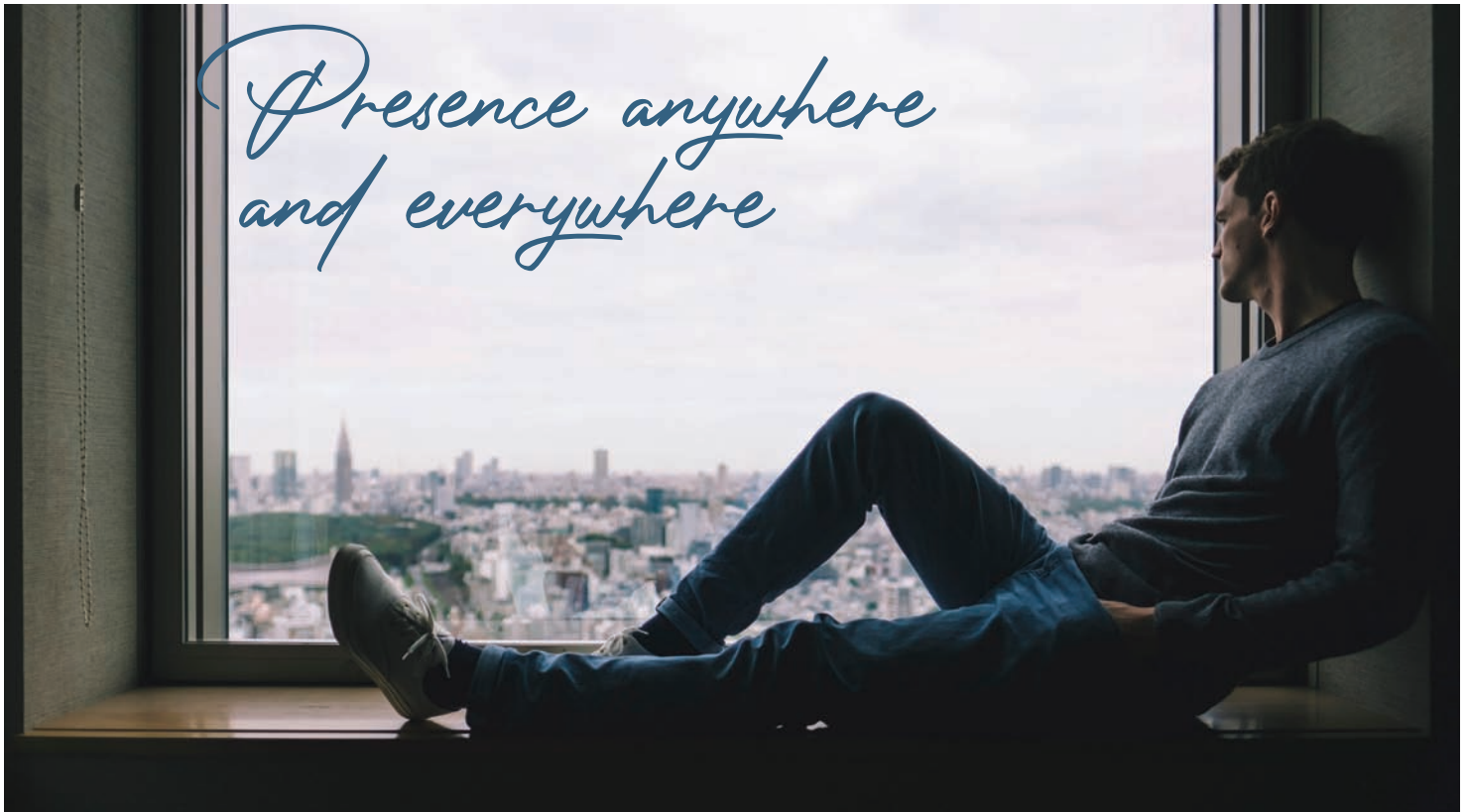




*Presence anywhere  
and everywhere*



## *Bishop Mark writes ...*

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

These words of the risen Jesus, spoken to his disciples right at the end of Matthew's gospel, have particular power in our current circumstances.

Presence matters. It matters to us when we are no longer able to be present bodily with those we love. It matters when we cannot hug a relative who lives in another city. It matters when we cannot extend a handshake to a fellow parishioner. It matters when we cannot simply be with each other sharing a meal, sharing space, sharing life.

Through his incarnation – taking on a human body – Jesus understands our hunger for this type of presence. Read through the gospels and you'll notice how often his body becomes a means of grace. When he reaches out his hand to heal and when he reclines at table alongside sinners, divine abundance encounters human need. At the climax of the gospels it is his body, given for us on the cross,

which brings salvation and forgiveness.

Resurrection affirms our deepest intuitions about these matters. On Easter Jesus does not shrug off his body as if it were a distraction from his mission. Instead his body is raised to new and glorious life, the firstfruits of a new creation. Yet, something has changed. The risen Jesus is able to be present with us anywhere and everywhere, unrestricted by the limitations of life in this present age. Through the Holy Spirit he is with his people whether they are gathered in great congregations or scattered in private homes. We are never isolated from him or he from us.

As our nation journeys through the challenges caused by COVID-19 we have an ideal opportunity to witness to the risen Lord Jesus. In such a short time I have heard wonderful stories of people across our Diocese engaging our very different world with the love and truth of Jesus:

- ministry teams producing online worship and discipleship resources
- parishes setting up 'telephone trees' so no-one is forgotten and uncontacted
- children and young people writing letters (remember those?) to parishioners who don't have access to the internet
- school teachers working tirelessly to shift to a new mode of teaching and learning
- Anglicare staff being re-deployed away from normal

duties to where the needs are greatest.

Please visit our Diocesan website ([www.anglicancg.org.au](http://www.anglicancg.org.au)) and click on the 'Keep Connected' button to be kept up to date with all that is being done in Christ's Name.

None of us knows how long this present crisis will last. We can know that the risen Lord Jesus, the one who has conquered death and the grave, will be present with us to the very end.

*Image by Freddie Marriage on Unsplash.com*



# Crossing the Aisle



Photo by Nina Strehl on Unsplash.com

On 3 March 2020 the clergy from across the Diocese gathered for their Annual One Day Clergy Conference. Peter Carolane from Melbourne, who has had a long involvement in youth ministry and church planting, gave two presentations on 'Crossing the Aisle'. To 'cross the aisle' is a phrase borrowed from American politics, where to do so is seen as a virtuous action for the greater good.

Peter's church recently ran a 'Crossing the Aisle' festival to reach out to their community. He believes that the church needs to be continually thinking about ways to find renewal, because we are an ageing institution, but notes that church members often get scared by the idea of mission and evangelism, feeling that they've already talked to the people they know and their relatives aren't interested, but they often undersell themselves and the treasure inside them that they have to share.

So they decided one way forward was to introduce their church people to others not from their cultural background. Jesus says we're to love

our neighbours, but to do so we've got to actually know our neighbours.

Peter explained the way Western culture is becoming increasingly fragmented into tribes, defined by Seth Godin in his 2008 book *Tribes*, as 'a group of people connected to one another, connected to a leader, connected to an idea', and how these tribes are not great at communicating with each other, and so we are seeing increasing polarisation of people in these tribes.

Peter then showed how in his life Jesus transcended the cultural fears of his friends by crossing the aisle and meeting with people from different backgrounds, tax collectors and sinners, many of whom came to him because it is the sick who need a doctor, rather than the healthy.

Peter gave three principles for crossing the aisle: impartiality, judgment and distinctiveness.

One way you can explain the purpose of Christ's death and resurrection is how it's presented in Romans, chapters 4-8, which is that God wanted to create a new multi-ethnic,

faith-based family of Abraham under the Lordship of Christ. Multi-ethnic in the sense that it is Jew and Gentile sitting together, worshipping together under Christ.

We need to create in our churches a culture of impartiality, if all this is true, intentionally going out of our way to focus on people not like us. One way we can do with it is to start with our own backyard as Anglicans and foster collegiality across the theological and churchmanship tribes. Another way to promote impartiality is through getting to know the other churches in our area and praying for them. And a third thing we can do is pray for an increase in diversity. We should check our unconscious biases in our church toward our own tribe. Often our churches are very homogenous, culturally. We should ask whether or not our churches reflect the cultural diversity of the local area. There will be costs to being impartial, and sometimes we'll be crossing over to our enemies.

As we cross the aisle we also have to think about judgment. One of the main obstacles preventing Christians from crossing the aisle is the fear of being judged. But the people we cross over to are probably also fearing being judged themselves. For various reasons, perhaps of lifestyle, sexuality, race, economic status, disability, religion, huge life mistakes, people can fear Christians when they start talking to them.

So we need a Christ-like approach to the issue of being judged and judging other people. Jesus taught, 'Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others you will be judged and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.'

So as we cross the aisle, we're not to

judge others, but we're also not to be passive. This does not mean we don't exercise good judgment, or that we don't call out injustice for the ill-treatment of people. We're to defend and advocate for the marginalized by challenging their abusers. But we now have Jesus as the perfect judge, so we are not determining a person's status before God or exercising punishment on behalf of God, rather we are helping people in love.

And if we are judged we're to respond in grace and prayer for our enemies, with gospel proclamation in the power of the Holy Spirit. We can learn to be humble and listen when we're in the presence of people not like us.

Finally. If we're going to cross the aisle we have to learn to stand out, not seek to completely blend in. Rather we need to be distinctively Christ-like. Israel was called to be a shining light to the nations and in the same way Jesus came to be the light to the world. And he called his disciples, he called us, to be salt and light. While we should be distinctive as individuals this is a call to corporate action. We need to ask ourselves whether our community knows we're here or would notice if we disappeared over night. To be distinct we need to be a shining light.

Crossing the aisle is about being incarnational because God crossed the aisle first to be with us.

Peter concluded by saying that he'd love other churches, especially Anglican Churches, to be a little bit more radical, a little less middle-class; to stand out and bring more flavour to the world. We can't do that unless we are willing to have sacrificial and humble encounters with people who are not like us. When we do that I think we see Jesus smile.

## Clergy Moves

The Reverend Jenny Willsher has been licensed as Chaplain Canberra Girls' Grammar School (from 01.01.2020) 28.03.2020.

The Reverend Loy Buckley has been granted an ATO (01.04.2020).

### AnglicanNews

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Peter Carolane speaking to clergy in the ACCC.



# Fresh in the 2nd Chair

'How's the new job?' asked my Narooma neighbour when I arrived back for a visit after my first month in Canberra. I looked at him blankly. In the seconds that followed, the last two months of my life flashed before my eyes...

In the weeks before my consecration, Narooma, like so much of the coast, had been besieged by bushfires. My street had been evacuated twice. From the morning of New Years' Eve till the 15th of February when I drove up Clyde Mountain with Jay to take up residence in Canberra, I had been chaplain at the evacuation centre in Narooma. In the first 48 hours of its opening, we registered more than 4,500 evacuees. The role of a chaplain is all consuming in a time of disaster. The relentless combination of supporting evacuees, visiting those who had lost their homes and caring for fragile and shattered people in the church and community, was exhausting.



The week before we moved, I had a lovely phone call from our Metropolitan Archbishop, wishing me well for my coming consecration, and asking me how my reflection and preparation were going for this significant event. I'm afraid I was rather blunt ... 'I've barely had time to think about it', I answered, though I did then try to explain.

Driving up the mountain on the evening of the 15th of February, I experienced mixed feelings – a sense of overwhelming relief at escaping the war zone and a sense of anticipation for the new role ahead.

So how is the new job?

It's been full on. I spent the first week as Vicar General, while Bishop Mark took a well-earned break. Thankfully there were no dramas. During that week I did battle daily with technology, trying to get my Mac laptop to sync with the office system. I learned how to find the office from our house in Deakin without a GPS in the car; I learned my arms are too short to easily access the parking lot through the boom gate; I learned to access the office with a magic card and to drive the coffee machine; I located the lunch place across the square and the coffee shop downstairs; I was introduced to the level 4 staff, the meeting schedule and found the files I needed so I could tackle the list of things to do.

In the third week, I attended a conference in Newcastle for Australia's women bishops (there are now seven of us) which was brilliant, followed immediately by the National Bishops' Conference, held in Sydney. I've never seen so many bishops before in one place!

What a delight it was to meet the other women bishops. Such a mix of deep spirituality, wisdom, dedication and humour, with just the right amount of cynicism.



Since returning from the conference, life has changed dramatically for all of us as we have faced the rising spectre of the Covid-19 virus. Ministry and the corporate expression of our faith has taken a completely new direction. The bishop's office has focused on supporting parishes as we have all had to adjust to the constantly changing directives and find new ways to do things. It has been inspiring to talk to the clergy and people in the diocese and discover the new and creative ways emerging which enable us stay in touch with and care for one another.



The biggest problem at the moment of course, is finding toilet paper ...

While back Narooma for a visit, I took advantage of the 'seniors shopping hour' from 7.00 am till 8.00 am. Given it was still DARK at 7.00 am, I figured I may be able to do a decent shop. After getting past the serious looking security guard who wanted to see evidence of my senior years (how rude), I was admitted to Woollies. I shouldn't have bothered. It was a zoo! A person couldn't stay 1.5 metres from another person if they wanted to. Plus there was no toilet paper. No doubt the latest directives will change all that. I look forward to being able to traverse the aisles without bumping into other trolleys.

We are all navigating uncharted waters as we settle into a new way of life, at least for the foreseeable future. As we adapt and adjust to our changing circumstances let us pray for one other and for those who are struggling most through this time. May we continue to put our trust in the God who holds the future in his hands, and who loves us so much he gave his Son for us. This Easter will be different for us all – but the truths we celebrate are unchanging.

The Lord be with you.

+Carol

## Anglican Diocesan Services Responding to Covid-19



On Tuesday 24 March ADS and Anglicare staff still working from 221 London Circuit gathered – outside to ensure physical distancing requirements were observed – for a time of prayer and a reading from Psalm 121 as they prepared to move into remote work mode.

Staff were encouraged by Bishop Mark to take an item from the workplace home with them as a symbol of hope, a reminder that although tough days are here better days will return.

The ADS office is now closed and all staff are working remotely with remote access capability. The ADS has a Business Continuity Plan in place and staff are keeping connected via Zoom meetings and other modes as we continue to serve and support our ministry units and agencies throughout this challenging time. Telephone numbers from the 221 London Circuit office have been diverted to the relevant staff who can be contacted via the usual means.

More broadly the ADS response to the COVID-19 pandemic has included:

- Monitoring public health advice and developing resources to assist ministry units.
- Assisting ministry units and agencies to navigate the various risk considerations in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ADS has been working to model the financial impacts the COVID-19 Pandemic is having across the Diocese for:
  - Ministry units;
  - Diocesan Schools;
  - Anglicare;
  - AIDF;
  - ADS; and
  - Other agencies.
- Facilitating Diocesan financial support strategies.
- Reviewing the various recent Government stimulus announcements, specifically the Boosting Cash Flow for employers and JobKeeper payment. The ADS is working closely with our ministry units and agencies in regard to accessing this funding.
- Developing a set of principles to guide the provision of assistance over the longer term.

# Responding to the Corona Virus

## WHAT THREE DIFFERENT CHURCHES AROUND THE DIOCESE AND ANGLICARE ARE DOING TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

### St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn



The suspension of Services has caused significant grief and distress to us all. I am sure that our parishes are involved in similar activities according to their own situation. Here are some of the simple actions we are taking at the Cathedral in the face of this once-in-a-century crisis:

- Our expanded weekly Pewsheets with the Sunday readings, sermon and intercessions are sent by email each week – and for those without internet a team of parishioners deliver a hard copy to their mailbox.
- We are using the phone to keep in touch with parish community members.

- We update our website regularly with news and items of interest, as well as the weekly mail out. For Palm Sunday we also sent out blessed palm crosses with our expanded pewsheets
- Our Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/Goulburncathedral/> will also be updated regularly.
- We upload weekly services which can be accessed through the cathedral site, and for Holy Week and Easter there will be several services, hopefully with bishops preaching from afar!
- We have downloaded Zoom and are getting used to the idea of using it for online meetings.

The current circumstances definitely mean some upskilling in online expertise for all of us.

In the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent (John 9.1-41) Jesus speaks about being the light of the world.

May his light guide us in this time of darkness and fear and may his Spirit strengthen us to meet the challenges of this hour.

*by Dean Phillip Saunders*

### Good Shepherd Anglican, Curtin



Good Shepherd Anglican is one of the larger city churches, fortunate to have skills and resources in the congregation to rapidly make changes in response to the church closures. Some things they have been doing:

- A team of less than 10 people livestreaming a Sunday service from the church with a view to making the experience as engaging as possible for people who are watching on their computers/TV screens at home.
- Twice weekly short video presentations by clergy team.
- Gathering a team of Good Shepherd members who are willing to offer help and support to those who might need it.
- Inviting requests for help and support from church members and the general public through our

website.

- Dropping off playgroup craft kits to the homes of our playgroup families.
- Organising systematic regular phone calls to members who would otherwise be isolated.
- Working with neighbouring Uniting Church and Canberra Relief Network to be a distribution centre for food hampers for families experiencing disadvantage due to COVID 19.
- Encouraging all small groups to stay connected and meet online through Zoom.
- Planning for online video interviews with Good Shepherd members.
- Making the most of the church facebook site to stay connected and encouraged.

*from Reverend Guy Matthews*

### St John the Baptist, Boorowa



St John's in Boorowa is a rural parish. Reverend Robert Linbeck, who is currently a retired locum in the parish, writes:

'I have been going out to Boorowa every Sunday for the past 18 months doing one service each Sunday. We have a mixture of people on email and some elderly who aren't.

We have decided that I will produce a service each Sunday following the service of Sunday Morning (Page 383) of the Prayer Book. Some will receive it by email and for those who can't the wardens will print a hard copy and drop it in their mail box.

I am hoping that parishioners will follow the service in their homes at 9.30am each Sunday. These services commenced on Palm Sunday. I will have a service planned for Good Friday and Easter day and every Sunday following. I will also send Bishop Mark's reflection each week.

For pastoral Care we are setting up a roster for ringing up parishioners on a regular basis. Some thought we can also go back to the old way of communication – writing letters and cards.

Most of our income is by offertory each Sunday so the Parish Council will work out a plan for how we will continue to receive the parishioners' Sunday giving.'

### Anglicare NSW South, NSW West, ACT

Anglicare teams have responded to the challenges of the pandemic in the following ways, from CEO Jeremy Halcrow:

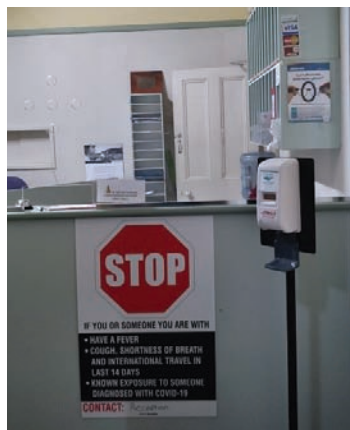
- Infection control workshops: We have now gone live with the nurse-led infection control training for staff via zoom, combining the clinical expertise of our Junction nurses together with training expertise of our Workforce Development Unit and the input of staff from across a range of our frontline services.

distributed to service locations which are supporting clients living rough or at risk of homelessness.

- Toilet paper for those in need: Our emergency relief services across all regions have been hit by a lack of supply of essential non-perishable groceries due to panic buying. They have been able to secure five pallets of donated toilet rolls from Quilton, to be distributed across the region, and are hopeful of finding a solution for the supply of tinned food and other staples. There have also been donations of urgently toiletry/sanitary items in partnership with Good360 and ongoing donations of food and toiletry items through Canberra Girls Grammar School and Burgmann Anglican School.

- Continuing intergenerational connection: A number of Anglicare ECEC services have been engaged in connection between young children and residents of aged care facilities for some time. Sadly these visits have had to cease due to the pandemic. However Anglicare ECECs are continuing this vision through our Art for Aged Care project where the children paint pictures for older people in lockdown or self-isolation.

- There are many encouraging stories of assistance provided by St John's care also.



- More protective supplies have arrived! Pictured above is the Cowper St, Goulburn, reception set up ready for the pandemic with a standing hand sanitiser dispenser. We have been able to source four of these dispensers and they are being



# Celebrate Easter

A range of resources to help you celebrate Easter are available on the Diocesan website, on our 'Keep Connected' page, with online worship services, family activities for you to do at home and testimonies about the Easter hope. You can also find a list of all churches with online resources.

## Cootamundra sets up Easter teddies for the children



Lots of people in Cootamundra are putting teddies in their windows for children out on walks with their families, and so the parish of Cootamundra is taking the opportunity to use this for Easter.

The above picture was Palm Sunday. The church building has a lot of windows and it's great seeing people out walking looking in our windows!

from Reverend Yvonne Gunning

## An Easter Poem

### GOOD FRIDAY MORNING

by Christina Rossetti

Up Thy Hill of Sorrows  
Thou all alone,  
Jesus, man's Redeemer,  
Climbing to a Throne:  
Thro' the world triumphant,  
Thro' the Church in pain,  
Which think to look upon Thee  
No more again.

Upon my hill of sorrows  
I, Lord, with Thee,  
Cheered, upheld, yea, carried,  
If a need be:  
Cheered, upheld, yea, carried,  
Never left alone,  
Carried in Thy heart of hearts  
To a throne.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) Anglicare has advised staff and clients to take precautions in line with government recommendations. Safety for staff and our clients is our priority. Details are available at [www.anglicare.com.au/about-us/health-and-safety](http://www.anglicare.com.au/about-us/health-and-safety).



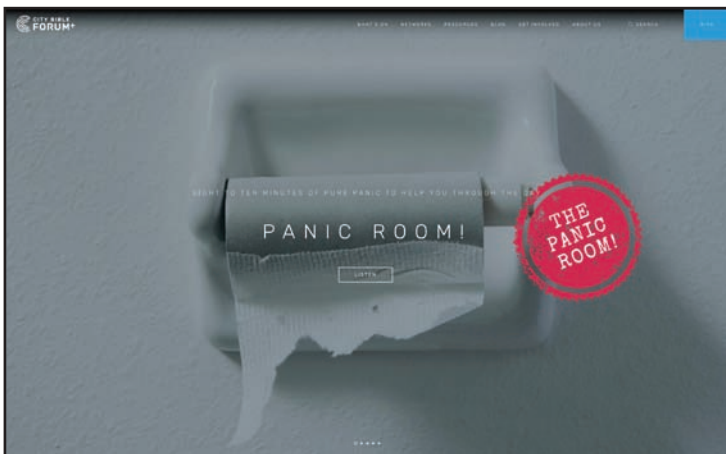
This year is shaping up to be one of the most difficult our emergency relief teams have ever seen.

Communities already affected by the NSW bushfires now face the threat of the COVID-19 virus. Subsequent panic buying and temporary goods shortages have left already vulnerable people exposed to further risk.

The number of families and individuals needing help is unprecedented. But you can help us make a difference.

**Donate to the Anglicare Easter Appeal today.**

Visit [www.anglicare.com.au](http://www.anglicare.com.au) to donate online.



It's easy to panic at times like this. So much going on. So much uncertainty. The Panic Room is a place to park your panic. In the Panic Room we'll discuss why we feel the way we do in troubled times, what responses people have, and how there might be a pathway through it that can give us calm in a panicky world.

<https://plus.citybibleforum.org/city/episode/panic-room>

All episodes at Third Space: <https://thirdspace.org.au/third-space/category/1636>

Donate here or on [www.anglicare.com.au](http://www.anglicare.com.au)

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