

FIVE DOCK DRUMMOYNE UNITING CHURCH

RESUMPTION OF SUNDAY WORSHIP 6th SEPTEMBER 2020

INFORMATION for WORSHIPPERS

The resumption of Worship has proven not to be as easy as one would have hoped. The following information is a comprehensive list of instructions necessary for services to resume, as required by the State Health Department, for a COVID-19 Safe environment for worshippers, visitors, volunteers and staff.

To begin worship again a COVID-19 Safety Plan had to be approved by Church Council. The following information is a summary of that Safety Plan and requires careful reading and understanding as we are asked to change a number of customary actions normally associated with worship.

The main theme is **STAY HOME IF YOU ARE UNWELL** and **PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING** at all times (1.5m and/or 4m²) and **PRACTISE HEALTH and HYGIENE GUIDELINES**.

ARRIVAL and ENTRY to the CHURCH

- If you are over 70 and/or in a high risk category health wise, consider carefully whether it would be wise for you to attend service.
- If you are sick, please stay at home. If you have a cold or flu-like symptoms, been in contact with someone who is sick, or who has or has had COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or who has come from or been in the state of Victoria, please stay at home.
- The only entry to the church will be through the front door facing Garfield Street and into the church through the first door. The foyer will be blocked just past the small side entry door, which will not be in use.
- There will be yellow line across the front entrance. This is where you need to stand until invited in by the Door Steward.
- If a queue develops, stand on one of the crosses marked on the entry path, similar to as you do in the local community. These markers will be set at a social distance of at least 1.5m.
- On entry your temperature will be taken, several health questions will be asked of you and your name and contact details will be recorded. This information will be held securely for 28 days.
- Face masks are available at the entry on request.
- Hand sanitiser will be available around the building - please use, particularly on entry to the church and on exit.
- Consider arriving 15 minutes earlier than has been your practice in the past to allow time for health checks and attendance recording.
- Consider downloading the COVID Safe App and turn it on as you enter the church.
- There is to be no handshaking or hugs on entry to and exit from the church. Always practise social distancing.
- Gloves and face masks will be worn by various members assisting in the entry to and exit from the church.
- On entry to the church foyer, keep greetings and conversations to a minimum.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

- Refer to the seating plan attached. It will show where couples and singles are to sit during the service. Seats will be placed wider apart to comply with social distancing.
- The weekly newsletter and handouts will be placed on seats to indicate seating positions
- Bible readers and the allocated person to pray must do so from the stand indicated in the seating diagram. Microphones will be switched on at the appropriate time.
- The minister will conduct the service from the lectern on the stage , including the weekly notices.
- Seating capacity will be set at 40 although seating for 50 is available if required (funeral).
- There will be no choir and no singing by the congregation. Hymns will be projected on to the screen from video clips or audio with words. No humming or singing quietly.
- Bibles have been removed.
- Do not sit in areas other than those indicated on the seating diagram and marked by the newsletter and do not change seats. :
- Once inside the church do not move around unnecessarily.

EXITING THE CHURCH

- The minister will not be greeting worshipers as they leave the service - no handshaking.
- The minister will be available outside the church building for anyone who needs to . speak with him urgently.
- There will be no morning tea until further notice.
- After the service leave the area as quickly as possible. There is to be no grouping/gathering at doorways. Keep a social distance at all times.
- Both doors will be open for ease of exit from the church.

GENERAL NOTES

- Only the church, the church foyer and the church toilet will be open. The two kitchens, the halls and rear toilets will be closed.
- Toilet access will be through the second foyer door from inside the church.
- Hand washing by soap and water and/or use of sanitiser is important.
- Cleaning will be upgraded. Besides our usual cleaner, high touch areas for example will be cleaned before and after each service.
- Pastoral Carers will continue to make contact with members of the congregation who are unable to get to service. Recordings of services will be available on the church website.
- Groups are able to begin activities when the group agrees, however a COVID Safety
- Plan must cover the group restarting.

TRANSPORT

- Public transport to and from worship is the responsibility of the worshipper, following Transport NSW guidelines.
- The rear church car park will be open. Further parking available in the King Street car park or on the local streets. Parking on the church driveway requires drivers to be aware of the possibility that there may be more pedestrian traffic than what has been common in the past due to worshippers waiting to enter the church.
- Sharing car transport with non-family members should be carefully considered. Social distancing guidelines should be observed (4sqm regulation). Face masks should be worn and hard surfaces such as door handles should be cleansed before and after transport.

COMMUNION (refer to the seating plan when reading this paragraph)

Communion is to be celebrated without any contact. Our first communion service will be Sunday 2nd August. Individual elements will be prepared in advance to eliminate touching and to observe good food handling practices. The person preparing the elements must wear gloves and a face mask during the preparation. The bread element will be spaced on a lined tray to avoid worshippers touching neighbouring pieces when picking up their own bread element from the tray. The wine element will be served in a small disposable cup, also spaced on a tray to avoid touching neighbouring cups when being picked up. The trays will be on a table at the front of the church. Worshippers are to move to the front of the church, observing social distancing, in a similar manner to that which they are currently familiar, pick up a bread element and a wine element and then return to their seats, where they will stand until all have returned and following the blessing of the elements by the minister, partake of communion together before sitting down. A small tray of elements will be prepared for worshippers who find it difficult to come to the front of the church. These elements will be served by the minister observing social distancing. Cups may be left in the book tray at the back of the seats to be collected for disposal at the end of the service by the communion steward wearing gloves and facemask.

OFFERING (refer to the seating plan when reading this paragraph)

Offering is to be received without contact being made. Offering will be received during the offering "hymn" as is usually the case but with the exception that there will be no touching of the offering plates. The offering plates will be wiped with a cleanser before and after the service. The plates will be on a table at the front of the church. Those worshippers wishing to make an offering will move from their seats, observing social distancing, to the front of the church to place their offering in an offering plate without touching it. Those seated in the centre of a row and at the end of a row next to the centre aisle, will move to the centre aisle and move forward to place their offering in the plate and return by the relevant window aisle to their seat. Those who need to return to a seat on the centre aisle will need to continue to the back of the church before proceeding down the centre aisle back to their seat, keeping a social distance all the way. Those sitting at the end of a row, next to the windows, will move from their seat into the window aisle then move to the back of the church before moving down the centre aisle to the offering plates at the front of the church. These worshippers then return to their seat via the relevant window aisle. Those worshippers who are unable to move easily and wish to make an offering should place their offering in a sealed envelope and give it to a worshipper moving to the front to place in the offering plate. All these actions can take place simultaneously as long as a social distance is kept during the movements. At the conclusion of the offering "hymn" a thanksgiving will be given as normal. The offering stewards will count the offering at the end of the service in the church office but must wear gloves and a face mask to do so and use hand sanitiser before and after counting.

If you have concerns regarding what has been stated above, please contact me through the church office for clarification or questions.

Lindsay Brockway