

Dear Church family,

I'm heading off on annual leave and some study leave starting this Monday. My time off will be 21st September - 8th October. So this will be the last Parish Update we'll have until mid October, unless there is some urgent news.

10:30 Communion this week, once a month going forward

This week we are having Communion at 10:30 for the first time since COVID restrictions took force. We expect it to take longer than in the past, and there will be a new procedure, in order to allow for COVID-safe distancing and hygiene. Due to the extra length of time taken, and the challenges of organisation, I anticipate us moving to monthly Communion at 10:30 going forward.

Zoom Waiting Room to be introduced

Zoom are changing their rules, such that from September 27th, each Zoom meeting is required to either have a password or a waiting room. We have decided to implement a waiting room, starting this Sunday. This means that those coming to church via Zoom from this Sunday will have a different experience in terms of access, with a need to wait to be granted access. Please be ready for that.

Chairs and Pews

On Wednesday night, Parish Council discussed further ways to ensure appropriate spacing of individuals and families, while potentially increasing the number who can legally fit in the church building. We are intending to remove the older uncomfortable pews, and introduce some more chairs at the front. We also intend to space out the pews more, to avoid the need to rope off every second pew. This will not happen immediately, as certain permissions must be sought from the Diocese before removing pews. But the changes may occur in the next month.

COVID Marshal request

We are still in need of more people to be COVID marshals. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. We have especially had volunteers from the 8:30 service, so if anyone is willing to volunteer for this role from the 10:30 service, that would be particularly helpful. Contact Richard at the office if you would like to volunteer.

Mike's Book Launch Tuesday 13th October 7:30pm at the Church

Some of you will have seen that I have recently published a book entitled 'Seeing Good, Doing Evil: The Limits of Moral Ignorance'. Here's how I put the question I try to answer: "if neither general revelation nor natural law are accessible to people reliably, how can God justly judge them for their ignorance and hold them morally culpable for failing to live according to revelation they cannot reliably access?" Put another way, Christians say we all need Jesus to save us from God's just judgment. We need saving because we've all failed to live up to God's standards. But if God's standards aren't successfully communicated to people, how is it fair for God to judge us in the first place? That's what the book tries to answer.

It's reasonably academic - it's the published version of the thesis I wrote for my Master of Theology. We'll sell the book on the night for \$15, which is cheaper than you can get it on Amazon. Tim Patrick, Principal of the Bible College of South Australia, will be the main speaker. Geoff Lin, regional director of AFES, will MC. Profits from the sales as well as royalties will go to the church. I'm happy to sign copies.

10:30 Church will still be accessible by Zoom

We will still be streaming our 10:30 church meeting via Zoom. Zoom church will still go out using the same Zoom code, as before <https://zoom.us/j/400678771>.

Prayer Meetings

As ever, you can join our regular prayer meetings via Zoom Saturdays 11am-11:40am. The zoom code for these meetings is <https://zoom.us/j/544859603>. If you have specific things you'd like to inform us about for prayer at these meetings, please contact Stafford Cowling or myself.

We also have a prayer meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 12pm-12:40pm.

One of our greater pray-ers Helen Harris has re-started her weekly prayer meeting. It's Tuesday 10.30-11.30 during school term. For location details, contact Helen on hennyh43@gmail.com or 8336 7369.

Phoning into Zoom Meetings

All our Zoom meetings can be attended by phone: That includes some of our Bible study groups, some of our prayer meetings, and our 10:30 church gathering. The phone number is 7150 1149. Then enter the relevant 9 digit meeting code.

From the Bible

As I think about an upcoming break, and rest, I'm reminded of the way the Bible speaks of heaven as the great Sabbath rest for Christian people:

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. Hebrews 4:9-11

Mike Russell