

15th Sept 2022

Dear Parishioners,

It seems an age since I last wrote to you, and I apologise for that. Time slips away at an alarming rate!

There are a few things which I need to apprise you of, so I felt this was probably the easiest way to do this.

The most immediate thing is that, following the death of the Queen, there is now a Book of Condolence on the altar at St Leonard's for anyone who would like to leave a respectful comment. This will remain in place at least until the end of September. The church is open during the opening times of the Mustard Seed, generally 10 am – 4 pm, although there is earlier closing on Mondays and Saturdays.

On Thursday, September 22nd, on the National Day of Mourning, there will be a "Solemn Morning Prayer" at 9 am at St Leonard's, an opportunity to give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

On a more cheerful note, we are looking forward to a visit from Bishop Ian Coutts on Sunday, November 6th at St Leonard's. We will be celebrating All Saints' Day at the 9.30 am Eucharist, followed by All Souls by the river at 11 am.

As many of you will be aware by now, our Parish Council has resolved that we will continue to partake of Communion in the one kind for now. While most parishes in the diocese and beyond are again offering the Common Cup, the practice of Intinction has been banned. Parish Council decided in June, that with the Covid virus now in our community, it would be unwise to share the Common Cup with so many in the congregation having compromised immunity. I hope that you understand this decision is for your safety, as I continue to take the wine on behalf of us all. Hopefully we will be able to return to "normal" before too many more months.

After the fires earlier this year, Parish Council have been formalising a Fire Plan for the Parish buildings and their contents. Parish Council agreed to also encourage all parishioners to make or update their personal fire plans. We are aware that we have a number of older, vulnerable parishioners who will need help when fire threatens. If you are in this situation, please do make sure you have firm plans in place with friends or relatives prior to the fire season, so that you know you will have the assistance you require.

I am hoping to get back into more regular communication especially with those of you who, for whatever reason, I don't see as regularly. Please contact me if you would like a pastoral visit. I had great plans to get around everyone, but unfortunately that hasn't happened, or it has been difficult to make a time which has worked for us both.

Please don't forget to let either me, the Wardens or our Parish Secretary, Marion Jamison know if you change address, phone number or any other details.

I close with a prayer from the Bunbury Cathedral on the death of our Queen:

Almighty God, ruler of every nation,
we give you thanks
for the life of your servant, Queen Elizabeth the Second,
whose faithful obedience to her calling
and whose leadership marked by sacrificial service
have inspired generations of her people.
May the heavenly grace which sustained her
comfort all who mourn her death.
Inspire, we pray, by her example,

the leaders and people of the United Kingdom,
the Commonwealth, and this nation of Australia
to work together with renewed passion for justice and peace.
As you have received her into her eternal rest,
renew our trust that nothing can separate us from your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

My continued prayers and good wishes, your priest and friend,

Sally

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Live simply, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly.
Tell of Jesus' love at the cross and in your life.
Leave the rest to God.