

Dear Church family,

This will be the last Parish email for a while, due to holidays. It's been quite a year. I'm reminded how great it is to finish the year with Christmas. It lifts our hearts beyond our own problems and challenges, to the one who has solved them all and will solve them all, Jesus our Lord - yes even that small baby in that manger.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve is tomorrow, as I write this. The 5pm Christmas Event tomorrow is especially for families with smaller kids. Don't forget that it will be outside. The forecast has it that it will be 26 degrees, mostly sunny and a bit windy. It would be great if you could bring a rug to sit on, or you could bring your own fold-out chairs. A hat and sunscreen could also be useful. At 10:30pm Christmas Eve, we'll have a traditional robed communion service, including a string ensemble. Christmas Day at 9:30am will have a contemporary feel, similar to our usual 10:30am service. Ally will give a kids talk on Christmas Day. As usual, we will provide activities for the kids Christmas Day, as they stay in the pews. We encourage younger children to stay with their families.

We have added chairs to the 'band area', and placed our string ensemble and singers into the chancel area. This means that seating capacity in the church will be over 100 for each of the indoor Christmas services. Hopefully it will be enough!

Mike's and Richard's holiday and the office closure.

I'll be on annual leave and study leave from January 4th-24th. During that time, please direct any enquiries to Daniel Clark on 0405 227 468.

Our office administrator, Richard, will be on holidays between Christmas and New Year, as well as from January 14th-24th. Note that Richard is also in quarantine at the moment, as his daughters visited Sydney recently. This means our office will be closed until January 6th next year.

Daniel and Katrina have their belongings!

Daniel and Katrina finally have their stuff, and have begun to unpack. They have expressed their thanks for the assorted help that came their way, in particular for the meals cooked for them. Many thanks to those who helped.

Services remain at 8:30 and 10:30 through summer

Don't forget that unlike previous years, we will maintain two separate services throughout the summer. This will enable us to fit into the church building, which might not be possible if we combined the services.

Evening service Prayer Meeting on Zoom 5pm Sundays

We will continue to have a prayer meeting focussed on the potential evening service, throughout the summer. It will be at 5pm each Sunday. The Zoom link is [here](#). The meeting code is 842 1086 8372. The password for the meeting is 878265.

I've said that I'll take attendance at that prayer meeting as indicative of the level of enthusiasm for the new evening service. And part of the criteria for whether we are ready to start. So please come along, if you'd like an evening service to happen. Note also that our next in person meeting, planning a potential evening service will be 6:30pm on Friday 29th January. Do invite your friends who might pitch in to make this happen!

10:30 Church still be accessible by Zoom

We will still be streaming our 10:30 church meeting via Zoom, throughout the summer. Zoom church will still go out using the same Zoom code, as before <https://zoom.us/j/400678771>. To enter the zoom meeting by phone, the number is 7150 1149. Then enter the relevant 9 digit meeting code.

General Church Prayer Meetings

As ever, you can join our regular church 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.

From the Bible

Even as it's been a tough year, it's been a year when I've seen God at work in our church more than most of the years I can remember. So I conclude the year's messages with this note of praise from Paul's letter to the Romans:

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

Mike Russell