



Cross and Keys

April 2020 - Newsletter of Saint Peter's Church



Parish Office & Parish Information

At the current time the Parish Office is closed - the Office Administrator is working remotely from home and can access emails to office@eastmaitlandanglican.org. These will be responded to as soon as practical. Telephone calls to the Parish Office at 4934 5303 are being diverted to the Parish Priest.

Pastoral Care Please advise the Parish Office of any pastoral needs and especially if someone is in hospital. If you need the assistance of a priest at any time please contact the Parish Office. After hours the office telephone will provide a mobile phone number for a member of staff who can assist you, or you can leave a message.

Baptisms and Weddings Information about baptisms (christenings) is available on our parish website. Information about holding a wedding at Saint Peter's is available in our *Wedding Guide* and on our wedding website. The best way to make an enquiry about baptisms or weddings is through our websites.

*Parish Office Telephone: (02) 4934 5303
E-mail: office@eastmaitlandanglican.org
Parish: www.eastmaitlandanglican.org
Mailing: PO Box 662 East Maitland NSW 2323*

At the present time when we cannot simply drop envelopes in the collection plate, it is possible make your usual weekly offering by Direct Deposit. The Parish Bank account details are as follows:

BSB: 035-805

Account No: 00040464

Name of Account: Saint Peter's Church

If you are a user of Facebook please like and share our Facebook Pages:

- East Maitland Anglican
- Petrus Community
- St Peter's Playgroup East Maitland
- Op Shop St Peter's East Maitland



We are finding that Facebook is a very useful way to keep people informed about activities at Saint Peter's and has had a good response from young families interested in coming along to join Music Time and Playgroup.

Scott's Spot

This month we are offering something slightly different in our Cross & Keys Newsletter. Restrictions around COVID-19 have changed dramatically the way we as the church engage together and with the community around us. Our regular worship has been replaced with on-line, live-streamed services and many of our usual activities have been paused for a while. I hope that you enjoy the reflections and photographs on offer this month.



In the early stages of COVID-19 we continued to offer our Thursday evening Community Meal as a takeaway option. The demand for this has diminished significantly over these past weeks. It has been a great blessing that we have continued to receive significant amounts of fresh food through Oz Harvest. With no meal to cook, we have changed the way we operate and have been preparing food parcels for distribution to those in need in conjunction with our neighbouring Anglican parishes as well as the Uniting Church. On Wednesdays we have been distributing around 30 parcels which is of great assistance to those who receive them. I am grateful for the ministry of Fr Peter, Sarah Dulley and Louise Hay who, on rotation, have been working in this important ministry. I have also had many requests for other types of assistance from people in need and we have been glad to have assisted people where we can.

This weekend we observe ANZAC Day. Even in our current circumstances ANZAC Day remains an important part of the fabric of our life together as a community. Our observances this year will be different. We will not gather at our Cenotaphs or participate in the usual Marches. For me, as a grandson of WWII Veterans and as a friend to many Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans it will be both strange and sad not to sit with mates at the RSL Club together on Saturday. Instead Sarah, Georgia and I will be participating in the 'Light up the Dawn' campaign which has been supported and promoted by the RSL. At 6am on Saturday we will be standing on our footpath with a candle, we will quietly say the Ode and observe a minute of silence for the fallen. I invite you to join with us on your footpath, on your veranda or in your living room in this simple and yet powerful way of making commemoration. The ABC will also be broadcasting ANZAC Day services at 6am and 10am. If you would like to access a simple service of remembrance you could check out the Muswellbrook RSL Facebook page on Saturday. A short video I was honoured to be asked to participate in will be available from 6am.

In my own personal reflections this past week my mind has been drawn to the disciple's post resurrection encounter with the risen Jesus in the twenty-first chapter of John's Gospel. The breakfast on the beach story is a story that has for many years had a profound effect on me. The encounter with the living Lord in the beauty of nature as well as the deep questioning of Peter reaches into the core of who I am as a person and a Priest. Jesus asks Peter and us today "Do you love me?" "Yes Lord, you know that I love you." "Feed my lambs...tend my sheep...feed my sheep." The invitation to Peter then and to us today is to respond to the salvation and reconciliation that Jesus achieved once for all on the cross and be active participants in the implementation of Christ's mission in the world, in our communities and in our own lives. Our work in the world is given shape, purpose and meaning by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is grounded in prayer and enabled by the Holy Spirit.

As we continue to be the church dispersed and sent in this Easter season may we all find new and creative ways to live out our shared commission to be the body of Christ in our world today.

You remain in my prayers.

Your Priest and brother in Christ.
Scott

Coping with Isolation

Reverend Wendy Brack

I hadn't realised how much time I spend away from my home during the week until Covid-19 virus forced me into isolation. It has impacted in some way in all aspects of my life.

Not being able to do my ministry work is where the greatest impact has occurred.

I can no longer help with the three services at the weekend, visit the four Age Care Facilities, co-ordinate Samaritans, lead my Bible Study group and Cursillo or visit parishioners to give them Extended Communion. I have gone from being out and about six or seven days a week to maybe one.

It has also affected me personally as I am not able to visit my own mother, as she too is in care. Luckily she does have a phone so I can ring her, but it is not the same. I really do miss holding her hand, giving her a kiss or hug or even praying with her. Even my great niece can't understand why I can't come and play with her as I usually do in school holidays.

Shopping. Instead of shopping daily I have now had to plan and shop once a week, hoping I get what I want.

How am I coping?

Mentally I feel like I am back being a School Teacher on holidays. Instead of planning and organising lessons I am attending to the jobs around the house that needed doing for ages but didn't have the time to do it or couldn't organise tradespeople to come and do it because times didn't suit,

Keeping in touch by phone has replaced visiting where comparing new routine and activities done has been very rewarding and it allows me a chance to give them the latest message from Scott or the Diocese.

I have also started to learn to play the piano again. Something I haven't done for 40 years or more. I must say I am rather rusty. Just like that famous song from Sound of Music, Let's start at the very beginning. That's where I am at!

Researching my family tree is another way that is helping me to fill in time. I have the eight branches in progress. I started this back in 2011 but left it as I didn't have the time to commit to it. Now I have the time so it is full steam ahead.

Like most of you I now have the cleanest house, the most manicured lawn and weedless garden. Thank God for the beautiful weather.

I must not forget to say how much I enjoy watching and participating in the services streamed from the Rectory. A very big thank you to Scott, Sarah and Georgia for connecting us all in this way and making us feel like the church family that we are.



The Challenges of Isolation

Fr Peter Rothnie

Well what a different few weeks has it been with limits on our ability to meet, eat out, go for drives, work, and in fact most things that we have taken for granted in our modern world.



For Marie and I we have had the added challenge of managing Marie's fall on the 9th February and subsequent surgery on the 10th in Sydney. Marie's twice weekly rehabilitation sessions ceased on the 1st of April and it was after Easter before she could get into the Physiotherapist. Marie is improving again and is walking better each day. We have started doing a few walks as Marie's endurance and time increases.

I had a number of Zoom and teleconferences as the work of not only St Peter's continues but my appointment as the Locum at Gresford Paterson Parish commenced just before the lockdowns came in force.

I have continued co-ordinating the Community Meal, and initially we converted to providing takeaway meals through a side window, however as the restrictions increased and other government initiatives were implemented demand reduced to just one family and alternative arrangements have been made for them. We have made the decision to suspend the Community Meal until there is an easing of restrictions. However on the flip side we are still receiving OzHarvest deliveries and have in association with adjoining Anglican and Uniting parishes been providing food parcels to families in our area.

The parish leadership group created an expanded pastoral support team and each member has about 12 families to contact on a regular basis to ensure they are OK and if they require any assistance and to let them know of the various online services that St Peter's has been streaming. I have been contacting people across the parish as part of this team plus some Gresford Paterson parishioners.

As some of you would know, we live on a corner block which instead of a fence has garden edged by rock along the boundary except the driveway and front pathway. The trees and shrubs have been trimmed, dead ones removed, new natives planted and all the garden mulched, 5 sugar cane bales! The trailer is full (maybe overflowing) with all the tree & shrub trimmings, awaiting delivery to the tip! The vegetable garden has been attended to and we are harvesting eggplant every day. We have 4 different varieties of eggplants. We have had curried eggplant, grilled eggplant, baked eggplant stuffed eggplant!!! We have a supply of salad vegetables, English spinach and a range of Chinese vegetables.



In addition to our vegetables and fruit trees we are blessed to have a fantastic range of herbs spread throughout the gardens. All of them have responded well to the recent rain, their seasonal feeding and trim. The ability to just walk outside and pick a massive range of herbs adds a different flavour to many dishes.

We, like so many, have missed the opportunity of contact with our children and grandchildren. April and May for us is a time when birthdays and other significant events have their anniversaries and not being able to travel has made some of them harder. Whilst keeping in touch by phone, FaceTime and Facebook has facilitated some contact we have missed the individual personal contact not only with family but also a number of people including many of the parishioners at St Peter's.

I can imagine that next month I will be able to update you on our rose garden, small orchard and our pond. Till we are able to gather, keep safe and I look forward in particular to having "breakfast" at McDonalds with the Wednesday Eucharist service parishioners.

Parish Governance

During the current Covid-19 situation Bishop Peter has asked that each Parish form an Executive Committee that will meet as required with the full authority to make decisions on behalf of the Parish Council. Our Parish Executive Committee members are Kevin Short, Anne Page, Geoffrey Seccombe, Wendy Brack, Peter Rothnie, Louise Hay, Kim Hodges, Maryka Gibson, and Scott Dulley chairing the Committee.

The pastoral care of parishioners is a priority as we are not able to meet together in our usual ways. Members of the Parish Executive Committee together with other key Lay Leaders in the parish, have been allocated a group of parishioners to be in regular contact with in order that we can care for each other in these challenging times.

Regular emails will be issued to update parishioners, and we will also be utilising technology to send SMS text messaging for brief messages. For those parishioners who do not have email or mobile phones, you are not forgotten and we will send information by mail.



Church Wardens - Anne Page, Geoff Seccombe and Kevin Short

Prayers and Readings at your Fingertips

The daily readings and prayers that we use at Saint Peter's are taken from the Australian Lectionary. Saint Peter's Church has a subscription to ePray that is an online, easy to use resource for worship planning, based on the Australian Lectionary.

For those of you who have an iPhone or a smartphone, ePray is available as an app - just download the app and put in St Peter's code, 5911,

Be Nourished & Sustained through **Free** Daily Prayer

Click on easy access to the Anglican Daily Office on your smart phone or tablet

1. Download the ePray DAILY app FREE from the app store
2. Tap into the App with the App Store/Google code for your Parish: 5911 and you're ready to go!

Your Parish Access code is:

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For more information on the app visit:

- [http://www.stpeters.org.au](#)
- [http://www.stpeters.org.au](#)
- [http://www.stpeters.org.au](#)
- [http://www.stpeters.org.au](#)

For more information on the app visit:

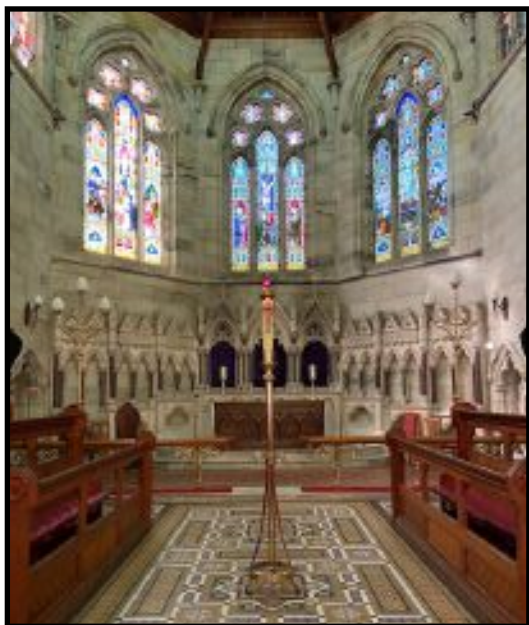
Prayers by Phone

The Diocese of Newcastle has set up a short service of prayer for people who do not have access to the internet or are uncomfortable using it. This short service of prayer is available for the cost of a local call. The service is recorded and is simply designed for listening. The recording will be changed each Sunday.



The Prayer Service can be accessed by ringing **4058 2680** for the cost of a local call.

The Church is closed but the work of the Parish continues



The Sanctuary during Lent



The Sanctuary on Easter Sunday



Lighting of Paschal Candle



Online Streaming Service of Tenebrae



Online Eucharist from the Rectory

Doing things differently, but the work of the Parish continues



The Rectory on Palm Sunday



Doors closed on Palm Sunday but the Palms are there to remind us



The Rectory set up for Live Streaming on Palm Sunday



We are very grateful to OzHarvest who continue to deliver food for us to distribute to the needy



Maryka continues to work from home thanks to technology



Sorting out OzHarvest delivery ready to make up food parcels

The Paschal (Easter) Moon

