



26 March 2020

Letter to St Andrew's Roseville  
**Next Steps**

Dear St Andrew's Church Family,

I hope you were able to join in with the live-stream on Sunday and get a taste of what Sunday Church will look like for possibly the next six months! As soon as we get the green light to start our Sunday gatherings again, we will let you know and be ready to go. The staff and I have met to brainstorm what ministry will look like over the coming weeks and months and I wanted to share where we are so far with our thinking. Of course, these things could change and if they do, I will communicate this with you.

**PASTORAL CARE**

*James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

One of the key aspects of caring for each other during this time is to ensure that everyone is included. If you have not yet received a call, the aim is to contact everyone in church and ask you two questions. First, "do you need any help during this time?" If the answer is yes, we will put you in touch with someone who can help. If the answer is no, we will then ask; "Are you in a position to help someone else during this time?" Our aim here is to connect those who are vulnerable, isolated and in need with those who have the ability to help. Now, if you are not in need and can't help others (you may have enough on your hands) then this is also ok. We want to make sure that we are in contact with everyone at this time. There are many people to call so please be patient if you haven't yet received a call. We aim to have contacted everyone by the end of this week. If neither you, or your spouse (if you are married), have received a call by Monday next week, please let me know by emailing me at **mal.york@standrews.net.au** We can then ensure that we have the correct contact details for you.

**SMALL GROUPS**

*Hebrews 10:25 ... not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Small Groups will now need to go online. Platforms that can be used for this are: Zoom, Skype, Facetime (Apple), Messenger video calls, WhatsApp video calls, Google Hangouts. Zoom and Google Hangouts are probably the best, as you can have multiple people meeting on the one platform. However, the free version of Zoom only lasts

40min (with ,multiple users), so you will need to reconnect every 40 minutes – this is a simple process. If you are having trouble with any of these methods, let us know and we can try and help you. Another way of doing your Small Group, is to pair people to meet 1 to 1. You can meet via online platforms to avoid going to one another's homes. This is in keeping with the government's guidelines. 1 to 1 pairing will help make sure that everyone has a 'buddy' during this time. If you need resources on this, please let us know.

## **CREATIVE NEW WAYS OF DOING COMMUNITY**

Hebrews 10:24 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds ...*

This pandemic-creates an opportunity for us to think through how we can do ministry differently. We live in an age where we can contact people and speak with them over a video (see the 'Small Groups' for platform ideas). Why not call someone and see how they are doing or organise to have a cuppa 'online' with someone after the live-stream of the church services? Tell your kids to connect with their friends from church via a video call ... we have the ability to do this today, so we should use it. In addition, this is such a great time to get into a routine of doing bible studies as a family and praying together, continuing to grow as disciples of Jesus.

## **RESOURCES**

2 Timothy 4:13 *When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.*

During this time, we are trying to resource you with as much helpful information and links for your spiritual growth as we can. On our [www.standrews.net.au/covid-19](http://www.standrews.net.au/covid-19) webpage you can find links to health information put out by the government; you can find links to live-stream our Sunday services as well as our Kids Space and REVIVE Youth ministries. In addition, you can access the [www.2020discipleship.com](http://www.2020discipleship.com) blog. Also, please ensure that you have downloaded the St Andrew's Roseville app and have the notifications turned on for both 'Church-Wide' notifications and your service specific notifications.

## **GIVING**

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Friends, during this time of suspended services, can I urge you to keep supporting the ministry of the church. We still need to pay staff and expenses for the running costs of the church. For those who regularly gave via the collection bag, you may wish to

consider moving your regular giving to EFT (details on the last page of the Weekly News and on our website) or, as one member of our 8am congregation said he would do, send in a good old fashion cheque! Obviously, if you yourself are going through financial hardship during this time, we do not want to put pressure on you, but please continually think prayerfully about this.

## **BEAR WITH US**

*Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Friends, we are all in this together and we are as keen as you are to keep things as normal as possible. However, as things change on a daily basis, things for us change as well. We will aim to do all we can to love and care for everyone, but we will make mistakes and need your forgiveness. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with us, so that we can love and serve you all.

## **PHYSICALLY DISTANCING**

Finally, I would just like to encourage people to take this social distancing seriously. There is a great article at [www.tiny.cc/covid-19stayhome](http://www.tiny.cc/covid-19stayhome) which looks at how, if we self-isolate, we can get rid of the virus quicker than if we don't. For parents, this is particularly tricky to encourage your children and young adults to not be social and to not see their friends. Maybe sit down with them and read this article together and have a chat about what this might look for them.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I am contactable on 0404 489 485 or email [mal.york@standrews.net.au](mailto:mal.york@standrews.net.au)

In Christ,



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