



AD CLERUM

The Right Reverend John Stead
Bishop of Willochra

21st April 2020

UPDATE #5

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

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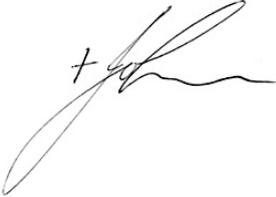
8. you should ensure that you have up to date contact details including email addresses where they exist
9. Distribute the Pastoral Guidelines (issued on the 20th March) to all members of the congregation outlining how ministry will be maintained throughout this time; please include the contact details 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 live-streamed service is available on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am from St Stephen's Chapel at Bishop's House. Individual Parishes and Ministry Districts are encouraged to arrange for live-streaming of their worship. A small number of people are allowed to be present to enable either live-streaming and or pre-recorded worship; social distancing guidelines are to be maintained. Please refer to the National Guidelines about live-streaming <https://anglican.org.au/resources/covid-19/>
12. If you **do** live-stream your worship for members of your congregation, please ensure that the Diocesan Office knows the details for accessing your live stream
13. Morning Prayer is live-streamed from St Stephen's Chapel, Bishop's House at 8:00 am each day except Sunday
14. 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
15. 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
16. **Op Shops** – during the COVID-19 pandemic Op Shops are closed although people are still leaving bags of clothes, etc. outside Op Shop premises. The advice we have received is that the virus does not survive for very long on clothing. The bags of clothing may be placed in the Op Shop – gloves and appropriate clothing (overalls) should be worn while doing this (gloves should be disposed of and clothing laundered), after at least

two days, the virus would no longer be present. N.B. Further sorting of clothing should not occur until restrictions are lifted.

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, featuring a large, stylized initial 'B' and a cross symbol to its left.

Bishop of Willochra