

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

6 May 2020



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MELBOURNE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

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Archbishop Philip's video for this week

The Archbishop's weekly video is [here](#).

Mission in lockdown

A new paper by the diocesan Theological Advisory Group on maintaining our mission during the lockdown is on the website [here](#).

Thy Kingdom Come 2020

Thy Kingdom Come is on again between Ascension and Pentecost (21-31 May) across the Anglican Communion. Its aim is to pray for people to know the saving love of God in Jesus Christ and be renewed in this suffering world. Resources are at www.thykingdomcome.global and we encourage people in your parish to "Pray for Five" – that is, pray from Ascension to Pentecost for five people who are not yet following Christ.

A digital Beacon Event will be streamed from St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on Sunday, 24 May, at 6pm. If your parish would like to contribute a pre-recorded segment, please contact Archdeacon Heather Patacca (precentor@stpaulscathedral.org.au).



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Everybody Welcome Online

The Church of England resource *Everybody Welcome Online* can be found [here](#) on our website. It reflects on what is happening with online church, and begins to think ahead to capitalise on good things when lockdown ends.

Are churches behaving like malls?

Helpful article by Carey Nieuwhof about consumerism and churches.

See the article [here](#).

Diocesan synod 2020

The second session of the 53rd Synod, scheduled for 14 to 17 October 2020 is unlikely to take place as planned. Under our church law the next meeting of synod could be held as late as mid-April 2021. We continue to monitor the impact of social distancing requirements and plan to advise by the end of May the details of when Synod will be convened. We do not have the authority to operate an online synod; it must be a physical meeting.

A regular telephone ministry to volunteers and vulnerable people

Providing material aid to vulnerable people in partnership with established welfare agencies and a regular telephone ministry to volunteers and vulnerable people are two ways we can be part of a compassionate and collaborative response in our community in this time of need. Click [this link](#) for details.

Child safety update

All VIT cardholders who work or volunteer within the diocese can now notify Working with Children Check Victoria (WWCCV) of this child-related work. Log on to website via this [link](#) and fill in the teacher notification form.

Your parish, Kooyoora and the diocese will then be notified that you have nominated them as an organisation but your VIT reference number is not supplied, so you will be required to email your VIT reference number to registrar@melbourneanglican.org.au.



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When updating your details with Working with Children Victoria, please use this link [here](#) to our website for how to fill in details of parish, diocese and Kooyoora. For assistance, contact Amanda Lincke on 0403 020 518.

Challenges confronted by ministers in the COVID-19 crisis

Friday, 15 May, 10:00am – 10:45am

Ken Morgan in conversation with Dr Robert Creech, a leading authority on Family Systems Theory. Registrations essential here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting=register/tZcldO2urToiHtN1fw38cwSMs-ay8MtT6eye>.

More information on this and other Family Systems Institute seminars on our website [click here](#).

Angles on science, faith and culture

"Christ, creation and the climate" is the theme of this month's episode of the new diocesan podcast *Angles on Science, Faith and Culture*. The Revd Dr Chris Mulherin hosts Archbishop Philip Freier, zoologist and ecologist Professor Michael Clarke, creation care advocate Katherine Shields, and environmental scientist and World Nuclear Association advisor Ian Hore-Lacy. Search for *Angles on Science Faith and Culture* on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or your podcatcher of choice, or directly at <https://angles.buzzsprout.com/>.

Next week

We expect an announcement by the Prime Minister on Friday, 8 May, and by the Premier on Monday, 11 May, about possibly easing restrictions in Victoria. We will respond to anything relevant for us in next Wednesday's newsletter unless there is something critical and urgent. Please make no changes to any current practices until we communicate otherwise.

Our prayers for God's grace,

The Archbishop and Bishops.

