



# Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Bathurst

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**The Right Reverend Mark Calder**

The Bishop's Registry  
11 Church Street (PO Box 23)  
Bathurst NSW 2795

24 March 2020

Dear friends

I'm sure, you like me, feel that COVID-19 has so deeply impacted society and our lives.

Not being able to meet on Sundays at church is very distressing when we love to gather with God's people, hear from God's word and share in Holy Communion.

I pray that by one means or another, you'll avail yourselves of the video resources we are making available to help you have church at home or with a friend. If you don't use the internet at all, I hope you'll be able to team up with a friend who does!

It is a privilege for me to remind you that God's love doesn't change. He is with you day by day. I encourage you to keep up your prayer and daily Bible reading and stay close to him. He will help you have hope and perspective through this time, and in turn, you will be a blessing to others.

### **Church finances in the crisis**

My second purpose in writing today, is to urge you to make arrangements to ensure your church continues to receive your offering. Church expenses will remain the same throughout the crisis. If offerings decrease, your church will not be able to continue as it has done.

If we can't maintain the level of offerings, then sadly, clergy will have to be stood aside.

You will know that due to the financial hardship of the past few years, the diocese has no reserves and will not be able to make up any shortfall experienced by any parish.

You can maintain your offerings in the following ways

1. Arrange for electronic giving. If you use internet banking, this can be easily set up. If you don't use internet banking, take your church's bank account details along to your local branch and they can set up a regular transfer for you. If you need to, ask your treasurer or one of the wardens for help.
2. Arrange to drop in your offering envelope into the parish office in office hours (where applicable), or give it directly to your treasurer or to one of the churchwardens.

I've urged each parish to arrange for the churchwardens and/or treasurer to make contact with each member of the church to talk with you about church finances. I urge you to act on this now, so that your church can maintain its current ministry in the crisis and be in a good position to recover and rebuild once we are able to meet again.

With thanks

**Bishop Mark Calder**

Bishop Mark Calder

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