

## ... from Tom

Every day we hear the word 'unprecedented'. "We are living in unprecedented times" says the news reporter as they sign off. But are we?

I remember for school home-work (last century) having to interview an elder about their experience of living through the 1930's Great Depression. I had the opportunity to interview Prof. Julius Sumner Miller – many of our readers remember him for his Cadbury Chocolate TV ads. He recounted to me how as a uni student he would walk the railway tracks scouring for every piece of coal he could find to keep him warm at night.

My grandfather recounted from WWII, the terror of clinging flatly to the dusty earth whilst all around him the ground was peppered with shells (bombs).

My grandmother recounted her experience of starvation as a WWII refugee under Japanese military occupation in Manila, and then the relief she had as a mother that she could scrape up rotten pota-



Professor Julius Sumner Miller

atoes off the ground to feed herself and her family.

I recall the fear we shared as my men's Bible study group took turns on a roster to maintain 24hr round the clock care at the bedside of one of our group members, as he died from AIDS.

For many of our younger people, yes, these times are unprecedented for them, but not for all of us. God is still the same yesterday, today and forever. And Jesus promised the he would be with us to the very end of the age, for nothing can separate us from the love of God that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord. Not even the physical isolation we have been experiencing. Not even a miniscule virus... but I must also confess, a block of full-cream dairy milk chocolate, does help.

In the love of Jesus,

Ven. Tom Henderson-Brooks

**Bishop's Commissary (Diocesan Administrator)**

## This Issue

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>From Archdeacon Tom</i>               | 2 |
| <i>Connected Churches - Online Links</i> | 2 |
| <i>Connecting in Isolation</i>           | 3 |
| <i>From the Registrar</i>                | 4 |
| <i>From a Street Corner in Nth Rocky</i> | 4 |

*Draw near to God,  
and God  
will draw near to you.*

James 4:8



## Connected Churches

In these *unprecedented* times, we are doing all we can to stay as connected as we can. Imposed physical isolation does not have to mean complete social isolation.

It has been so encouraging to see the many and varied responses from each of our parishes. It is fantastic to watch our ministers and congregations turning this COVID crisis into a COVID opportunity.

Here's just a few of the things that CQ*First* has noticed around our great Diocese.

The regular ringing of the St Paul's Cathedral bells on facebook, accompanied by prayers and reflections; parish councils, Diocesan Council, Gladstone Seafarers' Centre, Anglicare and Bible study groups all meeting via Zoom; many parishes are live streaming via facebook or on their own Youtube channels every Sunday; others are pre-recording worship music, bible readings, prayers, kid's talks, from home, from church, which are then shared on social media or streamed on Sundays; pastoral care groups meeting by phone, Zoom or Skype; revamped websites and social media pages are popping up; younger generations are dropping by their parents and grandparents homes to set up ipads, smart TV's and computers to help everyone be connected.

Here are some of our links. Typing the **bold** headings into a **Facebook Search** will take you to our facebook pages. Web addresses are in **blue**. Youtube Channels in **red**. Alternatively, if you are reading this online, just click the icon to take you to the Webpage, Facebook or YouTube Channel.



**St Paul's Cathedral, Rockhampton**  
[rockhamptoncathedral.org.au](http://rockhamptoncathedral.org.au)



## Blackwater Anglican



**Boyne Anglican**  
[anglicanchurchboyneriver.org](http://anglicanchurchboyneriver.org)



**Callide Valley Anglican**  
[callidevalleyanglican.com](http://callidevalleyanglican.com)



**Central West Anglican**  
[angcentralwestqld.com](http://angcentralwestqld.com)



## Dawson Valley Anglican



**Emerald Anglican**  
[stlukesemerald.org.au](http://stlukesemerald.org.au)



## St Luke's Anglican Church Emerald



## Gladstone Anglican



## Gladstone Anglican Church



## Gracemere Anglican



**Keppel Anglican**  
[keppelanglican.org](http://keppelanglican.org)



**Keppel Anglican**



**Moranbah Anglican**  
[moranbahanglican.org](http://moranbahanglican.org)



**North Rockhampton Anglican**  
[allsaintsrocky.org.au](http://allsaintsrocky.org.au)



## All Saints Anglican Community North Rockhampton



## Wandal Anglican



**Rockhampton Anglican Diocese**  
[anglicanchurchcq.org.au](http://anglicanchurchcq.org.au)



## Connecting In Isolation

I want to give thanks to God for the ability to connect with my church family whilst in home isolation.

In the lead up to the outbreak of Coronavirus I had spent many months in semi-isolation recovering from whooping cough and influenza 1 + 3 (all diseases that impact the lungs). I didn't really mind the isolation then because I slept through most of it! The St Luke's family visited regularly and made sure that I had nutritious meals. However, just as I was ready to get back into life I was advised to self-isolate as I am at increased risk of this Coronavirus. Right, I thought, I know how this works: How wrong was I!

Isolation when you are not sick is hard! Day 1 was awful. Day 9 was worse and now more than a month down the track I find myself laughing at videos of people taking their bins out! I miss my friends and I miss my grandkids, but thanks to church online I am not missing church; in fact, I feel more connected and more involved than I possibly ever had before! Even if it is a bit different.

At St Luke's Emerald, Jen had been talking for some time about the possibility of streaming services for those who couldn't make it to church. I think I laughed. I just couldn't see the need; after all who would want to do that? Well, the answer is me!



'UFO' Command Centre, Emerald.

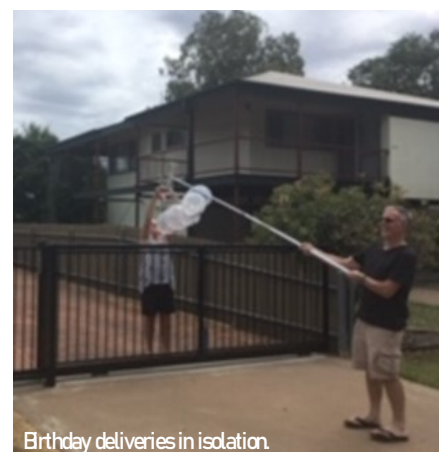
Jen and Colin have worked really hard to ensure that we were ready to go live as soon as the advice was given that we couldn't meet together.

The production desk looks more like the controls of a UFO than something associated with church, but somehow all this works together to provide us with access to our church from our living room.

Our services are live, so we are interacting in real time. I am truly excited when I see people's names pop up and love greeting everyone. We are 'seeing' people that we haven't seen since they moved away, we are enjoying fellowship with our regular parishioners and we are welcoming new friends from Emerald, around Australia and even from overseas! I love that our services are done in real time, it almost feels like we are there (bloopers and all!). We have blended our traditional and contemporary services so us oldies are learning some new songs, and the young-uns are

learning some old ones, but the effect is really beautiful!

To help with the feeling of connection we have small 'connection' groups which are being used to keep in touch with the regular members of our church; checking in, sharing life, praying together and arranging support as required. This has been such a wonderful experience, and most people are really appreciating it.



Birthday deliveries in isolation.

Isolation is hard! But the silver lining is that we have St Luke's online. I can't wait for next Sunday!

*Ivy Elsdon*



## *Loving God, Loving Others*

### *... from the Registrar, Archdeacon John Barnes*

Just before Easter I wrote to all incumbent Clergy, Church Wardens and Parish Councils advising them of the financial support being provided to Parishes to assist them with the financial challenges being presented by COVID-19.

The first level of support is a 50% reduction in the Insurance Recoupment costs for April through to September. This has been actioned from 1 April.

The second level of support is the Diocesan application for the Federal Government's Cash Flow Boost payments (announced on 14 March). We expect to start receiving these from late April. These Cash Flow Boost funds will be received by the Diocese in a number of instalments through to September. The Cash Flow Boost monies will be applied to Parishes with stipended clergy (both full + part time) by way of a 30% reduction in the fortnightly costs invoiced to parishes for stipend, superannuation, annual leave + long service fund contributions.



This support will be delivered over 11 fortnightly pay periods commencing from the pay period ending 8 May through to the pay period ending 24 September 2020.

The above support **is not a deferral of costs** to be recouped at a later date.

On March 30, the Prime Minister announced the JOBKEEPER stimulus. At the time of writing we are still determining our eligibility but intend to apply for this stimulus package.

### *... from a street corner in North Rocky...*

How do we get the message out to our community that while our church buildings are closed, the church is still active and relevant, even while everyone is in lockdown? How do we invite them to hear the good news that Jesus loves them when we're not able to meet them on the streets or in our homes? At North Rocky, we thought the answer was obvious. Build a big toilet roll. It has become somewhat of a symbol of the pandemic, and should catch people's eye as they drive by on their way to the shops. As they have a bit of a giggle, we pray that they might also accept the invitation to join us at church online from the comfort of their homes, hear how Jesus is relevant to them and loves them, and turn to him in faith. Rev Matt Taylor



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