

# Saint Peter's Church

William Street, East Maitland

Serving the Communities of Ashtonfield, East Maitland,  
Four Mile Creek, Louth Park, Metford, Pitnacree & Tenambit



**Maundy Thursday**  
**9 April 2020**

## EASTER LETTER FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Dear sisters and brothers

So far this year our end of Lent and Holy Week observances have been anything but typical. It has been wonderful to engage with people on the telephone, email and via Facebook and YouTube. We have enjoyed making our services available electronically and I'm grateful to Sarah and Georgia for being so patient as we have prepared and lead the services. Our front loungeroom now looks a lot like a movie set with non-essential furniture pushed aside to the corners of the room or moved out into the hallway. It remains a great privilege for us to be leading worship for our communities.

Over the great three days of Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day we will enter into our observances and celebrations wholeheartedly and yet in very new and different ways – online. Whilst we currently feel the pain of physical separation from each other we are still very much connected and united in prayer and worship. I am praying daily for members of our parish family as I work through our Parish roll. Can I encourage you to continue to pray for each other and can I ask you to also pray for me as well.

At Easter we celebrate our Lord's victory over sin and death – a bursting forth from the tomb into new life. However, we do not get to Easter Day without first experiencing the mixed emotions of love and betrayal of Maundy Thursday; as well as the isolation and pain of Good Friday. At Easter as Christians our call is to walk with our brother Jesus through all of the emotions of these events. It has been my experience that the depth to which we can give ourselves to these three days can intensify our experience of the joy of Easter Day. I encourage you to enter into this journey with me, wherever and however you can this Easter.

The experience of entombment for Jesus was only for a time. For us, this year, our entombment has seemed to last a little longer. However, we too will emerge from our entombment after Easter. Resurrection and new life will no doubt be very different for us this year. Until we can all be restored to each other and when we can gather together in our church building again our resurrection life together will take on a new and unique dimension. I look forward to that time as I know you do too. The sacrifices we make now will in the end benefit us all, of that I am certain.

I have been asked by a number of people how we can continue to make our offerings to support the ongoing running costs and expenses of our Parish in this time when we cannot simply drop our envelopes in the collection plate at church as we usually do. It is possible for you to make your usual weekly offering to the God, through the Parish by Direct Debit. I would encourage you to seriously consider this as an option for giving over the coming months.

The Parish bank account details are as follows:

**BSB: 035-805**

**Account No: 00040464**

**Name of Account: St Peter's Church**

I imagine many of you could set up regular, secure transfers through online banking with your own financial institution. If you do not use online banking you may be able to make contact directly with your financial institution and give them the above details. We can also assist you with a form from our Diocesan Financial Institution the Anglican Savings and Development Fund. You can contact Maryka via email at [office@eastmaitlandanglican.org](mailto:office@eastmaitlandanglican.org) or phone through to the Parish Office on (02) 4934 5303 if you require a form or any assistance.

I am very mindful that some of you may be experiencing financial stress at the moment either as a result of reduced income from investments or from loss of income or reduced income through a recent change in work circumstances. I do not want this part of my letter to add any stress to your lives. Only those who can continue to give comfortably should consider the Direct Debit option I have described. Our main focus is surviving these challenging times together and moving towards fullness of life in our communities in due course.

As we begin our celebrations of Easter please be assured of my prayers for all of you. We have a great story to tell and we will tell it with passion and enthusiasm this year as the community of St Peter's has for so many years before.

May you know the full light, love, hope and peace of the resurrection!!

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

With the assurance of my prayers.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Scott', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**The Reverend Scott Dulley**  
**Rector of East Maitland**