



**The Reverend Sue Beverly
Vicar**

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St John's Anglican Church

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Dear Friends

Worship in St John's following announcement of Level 2 restrictions

Although it is not a surprise that we have moved to COVID-19 Alert Level 2, we naturally wish it had not been necessary. However, that is where we are and it behoves us all to take every precaution we possibly can to minimise the risk to ourselves and to others. So this letter gives important details about the procedures we have reintroduced for the safety of all. Essentially, we are following the Level 2 procedures we implemented at the end of May for the change from Level 3 to Level 2. The difference this time is that we are going up a level rather than down.

While it is theoretically possible that Level 2 will not last until Sunday, my sense, not least from listening to what is around and from a recent Vicars' Zoom meeting with the Bishop, is that we should work on the basis that Level 2 will be with us for some considerable time. Furthermore, we should bear in mind the possibility that we may find ourselves at Level 3 at short notice.

On Sundays there will be services at 8.30am and 10am. At both services we will have contact tracing, physical distancing, receive communion in one kind, with no singing and no hand contact at the peace or after the service. The 8.30 service will be said with no music. The 10am service will have recorded hymns which we will listen to but not join in and, if an organist is available, music before and after the service and during communion. Please read on for further detail.

The 10am service will be broadcast via Zoom as at present.

The Wednesday service will continue with similar protocols as for Sundays and no morning tea

When you arrive:

- You will be welcomed and invited to place any foodbank donation in a basket in the foyer.
- If you are not able to make your financial donation any other way please put your cash in a collection plate. However, we much prefer online banking – it is the safest method for all of us
- we will note your name on a contact tracing form
- you will be invited to sanitise your hands
- as you enter the church itself, an usher will explain the seating arrangements which are designed to ensure appropriate physical distancing

During worship:

- for the 8.30 service liturgy leaflets will be available which will be placed in the pews; please take these home after the service and dispose of them in your own recycling bins
- the liturgy for the 10am service will be displayed by Powerpoint
- the liturgy will be somewhat simpler: we will not have a procession, we will not move from our seats for the peace and the exchange of peace will be with a hands-together bow or wave
- communion will be in one kind (wafer) and ushers will guide people row by row to a standing position in front of the altar steps (sanitiser will be available for you to use before communion)
- we have been advised singing is inadvisable as it super-spreads viruses

After worship:

- the ushers will guide you out of church and you will be asked to leave the building without gathering to chat inside – this is necessary to maintain physical distancing
- there will be no morning tea after the 10am service until further notice

Other points:

- the weekly newsletter will be available by email and on the website; the liturgy will also be available on the website
- anyone who visits the Parish Office during the week should record their visit using the NZ COVID Tracer App: there is a QR code next to the Office door. People not using the App should record the visit in their own paper records.
- remember what we have been told about hand washing and coughing and sneezing into elbows
- please stay at home if you have any concerns about your health and the possibility of transmitting any infection

As always please remember that church is the community of God's people, the Body of Christ, and it is good to gather together in person when we can, taking as good care of each other as we are able.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

With every blessing

Sue