



St Leonard's Church
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Denmark

Anglican Parish of Denmark-Walpole

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St. George's Church
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We endeavour to be an expression of God's love in the community

March 6, 2020.

Dear Parishioners,

I was going to send you a prayer that was written for the Covid 19 epidemic by the Melbourne Diocese, then I thought it might be better to write to you all instead, or as well as.

As we have seen in the media, many have taken their concerns to ridiculous levels, causing shortages in certain commodities, something which is obviously not helpful to the wider community.

In Bishop Ian's last letter, he made some suggestions in relation to our time together for worship. I would like to share some of these with you now.

Please, if you are feeling unwell, stay home. Even if it is 'just a cold', you are better staying quietly at home.

As with the SARS epidemic some years ago, there are practical ways in which we can still safely worship together.

From this Sunday, I will be using hand sanitiser as well as the usual ceremonial hand washing prior to communion.

Hand shaking may be a concern for some, as in the Greeting of Peace, in which case, an alternate greeting can be used which does not involve contact. Some suggest the touching of elbows, other suggestions have included the putting of hands together and a short bow, as in the eastern tradition, or may be just a verbal greeting. If people want to bring their own hand sanitiser that is fine.

There have been varied comments about the safety of the common communion cup. To quote Bishop Ian:

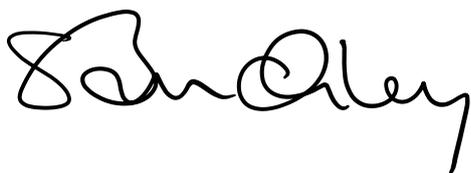
Advice suggests that use of the common cup is not riskier but if people are concerned then they should receive in one kind only. **Intinction is inherently riskier.**

Above all, I hope we would all be sensible at this potentially serious and challenging time. Please know, if you have any concerns, you can call me to discuss this.

I would like to close with a prayer from the Melbourne Diocesan website:

Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend,
come and care for all of us through the danger
and uncertainty of the coronavirus epidemic.
To people who are sick, bring healing.
To people who are displaced, isolated, or cut off from family friends or work,
bring comfort and companionship.
Work with medical staff as they care for the sick and protect them from harm.
Give skill and fruitful research to scientists as they search for treatments,
prevention and a cure.
To public health authorities,
give wisdom to decide the best ways to manage both this crisis and our anxieties.
When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit,
and kindness to neighbours and strangers.
Through this testing time, and through all the risks we face together,
teach us once again how we can love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

Peace and every good wish

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Buckley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Revd Sally Buckley tssf
Parish Priest Denmark-Walpole.