



Anglican  
Church  
Diocese of Perth



## TO BE READ AT SERVICES ON SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2020

8 March 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers

The recent outbreak of COVID-19 or coronavirus has impacted Australia in various ways.

As events have unfolded it has been necessary to look again at our liturgical and sacramental practice. We need to be sensible and take care. None of us would want those who are vulnerable to be unknowingly exposed to risk. The Health Department has listed them as the elderly, people with compromised immune systems (eg cancer), those with diagnosed chronic medical conditions, people in group residential settings, young children and babies, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

I have written to the clergy strongly advising that for the time being Communion be received in one kind.

Other steps which should be taken are:

- 1 Wash your hands in hot, soapy water and dry thoroughly before you arrive at church.
- 2 Those who handle food at morning tea or community lunches should follow updated health department advice.
- 3 Keep and make use of hand sanitizers at church entrances, as well as for Communion ministers.
- 4 Refrain from shaking hands or embracing at the Greeting of Peace.

I know that some will think these steps are too much, while for others they may not seem to go far enough. This will feel unusual, and it is – but it is a temporary and responsible action in which we can all share.

As we gather around the Scriptures and Communion in this season of Lent, let us continue to seek God's healing grace, mercy and peace for the whole world. The Gospel reading for Lent 2 concludes:

*God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him (John 3:17).*

In Christ

**The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO  
Archbishop**