



From the Bishop

20 March 2020

To all Clergy, Secretaries, Diocesan Councillors,
Finance Audit and Investment Committee and Synod Members

COVID-19 Update No. 4

Dear friends in Christ,

I write this to you following the Prime Minister's latest announcement that there will be new crowd restrictions with a maximum limit of four square metres provided per person in an enclosed space, which is in addition to banning gatherings of 100 people or more in an enclosed space.

I have decided that,

All public worship within the Diocese will be paused effective immediately.

I want to reiterate – we are not closing up shop, we are not disappearing but we will have to do things very differently for the time being. There is to be no services this Sunday, 22nd March 2020, and this should be circulated to all parishioners as soon as possible. In addition to this, a notice should be placed on each church door to advise that services have been suspended. This measure will remain in place until further notice.

To be clear, this means there should be no worship, no social gatherings, no op-shops, no vestry meetings or Parish/Pastoral District meetings until further notice.

Even if we can't attend services as regularly as we normally do, the life of the church still continues. The whole Diocese will feel a financial burden that could last for months and people's ongoing financial support is still very much needed and appreciated. I strongly encourage you to urge all parishioners to put in place a method to continue their regular giving. This could be through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Direct Debits. Either way, parishioners will need to be aware of the Parish/Pastoral District bank account details to set this up.

It is important to note that the Registry Office will remain open but we would ask that visit be kept to essential ones only. We will continue to provide updates to people via email and will also expand this to the Diocesan website and Facebook page.



Another way that the Diocese will assist with communications is by setting up a Zoom account. This will allow for remote conferencing services combining video conferencing, online meetings, chat, and mobile collaboration. I would like for all Clergy, Diocesan Councillors, Finance Audit and Investment Committee and Synod members to ensure that they can access Zoom so that we can communicate in this way should it become necessary. Having said this, I would like all Clergy to come on board with this platform so that we can have a conversation as a group early next week.

I will write again more extensively on Monday but for now you remain in my prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a cross symbol to the left of the name 'Keith Dalby'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Reverend Keith Dalby
Bishop of The Murray