

Good morning everyone,

Today feels like winter: chilly and damp, a day to stay indoors and keep warm if we can. On days like today I wonder how people who are homeless manage, the 'rough sleepers' we glimpse around the city. I cannot imagine trying to find somewhere to sleep on a cold, wet night; how I would keep myself safe and dry. Those of us who have never experienced such deprivation might consider ourselves blessed. But Jesus was drawn to people who were poor and destitute, the discards of society, so we must not forget their existence. People in the parish knit or crochet beanies and make blankets, and the proceeds of our library sales go to St Bart's, and the Youth Group is looking at making blankets to donate to them - keep up the great work! If you are moved to support St Bart's have a look at their website: <https://stbarts.org.au/>

This **Friday 21st the Youth Group** is meeting at 6pm at Darklight Joondalup <https://www.darklight.com.au/> for a night of tearing around and having fun. If you know a teenager who is interested please talk to Cathy cathyarrows@gmail.com

On **Saturday August 22nd** – this Saturday- we will have a stall at Poynter Primary Market. If you can help on the day and / or bake a cake or a slice, please talk to Jenny Barkhouse. Goods need to be dropped off at St Nic's between 2 and 3.30 on Friday afternoon so they can be packed and ready to take early on Saturday.

On **Friday October 9th** in the evening: Fashion Parade, Jewellery Stall and raffle. Thank you to everyone who took books of raffle tickets. If you would like a book of 5 tickets (\$4 each ticket) to sell, the Fundraisers will happily give you one.

On Saturday afternoon the clergy of the Diocese have been invited to meet with Archbishop Kay at the Swan Valley Adventure Centre to reflect on our experience of Covid-19 and the effects on our parishes and ministries. Now that Phase 5 of lifting restrictions has been further postponed until October 24th or thereabouts, it will be good to talk about how we can all best manage the situation and keep everyone safe.

In terms of the precautions we are taking at St Nicolas', this is where we are up to:

- We are advised to maintain physical distancing, which means sitting 1.5m apart in church or in the hall unless we are sitting with people we live with. This is not enforceable but is strongly recommended
- The 2 sqm rule remains, meaning numbers in the building are restricted to 90 in the church and around 55 in the hall.
- We use hand sanitiser or wash hands thoroughly upon entry to the building
- Refreshments are served from the kitchen so we only touch our own cup and the food we are served
- All china & cutlery is washed in the dishwasher and the kitchen cleaned with disinfectant
- Following **every** service in church or meeting in the hall, every surface (tables, chairs, door handles, toilets, light switches etc.) is wiped with disinfectant
- Then a Covid-19 Cleaning Compliance Form is completed and left in the box to be filed
- Anyone entering the building at other times (eg, to count offertory, do flowers, cleaning, sacristan duties) to sign in: book is by front door
- Communion may only be offered in one kind; the Priest takes the wine on behalf of the people
- We do not shake hands during the Peace
- Anyone who feels unwell must stay home

If we all maintain our vigilance the chances of a 'second wave' of coronavirus is reduced. Today the Premier has announced the cancellation of the Royal Show; he said, "The virus could sneak back into Western Australia and spread like wildfire. By remaining in phase 4 for longer, it assists us in reducing the numbers of people who could be potentially exposed and requiring health responses should an outbreak occur in our state." <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-18/wa-phase-5-restrictions-delayed-perth-royal-show-cancelled/12544632>

We are deeply saddened by the situation in Victoria, and by the number of people who are dying every day- particularly in aged care facilities. There is much that is beyond our control, but we can all do our best to not only comply with regulations but go the extra mile in caring for one another.

Here is a prayer from Rev Denise Liersch, Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania:

*God of compassion, God-with-us,
be with us in these times of uncertainty.
Break into our lives,
rekindle our hope
and breathe love into our communities,
that we might find new ways
of supporting and upholding one another,
bearing witness to your inclusive love
of family, friend, neighbour and stranger alike.
May our love for those most vulnerable in our community
become a beacon of hope for all.
In faith, hope and love, in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

God bless,

Lorna

The Reverend Lorna A M Green

Rector

St Nicolas

Carine – Duncraig

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