

Wednesday 22nd April 2020

Dear South Wagga Anglican Family,

I wonder if you are finding a rhythm in your isolation as the weeks go on. I am now settling into a routine of filming, administration, writing, welfare and pastoral engagement. Zoom video conferencing is becoming all to normal (I will be glad to leave such conferencing behind when all this is over) and I have been applying myself to a Master of Theology that I enrolled in at the beginning of the academic year. You would have guessed by now that my Long Service Leave was cancelled, and the Goode family will endeavor to 'try again' once we can reimagine life post COVID-19.

I am delighted to have heard from so many of you and to know that so many in our parish are looking out for each other during this time. Through your ministry of caring for each other, despite our physical separation, you are helping to maintain a sense of community cohesion, and witness for the gospel. I, too, am really keen for us, in this time of isolation, to remain connected and keep growing in love and obedience to Jesus but you will appreciate that I am unable to contact each of you personally as regularly as I would like. I have therefore asked our Bible Study Leaders, and some other representatives (from Parish Council and staff and congregations) to meet with me weekly (via zoom) to pray for our parish and undertake together to be in regular contact with our membership.

For your information this team is Scott Goode; Deborah Anscombe; Matt Bailey; Leanne Brown; Robyn Clarke; Narelle Cosier; Bruce Durham; Natalie Goode; Trish/Peter Hilton; Elisabeth Holland; Kylie Polkinghorne; Craig Rogers; Peter/Sue Savage; Susan Starr.

If you have any need for prayer or anything else, please do get in contact with one of us or somebody who you trust. Phone contacts are available in the last copy of the Parish Roll (with a green cover, dated September 2018) but if you don't have a copy, please contact the Parish Office. I continue to check the church phone daily for messages and my mobile phone number is 0421 319 204.

I am also pleased that we are re-organising our parish prayer chain where requests can be 'phoned in' and a group of dedicated people will commit a matter to God in prayer. If you would like to be part of this ministry as a link on this chain, or you have a prayer request, please contact myself or Anne Flood.

Our Moore College Theology correspondence course received some interest over the last week and my plan is to commence two subjects, with some facilitation from myself. They will be *Introduction to the Bible* and a 2nd/3rd level subject still to be decided. Enrollment will be completed over the following week, so please do contact me if you want to be involved.

After many weeks of ad hoc bible reflections (from me) in our Sunday services, I will be commencing a series in Mark's gospel from the beginning of May. Focusing on chapters 1-8, I will be asking the question: *who is this man?* Mark's gospel is structured around this idea and culminates in the revelation, spoken by Peter in chapter 8, that Jesus is *the Christ, the Son of God*. You might like to read through Mark's gospel over this coming term and come on this journey with me, as I speak each Sunday.

I continue to look forward to a time when we can all gather again, and yet I am appreciative also of this enforced sabbatical and the way in which God is deepening our faith and community commitment.

Your Rector,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Goode". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Goode

