

## COVID-19 UPDATE 1 - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Basso Church Family,

As you will be aware, we are experiencing a time like never before. We urge you to walk by faith in this unprecedented time of fear and upheaval. May we draw near to the Lord, who is our Rock and Refuge (Psalm 62:5-8).

In response to the current Government guidelines, and our desire to minimise the risk to our church family, we wanted to let you know what will be happening with our church.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Hospitality Sunday and the Easter Fair have both been cancelled.

At this stage, the Men's Fellowship event on the morning of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March will continue, however they will not be having a breakfast.

The Busy Bee on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March will continue.

We will keep you updated on any changes to the Church Beach Camp.

### **Mid-Week Activities:**

Craft and Coffee will be cancelled until further notice. This decision was made in consultation with those who attend.

All other mid-week activities will continue at present, with some modifications to how they are run. This includes Youth Groups (junior and teenage), The Carpenter's Workshop, Little One's Playgroup and Home Groups (including the Mother's Bible Study and Teenage Bible Study).

For any activities that are continuing (including church services), we will not be serving any food or drink.

Please note that Bible School and Sunday School will be cancelled until further notice.

### **Church Services this weekend (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March)**

The Federal Government has made an announcement banning indoor gatherings of more than 100 people (with restrictions around room capacity), which includes church gatherings.

We are planning to have both a morning service and evening service this coming Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup> March) at the regular times (10 am and 6pm).

We are limiting seating inside the chapel, in line with government requirements. We are making available an overflow area in the rear hall, with a live stream (so you can see and hear the service). These are two separate areas, and we will be keeping them separate, to abide by government requirements.

Communion: We love sharing around the Lord's Table and remembering Christ's sacrifice for us. We want to continue to honour this. We will still be having a time of communion during our morning services, however we will not be handing around the emblems to share. You are welcome to bring your own emblems (e.g. drink bottle/small cracker) if you would like to partake in communion.

Crèche: There will be no crèche for church services. We welcome families (including children and babies) within our services. Please feel free to make use of the cry room if needed, and keep a responsible distance between other users.

Offering: If you aren't already giving online, this would be an excellent time to start.

You can set up a direct debit order directly with your bank (by logging on to your internet banking account). The church bank details are:

Account Name: Bassendean Church of Christ BSB: 016 255 Account: 424 705 151.

If you still prefer to drop your offering in an offering bag, we will have helpers stationed in various spots around the service for you to do so. We also have a locked box marked "Offerings" attached to the wall in the church foyer.

We are always thankful for your faithful giving.

Remote Access: If you are unable to attend our services, you can access the audio of our morning and evening services on our website:

<https://www.bassochurch.org.au/sundays/sermons/sermons-am/>

<https://www.bassochurch.org.au/sundays/sermons/sermons-pm/>

We are also looking to set up video recording of our morning services from Sunday 29 March, and will provide you with details of how to access that.

Coffee and Morning Tea: We will not be serving coffee/tea or biscuits after our services.

## **Personal Responsibility**

We encourage everyone to continue to maintain good hygiene by thoroughly washing hands, and covering your mouth when you cough/sneeze. We will also encourage no close physical contact (NO handshaking, hugging, and aim to maintain a distance of 1.5m – do not sit too close).

We would urge everyone to exercise wisdom by self-isolating if you are experiencing any symptoms, if you have recently returned from overseas, or if you have come into contact with someone who has the virus.

This has been a developing situation, which we are continuing to monitor.

We will continue to communicate any changes that we put in place.

We really value your prayers as we work together to fellowship and encourage each other in Christ.

Please call the church office (9377 1620) or my mobile (0415 917 480) if we can assist you in any way.

Your faithful servant in Christ,

Ian Kirk, Senior Pastor.