

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear South Wagga Anglican Church Family,

This will be one of the stranger Easter weekends of my ministry and Christian life as we continue in 'home isolation'. Christianity though, is simultaneously, an experience of lament and joy – we are people of both the cross and the resurrection. And so, despite restrictions on public gatherings, new and creative ways of discipleship, community and promoting the gospel, are emerging. As we begin our Easter journey in our homes, I want to invite you to still experience the *upper room*, the *cross* outside the city, and finally, the *empty tomb*. For Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we will again provide a simple order of service and links to video content (or a DVD for those not on the internet). I am even going to invite you to participate in a simple meal of remembrance, a Christian Passover, using elements from your own home – so please consider sourcing a candle and some bread and juice/wine. On Easter Sunday we are joining with some other churches in Wagga to livestream a service from 10am. I will be one of the speakers and I will also give the Easter blessing at the end of the service. Please keep an eye out for an email and Facebook notification of the link for this Easter Sunday service – for those that like to plan, it will be:

<https://livestream.com/waggabaptist/events/9072510>

In other matters, please do avail yourself of the opportunity to be reading the bible for yourself through this season. I have begun a daily *Psalm with Scott*, 930am Tuesdays to Fridays that you can access via Zoom video conferencing (I can even help you set it up). We have one or two copies of the Psalm devotion book available for \$21.99 and we also have a copy of Scripture Union's *Daily Bread* resource (April-June) which has been kindly donated by a member of the parish – first in first served. If you would like to be added to the prayer list for those in need please do contact me and I will ensure it goes in our weekly newsletter.

Given the NSW Public Health Order 2020, giving people only a few reasons for which they can leave their house, we have decided that the church office is closed. However, as a Minister of Religion, I remain available for pastoral care and our volunteers and staff continue to be allowed to attend our churches as a place of work (with appropriate social distancing), and particularly to care for vulnerable people. We are now partnering with Anglicare to make up food hampers and participate in Emergency Relief and other less formal acts of kindness. Your donations for this ministry continue to be welcome and I am at St Paul's on most mornings, if you wish to drop anything off.

With the office closed we know that this affects some who were dropping their offertory in. Therefore, we have opened a Post Office box so that any cheques can be sent securely through this means: *PO Box 7010, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650*. Of course, giving can continue via direct deposit at the bank, or via online means. Our banking details are

*SPTP Partnership Account  
BSB 702 389  
Account No: 05 202 527*

I am delighted that our diocese is working closely with our parish to waive some payments that are normally due, and to help us secure any relevant government assistance. As I have previously indicated, once we have a fuller financial picture at the end of April, the treasurer will write to the parish.

These isolation regulations seem to me to be an enforced sabbatical, where we can take up the opportunity to draw near to God. I look forward to connecting with you through written and video content on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and then via the livestreamed service on Easter Sunday.

May God enrich you over this Easter weekend with a certain assurance of sins forgiven and an experience of new life in Christ.

Your Rector,



Scott Goode

