



Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



MEDIA RELEASE

19 March 2020

Local call on Anglican Church services

The Anglican Archbishop of Perth, The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO has asked all Anglican clergy to work with their lay leadership this weekend to make responsible decisions about Church services and other responses to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Archbishop today met with the Assistant Bishops, Archdeacons and Area Deans of the Perth Diocese, and the Dean of St George's Cathedral, to ask them to consider how they might respond to the individual needs of their parishes and areas.

St George's Cathedral announced today that all Sunday services would be suspended for an indefinite period.

"I would rather that we didn't have to suspend services, but I recognise that, in some places, it may be the only possible step that clergy and lay leaders feel able to take," Archbishop Goldsworthy said.

"Of course, the Cathedral attracts very large congregations and a large number of tourists," she added.

"Similarly, in very small churches, it might be that even a few dozen people aren't able to keep the social distances required, or that the resources needed for cleaning in between services are unable to be gathered."

Potential options for the Anglican community might include live-streaming, extra services to be attended by fewer people, or a roster system for people in the community.

"Most importantly, we will act responsibly; we will not panic, but will trust in God's love alongside us so that we can, in the most responsible way possible, respond to this crisis, this time of concern and high anxiety," said the Archbishop.

"We want people to be able to continue to worship, to read the Bible, to study the scripture, to pray, to know that they are not alone, even if they are isolated," she added.

Anglican Diocese of Perth

Church House, Level 5/3 Pier Street, PERTH WA 6000

GPO Box W2067, PERTH WA 6846

T: +61 08 9425 7200

F: +61 08 9325 6741

E: archbishop@perth.anglican.org



Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



Anglican aged care services, schools and other institutions are also responding to the COVID-19 crisis with separate response plans in line with directives and guidance from the Australian Government and health authorities.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Marie Mills: 9421 3600; 0418 918202

Anglican Diocese of Perth

Church House, Level 5/3 Pier Street, PERTH WA 6000

GPO Box W2067, PERTH WA 6846

T: +61 08 9425 7200

F: +61 08 9325 6741

E: archbishop@perth.anglican.org