



AD CLERUM

The Right Reverend John Stead
Bishop of Willochra

25th March 2020

UPDATE #4

RESPONDING TO THE CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)

N.B. The Anglican Church of Australia has issued National Guidelines concerning the Church's response to COVID-19 which are updated regularly; they can be found at <https://anglican.org.au/resources/covid-19/>

Since releasing the first update concerning the Diocesan response to COVID-19 on the 17th March, the situation has continued to be dynamic. **This update reflects the latest directions from the Australian Government.**

On the 24th March I issued the following directions which are now updated (in red):

1. All gatherings for worship in church buildings are suspended immediately
2. Church buildings are to remain closed; this includes for individual prayer
3. **People are not to congregate outdoors**
4. Non-essential gatherings are not to occur in buildings owned by the church, including by those hiring halls, etc.
5. **Weddings may be conducted but are limited to the Celebrant, the couple and the two witnesses (5 people only)**
6. **Funerals may be conducted but are limited to 10 persons in attendance with 'social' distancing recommendations (4m²) being complied with**
7. **All face-to-face meetings (parish council/ministry district council, etc.) are to be suspended – meeting by teleconference/videoconference could be substituted**

PO Box 96, Gladstone, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 5473
Phone: (08) 8662 2249 (O), (08) 8662 2057 (H), 0417 551 689 (Mob)
Email: bishop@diowillochra.org.au
Website: www.diowillochra.org.au/

8. you should ensure that you have up to date contact details including email addresses where they exist
9. Distribute the Pastoral Guidelines (issued on the 20th March) to all members of the congregation outlining how ministry will be maintained throughout this time; please include the contact details for clergy and Lay Ministers with responsibility for pastoral care
10. Members of congregations are to be encouraged to establish direct credit for their giving where they are not already doing so (it will be essential to maintain income through this time). Supply members of the congregation with details of appropriate Bank Accounts, i.e. BSB Number, Account Number, Bank and Branch. Guidance for doing this are available.
11. A worship service conducted at the Cathedral Church of Sts. Peter & Paul, Port Pirie will be live-streamed on Sundays (details will be supplied as soon as possible of how to access the live stream)
12. If you can live-stream your worship for members of your congregation you should do so (please ensure that the Diocesan Office knows the details for accessing your live stream)
13. If you do not already have a social media presence consider developing one so that people with access to the internet can keep in touch with the parish/ministry district
14. The Archbishop, Geoff Smith, has asked churches to join in a time of pray on Fridays at 8:00 am and where there is a bell to ring at that time

The situation will be reviewed on a weekly, if not daily basis, and as soon as possible, we will return to gathering for worship.

As things continue to develop, I will issue further updates.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Smith', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Bishop of Willochra

PO Box 96, Gladstone, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 5473
Phone: (08) 8662 2249 (O), (08) 8662 2057 (H), 0417 551 689 (Mob)
Email: bishop@diowillochra.org.au
Website: www.diowillochra.org.au/