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Vicar: Revd. Santaseelan Packianathan

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Coronavirus - COVID 19 update

This week, a number of parishioners have approached me about the above. Understandably there are a lot of anxious people in society as evidenced by the noticeable change in shopping patterns this week. On our usual weekly marketing run this past week, many of the shelves were empty even though restrictions of the number of items that one could purchase, have been in place.

While I am not that very concerned about this disease at the moment, I do understand the anxiety being felt by some in our congregation. As such, to minimise risk and to care for one another, the following procedures will be in place in the parish from today until further notice.

- If you are feeling ill (even if only slightly), please stay at home & seek medical attention.
- Coughs should be into your elbow or sleeve
- Hands should be washed frequently. Please note that, hand sanitisers are available in the foyer and inside church.
- For the greeting of peace and during singing the doxology, please refrain from shaking/holding hands/cuddling/kissing. A wave, slight bow, a warm smile or a 'namaste' are suitable alternatives. Please do not get offended if people refuse to shake your hands even during hospitality time after the services.
- For Holy Communion even though advice is that the common cup (silver chalice with wiping with a clean linen purificator) is safe from spreading infection, only the bread will be served in all services from today. On my part, you would have noticed that I always use the hand sanitiser before preparation. When I bless anyone, I do not use the same hand that is used to serve the bread.
- Please continue to pray for healing and comfort for all those who have been infected, their families and friends and wisdom for everyone in the public health area as they seek the best ways to manage this crisis and our anxieties. A prayer that you could use is provided in the weekly CANDLE.

Please contact me or the Wardens if you have any questions.

With prayers and blessings

Revd. Santa Packianathan

Vicar

8 March 2020 | Second Sunday in Lent