

FAMILY COUCH CHURCH

Merri Creek Anglican

Started 'Family Couch Church' sheets available for download for families with children.

PULSE & StAks ONLINE

St Alfred's Blackburn North

There are also resources for youth under 'Pulse Online' and for children and families under 'StAks Online'- St Alfred's Kids.



ONGOING CONVERSATIONS

St Thomas Moonee Ponds

Archdeacon Vanessa Bennett says; In phoning around my parish I have discovered a few of our senior members do not even have a DVD player. These parishioners have given me contact details for their next of kin to see what can be arranged for them. This has provided me with the opportunity to engage in positive conversations with members of their families who do not come to church and who are appreciative for what we are trying to do for their elderly parents. In all cases they recognise how important church is for their parent and have been willing to either set up a DVD player or take a computer around to their parent to enable them to participate in the services. My prayer is that these family members might spend that time with their parent and watch the service. At a minimum, it has opened up a channel for ongoing conversation.

SHINING LIGHT

St Silas & St Anselm Albert Park

People were so shocked to lose the gathering together of worship that those who would normally never go online to worship have given it a go. We've had a lot of people watching the service and the feedback has been wonderful.

People have reflected things like;

'The service was so moving, I felt like I was really there,'

"I enjoyed singing along with the hymns."

"I hadn't been sure about it, but once the service started I was singing for the first time in a week & I felt so inspired."

Some texted just before the service started with a pic of their TV showing that they were ready to go. We are adjusting and making a new normal. We're connecting with one another more deeply and more frequently than before this happened. Because of the absence of face to face worship, we need to be intentional about connecting up during the week and people are expressing that they value this connection and are feeling loved.



Please keep sending your stories to inspire...
+Genieve

Prayer for the week Lent 4:

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

MARMINGATHA

Stories to Inspire



GROWING COMMUNITY

St John's Blackburn

12 months of partnership with Holy Trinity Doncaster prior to the crisis, allowed us to bed ourselves in, building relationships and trust, so that connections are now in place to keep growing as a church, even in this crisis. As a result, the leaders at St John's, at both the 8.30am and 10.30am congregations, just stepped up and got things done over the last few weeks. Imagine if we were trying to start the partnership in 2020.

Also, we had numerous new people join St John's in the last 4 or 5 weeks before the shutdown. We now have a bigger community to care for one another and do life together (even though it's online). Again, imagine if the lockdown occurred even 1 or 2 months earlier.

Also, a 90+ year old member was able to return home after a long stay in hospital and turned up to church on the last Sunday we were holding the 8.30am service, and led in the singing, as he has been doing for decades in St John's.

HAND SANITISER SAINT

St Matthias North Richmond

This week, Reverend Yvonne Poon went door knocking at William Street to give out hand sanitiser packs to show our care & God's love in this challenging time.

ZOOM - ZOOM!

St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne

Time for home coffee and fellowship via Zoom regularly; before services, and bible study between services. Also some care packs are being distributed.

COMMUNITY MEALS

St John's East Malvern w St Agnes Glenhuntly

Friday community meals are continuing, take-away style!

NEW WAYS OF CONNECTING AS A CHURCH...

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE INTERNET?

St Catharine's Caulfield South

For those within the congregation who don't have internet, the team at St Cath's under the direction of Reverend Adam Cetrangolo will be reaching out by; regular calling or SMS, posting out newsletters and other important information, lending devices when available to allow internet access. Above all, reminding parishioners not to hesitate to call and ask for help.

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF PHONE CALL

Holy Trinity Balaclava & Elwood

Reverend Kathryn Watt has had success with parishioners dialling in via their home phones or mobiles via ZOOM to listen to services and participate in group conversations. The feedback has been really positive. This new way of reaching out to people shows the power of connection, even whilst physically apart.