



Dear Friends across the Sapphire Coast Parish

With the raising numbers of Covid cases across the Bega Valley we are very aware that it would be easy for our church congregations to get caught up in the spread.

So we have decided to make a few small changes in the way we do things over the next few weeks in order to reduce the Covid risk at Church, to be caring and sensitive to folk struggling to keep Covid safe but still continue to provide face to face church in the safest and possible way for those who want to attend.

Given that the Parish is working on a skeleton staff arrangement in January, with either Rod or I on leave, and with many of our regulars away we don't think it possible to hugely change things for this coming Sunday the 9th, however...

1. we will suspend the celebration of Communion for the next few weeks until the covid situation becomes settled and/or clearer and so will have Morning Prayer or a Prayer Praise Proclamation services instead. Not having a distribution of the elements will remove one possible close transmission activity.
2. we are endeavouring to set up a zoom presentation of one of our actual/regular services as an alternative for those who want to stay at home and still be part of our worship - we ask that all be extra careful about social distancing, spacing of seating, proper wearing of masks especially while singing, QR codes, hand sanitizing etc in our face to face gatherings.
3. we note that the Bishop's Covid related email of Thursday didn't suggest a suspension of face to face services, but said it was OK to adapt - Bishop Mark said
 - "Please be realistic about what can be achieved in the current circumstances. If health concerns and/or the availability of staff and volunteers mean some ministry activities need to be cancelled or done in a modified form, that is OK. God is no less sovereign or gracious because of the emergence of a new variant."

4. if we can arrange a zoom of one our regular services for the 16th, 23rd and 30th, the zoom link will be ... put up on the Parish web page.
5. if anyone has any Covid symptoms, or been in contact with Covid through any contact please follow the official protocols to isolate, test and only return to normal activities when clear and safe to do so. The Bishop attached the following Covid protocol to assist us in knowing what we are expected to do (see page 3).

Thank you for taking the time to read this, we pray that we will all be safe for the journey that is before us

Brian
Rev Canon Brian Roberts
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Updated Test & Isolate National Protocols – 6 January 2022

Protocol 1 – COVID-19 confirmed by a positive RAT/PCR test:	Protocol 2 – Close Contact * AND have symptoms:	Protocol 3 – Close Contact * BUT have no symptoms:	Protocol 4 – Casual Contact
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isolate at home for at least 7 days from the day you had your test. 2. If you have symptoms at Day 6, you must stay at home until symptoms are gone. 3. Notify your work or school that you have tested positive. 4. If you have no symptoms at Day 7, you can return to normal living and leave your home. You do not need a further test. <p><i>Wear a mask when leaving the home and avoid visiting high-risk settings for at least 7 days following negative test or end of symptoms.</i></p> <p>Always seek medical help if you become very unwell.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stay home for 7 days since you last had contact with the person who has COVID-19. 2. Take a RAT self-test or PCR test and stay at home while waiting for the test result. 3. If you test positive for COVID-19 follow Protocol 1. If you test negative, continue to stay at home. 4. On Day 6 of isolation, take a RAT self-test. If your Day 6 test is negative, you can leave home and return to normal living after completing the 7 days of home isolation. If you test positive for COVID-19 follow Protocol 1 <p><i>Wear a mask when leaving the home and avoid visiting high-risk settings for at least 14 days following exposure to the person with COVID-19.</i></p> <p>Always seek medical help if you become very unwell</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor for symptoms and take a RAT self-test or PCR test if they develop. 2. If positive, follow Protocol 1. If negative, continue to stay at home for 7 days, monitor for symptoms and follow Protocol 2 if they develop. 3. On Day 6 of isolation, take another RAT self-test. If your Day 6 self-test is positive, follow Protocol 1 – you do NOT need a PCR test for confirmation. If your Day 6 self-test is negative and you have no symptoms, you can leave home and return to normal living after completing the 7 days of home isolation. <p><i>Wear a mask when leaving the home and avoid visiting high-risk settings for at least 14 days following exposure to the person with COVID-19.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you have had less contact with someone with COVID-19, such as contact in a social, shopping, education or workplace setting. 2. You should monitor for symptoms and have a RAT self-test if these occur. If positive, follow Protocol 1 and stay at home until you no longer have symptoms <p><i>Wear a mask when leaving the home and avoid visiting high-risk settings for at least 14 days following exposure to the person with COVID-19.</i></p>
	<p>* You are a Close Contact if you are living with someone who has COVID-19, or have spent 4 hours or longer with someone in a home or health or aged care environment since they developed COVID-19.</p>		
<p><i>WA, SA, NT & TAS residents should check their state or territory requirements and timelines</i></p>			