn to Jesus in repentance and faith, and become established among His people. Please compel us with Christ's love, strengthen us in our prayer and witness, give us courage to speak and faithfulness to persevere.**

**In Jesus' Name, Amen**

**Sickness – pray for** Joan Eyeington, Roslyn Gruber, Nancy Sharman, Judy White, Brian & Lorna Thompson, Ken Schofield, Betty Brady, Bob Groth, Julie Gosper, Marj Holton, Michael Fordham, Geoff Swain, Joy Pearson, Rev Greg Peisley and Reena McIntosh (Phil & Tina's granddaughter)

**Prayer Support available** – please see Wayne Langdon, Robyn Sommerlad, Helen Anderson or Sandra Price.

### **FOR PRAYER**

- That the epidemic would be stopped across Australia and the world.
- For health workers and our leaders, to be wise, fair, compassionate, and have strength.
- That God would give us opportunities to shine like stars, showing his mercy to others.
- That people would indeed become more connected, not less, at this time.

**Diocese: Pray for the Parish of St Mark's Chapel (UNE Campus, Armidale)**

Vicar Gary and Rebecca Eastment

Campus Minister Matthew and Felicity Sheridan

Women and Children's Worker Tam Ramsay

International Student Worker Grace Barratt

**Pray for the Parish of Walgett / Collarenebri**

Vicar George and Carmel Ferguson

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### **SERMON NOTES**

#### **STRENGTHENED THROUGH THE SHUTDOWN**

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 | Hebrews 10:1-25

Intro – what is your reaction?

3 ways to strengthen our church:

1. Strengthen our relationship with God
2. Strengthening our relationship with each other
3. Strengthening our Gospel witness