



## The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland

The Reverend Canon Jeff Richardson  
Canon of St Paul's Cathedral Sale  
Rector of the Anglican Parish of Traralgon

7 Burns Street  
(PO Box 303)  
Traralgon Vic 3844

23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020

### To all Parishioners

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Following the Federal and State Governments announcements concerning Coronavirus, Bishop Richard has decided to suspend all public worship and small group activities, which includes Op Shops and other public venues run by Churches. This means we have suspended all forms of public worship in the Parish, effective Sunday evening 22<sup>nd</sup> March and our Op Shop has ceased operation today; and these measures will remain in force until further notice.

The Pastoral and Spiritual needs of all parishioners remain a major concern for me and the Wardens. In consideration of pastoral care, our ordained ministers will offer ministry to people most in need (those in palliative care, the very sick and the hospitalised). Other than this form of ministry, pastoral care will be provided via phone or email. Parish Lay visitors will not visit people on a one to one basis but may have the option of contacting people via the phone or email.

Concerning the Spiritual needs of people, we recommend using the Diocesan website which enables you to screen weekly services by the Bishop and the Dean (Video: <https://youtu.be/Allqozz5fs4> Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/user-799339262/4th-sunday-lenten-service-bishop-richard-treloar-and-dean-susanna-pain>). Also there are a number of Apps available on iphones and android phones which could be used in conjunction with your private devotions (epray daily – log in code 0926, or Pray As You Go – found in iphone App store and is free).

Weekly Offerings will continue to be offered by most parishioners and if this includes you we suggest that you either pay electronically (**Bank:** National Australia Bank **BSB:** 083 932 **Account No.:** 51607 2478 **Account Name:** Anglican Parish St. James Church Traralgon) or to place your weekly collection in a jar or some other container and perhaps organise an appropriate time for it to be picked up.

From April 3<sup>rd</sup> we are offering occasional take-away or delivery meals to parishioners upon pre-ordering on Tuesdays (31<sup>st</sup> March) between 10am & 3pm by phoning Glenda in the office (please do not come to the office in person). The meals will be available for pick-up or delivery on Friday after 12noon. A small cost of \$6 per meal, placed in an envelope will be required upon receipt of the meal/s.

The doors of the Church will be locked at all times, however the Office will be staffed for phone enquiries on Tuesday's and Thursday's between 10am & 3pm. People other than staff are not permitted to enter the Office while the social distancing rules are in force.

Further information and updates will be available on our webpage:

<http://traralgonanglican.org.au/> and

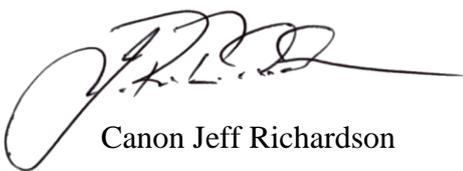
facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SaintJamesTraralgon>

Closing our Church is a most difficult thing the Wardens and I have had to do and ensuring we provide some form of ministry has brought with it significant challenges, but I believe if we all hold together as one and trust in the providence of God then we will see our way through this period of uncertainty.

The following prayer is the Collect from the Book of Common Prayer for Lent 4 which to some degree speaks to us of our human nature, especially in these times when human suffering is great and our future is unknown :

Merciful Lord,  
absolve your people from  
their offences,  
that through your bountiful  
goodness we may all be delivered from  
the chains of those sins  
which by frailty we have  
committed;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake, our  
blessed Lord and Saviour  
who is alive and reigns with  
you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Richardson', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Canon Jeff Richardson