

Wednesday 6th May 2020

Dear Parish Family,

You may be aware by now, that our Parish has received a significant grant via the NSW government's *Stronger Country Communities Fund* for the refurbishment of the St Paul's toilet and hall. As displayed on plans in the foyer last year, the current toilet block will be demolished and rebuilt at ground level with sufficient cubicles to meet current standards for a public hall. Moreover, a new meeting room will be created along with more storage and the mezzanine rail will be updated to contemporary safety standards. Given that we received 100% of the funding, we are currently progressing plans through local Council and will commence construction as soon as possible. It is an ideal time, with the church closed, to commence the project. You may recall that we also successfully achieved (late last year) two separate grants, totaling about \$30,000 for the St Alban's roof. While this represents about 15% of the roof replacement project costs, we undertook significant fundraising last year and we now have more than half of the funds available for this project. We were hoping that this project would have started, but with a scarcity of cranes in Wagga (due to reconstruction efforts in bushfire affected regions) they were unable to commence prior to the winter months and we will now have to wait until later in the year. We give thanks for your generosity, and that of external funding sources, and ultimately to our God for the provision of every need.

We are also thankful for the Federal Government's *JobKeeper* arrangements which we have now applied to all our eligible staff. We are re-imagining responsibilities and new opportunities during this time and encouraging staff to undertake professional development opportunities too. Once the April financial reports are accessible, our treasurer will write to outline our financial position. In the meantime, we appreciate your generosity either online, or by cheque through mail.

I am enjoying reading through Mark's gospel and sharing each Sunday on the theme 'who is this man?' Last Sunday we looked at the one who healed the sick, and this coming Sunday we consider the one who forgives sins. I have provided a reading guide to Mark's gospel in the weekly newsletter which is distributed each Friday. You can also access some audible devotions by J.C. Ryle, here <https://swac.church/2020/04/30/journey-through-marks-gospel/>. I am completing my MTh and exploring, at the moment, the Protestant Reformation where Luther's key claim was that the right to read and understand the bible belonged not to a single pope, but to all of God's people. The opportunity to read for ourselves sacred Scripture, in which we encounter the Lord Jesus, is a privilege and responsibility, and this season of an enforced sabbath is a perfect opportunity to do this.

Praying for God's shalom to reign in our hearts and throughout our city.

Your Rector,



Scott Goode

