

Julia's Second letter to the Faithful of All Souls 24 March 2020.

Dear All Souls Members and Friends,
Greetings in the name of the One whose love remains constant and steady amid uncertainty and change.

Many things have changed since my letter of 19/3/20 and they will continue to do so.

The Archbishop has confirmed that "*churches are to be closed, including outdoor spaces associated with churches ... The exception is for weddings and funerals which can be held so long as they involve only very small groups of people and the current distancing and hygiene requirements are maintained. I had hoped that we might be able to have our churches open for private prayer, but this is now not the case.*"

New Parish Council elected

In this regard, the faithful resolve of God's people was on display last Sunday 22/3/20, with record attendance for worship at 9.00am and the Vestry meeting that followed.

We gave fitting recognition to Ann Peisley for her years of service (see photo with Warden Colin McLeay) and the new Parish Council was elected: We welcome new members Mano De Mel and Emma Robinson, and thank Sue Crees, Sara Blunt and Colin McLeay for standing again.

I want to thank Ali Brookman for serving on Parish Council and have asked her forgiveness for not recognising her publicly. I am grateful that she will continue to make her steady and thoughtful wisdom available to church leadership.

We also thanked Elizabeth Westphalen who celebrated 22 years to the day since her first duty as Lay assistant on 22 March, 1998.

I will continue to ring the church bell at 12.00pm every day as an auditory witness that the church, the community of the people of God continues, no matter the circumstances. I will send regular updates, which will be printed and put into the post boxes of those who are not connected. With the help of Mano De Mel, our new Minutes Secretary and pew sheet co-ordinator, we will continue to send out or deliver the pew sheet with prayers and other resources in place of rosters and dates for meetings.

Worship

While we can no longer worship together as a parish family, we can use this time of "social distancing" to try new ways to exercise our "spiritual muscles". I will send suggestions each week that we can use at home, recognising that not everyone chooses to live a "digital lifestyle".

The first resource is the Lectio Divina we used in Sunday worship, which is attached, plus a sermon by the Archbishop from last Sunday, Lent IV. It speaks very powerfully into our new "Covid-19 reality" and the anxiety many people feel. I encourage you to read it.

If you have on-line devices and use on-line resources, there are several churches "live streaming" services, so please look to these for your worship at home:

- [St Peter's Cathedral](#)
- [Holy Trinity](#)
- [Holy Innocents Belair](#)
- [Grace Anglican Network](#)

There are also:

- Services of quiet contemplation, music and scripture readings on the Facebook page of the Taizé Community, France: <https://www.facebook.com/Taize>
- Television resources like "Songs of Praise", Channel 2, Sun 11.30am.

Pastoral Care

How can we care for one another? And how can you help?

Please share ideas for how we can “be community” to one another in this strange new world. Last Sunday, Pauline Mosel suggested putting notes in neighbours’ post boxes to offer help. There are more ideas on the website: <https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2020/03/the-acts-of-kindness-shining-through-as-coronavirus-panic-takes-hold/>

The Pastoral Assistant, Elizabeth Westphalen, and I are still available to visit safely, to help with shopping, or to do other tasks or chores, so please do call us, that is part of why we are here:

Elizabeth 8362-5238
Julia 0476 126 694/7230-0579

Dedicated Giving

The Diocese has asked that we encourage as many people as possible to give electronically, so here are the parish banking details to give by direct debit:

Parish of All Souls’ St Peters BSB: 105-169 Account: 759 245 140

The Treasurer, Sue Crees and I are working on a safe way for people who give by dedicated giving envelope to continue to do that – please keep an eye out for details. In the meantime, you are welcome to put envelopes in the post box or on the pew on the veranda of the Rectory, 51 4th Avenue – I will check regularly.

Finally:

A prayer for the world in a time of panic

God of love and hope,
You made the world and care for all creation.
But the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Many people are anxious because of it.
Many people are anxious that they might get ill.
Many people are anxious about their family and friends.
Be with them in their worries and help them to find some peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists who are working to discover the right medicines to give hope to those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these strange and worrying times, you are with us.
Help us to look for the signs of your goodness and love towards us.
Amen. - **A Prayer from the Church of England**

May God bless us all in these uncertain times.

Julia

Rev’d Julia Denny-Dimitriou
All Souls’ St Peters



Ann Peisley is presented with a token of the Parish’s appreciation by Churchwarden Colin McLeay