

Northern Rivers Clarion



26th March, 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the regulations imposed by the Federal and NSW State Government there will be no public worship services until further notice. We cannot say when these restrictions will be lifted and services will be able to resume. We know that all things are in the Lord's hand and we pray for any early end to this situation both in Australia and worldwide.

I have been in discussions with various other PCEA Ministers within the Northern Presbytery and with members of the Session. As we are unable to gather for worship, a decision has been made to provide you all with a message by phone at **11am** and **4pm** on the **Lord's Day**. The phone service cannot properly replace a worship service, since that is primarily the Body of Christ physically gathered. However, I hope to encourage each one in the means of Grace that we have available, with a prayer, a couple of Psalms, Bible readings and a message. (If restrictions continue, we may also supplement this with a live video link for those who can access the internet, and even perhaps a Skype/phone connection for a time of prayer available to all even if you don't have computer access).

From this Lord's Day onwards, please phone in to the **Live Service number 02 6697 7069** and, **at the prompt, enter the numbers 12345 followed by the # key** on your telephone keypad. If there has been a delay in starting you may hear only recorded Psalm singing, otherwise you should hear my voice close to the commencement time. If the call cuts out (and we have been experiencing reduced call quality and dropouts lately), don't worry. Just phone back in on the same number, re-enter your code 12345#, and you should be able to continue.

Please stay in touch, either by phone, email or whatever electronic means available to you. Please contact me or the Session Clerk if there is a need for prayer, assistance, encouragement.

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"I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God.

Romans 9: 25-26

Service Times

All Public Worship Services are Closed until further notice due to State and Federal government regulations.

Bible Studies are in recess until further notice.

Please see Important Notice (left) about Lord's day messages available by phone.

Please also note details over page regarding offerings.

CONTACTS

Minister: Rev. David Kerridge ph. 6645 1694, mob. 0411 023344, email dkerridge@northernriverspcea.org.au

Session Clerk: Mr John Greensill ph. 6646 0109

Live Service: (Maclean) ph 6697 7069 Enter 12345# at prompt

www.northernriverspcea.org.au

Prayer Points

- Please pray for a speedy end to this pandemic here in Australia and around the world.
- Pray for those involved in healing the sick and tending to the vulnerable at this time, that they would be kept from illness themselves.
- Pray that our nation would seek the Lord in this extremity, and that we would all humble ourselves before the God who determines our times and seasons, the day of our birth and the day of our death.
- Pray for those in our congregation still in isolation, and for all in this potentially lonely time.

The Federal government has placed restrictions on gatherings for an indefinite period. They have even suggested that this will extend to, or even beyond, six months. As we cannot gather on the Lord's Day, obviously **we will not be able to take up a collection** (another important part of public worship). The Deacons' Court has noted that **this will place considerable strain on the financial situation of the congregation.**

We would ask you not to give up on your generous and prayerful regular giving to the Lord's work here.

As is already done in a number of other PCEA congregations as a regular option, we would ask you to consider setting up a **direct debit** with your Bank or Credit Union to credit the church account. This can be weekly, monthly or as you decide, for whatever amount you wish to give.

Details for Direct Credit to the Westpac church account are:

Account Name: PCEA Northern Rivers

BSB: 032 582

Account Number: 117 124

Alternatively, for those who do not wish to do this, you can deposit money to this account with the above account details at any Westpac branch, or your offering (cash or cheque) can be dropped in at Ross Campbell's unit 1/10 Wharf St, Maclean whenever you are passing.

I pray that we would continue in prayer for one another, bringing our needs before the Lord and continuing to seek Him in family and private worship. I hope that, in the face of forced social distancing, we would know the close presence of our Lord and be able to look to Him. I would ask you all to continue to use the means of grace - prayer, Bible reading, praise - (it is interesting to note that so many times in Church history when they faced affliction, people would sing the Psalms), the phone messages on the Lord's Day, online sermons and good Christian books that have been provided to us to grow in faith, wisdom and the knowledge of the Lord.

With love in Christ, David