

URGENT Allsaints Update

Kia ora Whanau

It feels like we are in an unprecedented phase in our history. And as we face a coming health/social crisis we as a church must now respond to some very sweeping, though unsurprising, government measures. As a church we are called to trust God, to not be anxious, even in the face of a life threatening virus. We do have to be practical however as we have many vulnerable people in our community of faith.

On Thursday it was announced that meetings of 100+ are no longer allowed. The response of our diocese was to immediately suspend all church meetings. **So there will be no services this Sunday.** This is likely to be the case for some time. We, therefore, must change the way we are church urgently. Most of what follows is what will be occurring in every parish across the diocese – some local decision making has contributed to our response.

We are all encouraged to join up to <http://movementonline.org.nz>
This is the diocese newsletter with links to resources and news that will keep us all connected. It will include a link for a Sunday service that Bishop Ellie is taking at 9am. Please go on line and sign up – it is possible this process could be slow as people all around the diocese will be doing this at the same time. Be patient and keep trying.

In the coming days we will keep you informed via our website <https://www.allsaintspn.org.nz> and facebook page. Search All Saints Palmerston North

We want to set up community hubs all around the city. This will happen over the next week as we meet with people to prepare them to lead small group meetings that are near by. The goal is to be able to meet together to pray, listen to a teaching (I will be doing this with help from my friends!), sing over about a half hour. We need large spaces to meet as ‘social distancing’ is being strongly encouraged. Get in touch if you can help.

The hubs can be great support to those who are shut in. We do need to see our role as being the church, helping meet needs, not embracing self protection in such a way that compromises our witness. All of us can serve as we see fit. Perhaps a visit around your street would reveal ways you can support those closest to you.

We do need to be able to contact and support everyone. So if you are aware of someone who needs pastoral support please contact the church. There will always be someone on call – we as a staff will still be seeking to serve and care.

We are going to continue prayer rhythms (seated a bit further apart!), youth, and we will set up a prayer space in the hall. We will allow up to 20 there at one time but expect this to be a casual drop in space to pray and meditate. Feel free to get in touch with any questions or concerns.

SUMMARY

- No services until further notice.
- Join <http://movementonline.org.nz>
- Get in contact if you want to help set up a local hub.
- Support your neighbours.

Grace and peace
Nigel and team