



Dear friends,

Our planned Centenary year is drawing to a close and thanks to COVID we have not been able to celebrate as we had hoped. Assuming that the virus is under control and restrictions lifted, we will mark the occasion next year with the Centenary+1. In the meantime, October 18, 2020 is the nearest Sunday to the first service held in the new St Augustine's – the actual date being the 20th of that month. Instead of a church overflowing with past parishioners and clergy, our celebration will be a quieter affair with no more than 50 people in the church. If you would like to be one of the 50 please register with the office – 3268 3935. Otherwise we'd love you to join us on-line (St Augustine's Facebook Group)

The preacher for the occasion will be the Right Rev'd Bill Ray the former bishop of North Queensland who also happens to be a former resident of Hamilton. In keeping with the occasion, we will use the Book of Common Prayer and sing at least one of the hymns sung on that day 100 years ago – Onward Christian Soldiers.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST SERVICE HELD IN
ST AUGUSTINE'S WAR MEMORIAL CHURCH
OCTOBER 18, 2020, 8:30AM
PREACHER: THE RIGHT REV'D BILL RAY
(RETIRED)
REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL – 32683935 BY
OCTOBER 15

We have been delighted that so many of our Parishioners have continued to worship with us on-line and are doing our best to ensure that we can keep this up in the future for those with young families and those who find it hard to get out for any reason.

Christmas will soon be upon us and it will bring with it its own challenges. I don't imagine that the restrictions will be completely lifted so we are trying to find ways that those who wish to can attend a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It is early days I know, but if you are hoping to mark Christmas by attending church it would be helpful for us to know. We tentatively plan to hold extra services so that no one has to miss out.

In the meantime, we are trying to post articles and videos of interest to Facebook. If you are not into Facebook, it is worth checking out You-tube. Sam Wells from St Martin's in the Fields posts sermons and reflections online. St Paul's Cathedral London offers films of their Sunday forums and will email you their Adult Learning reflections – both of which feature well-known scholars. Our own Cathedral has a Podcast that would give you food for thought – look for the On the Way podcast. Tom Wright (NT Wright, Bishop Tom Wright) is another scholar that you might like to look for and my friend Paula Gooder – who is very easy to listen to, features on a number of YouTube videos. Much as we would like to be together, there are so many ways in which we can take advantage of the current restrictions to deepen and enrich our faith.

At the time of writing we are only allowed ten people on the premises for purposes other than worship. This greatly limits what we can do and, in particular, means that it is impossible to reopen some activities – particularly jumble. We have restarted Meditation and Bible study and this month will have our first face-to-face Parish Council for some time.

“The true pilgrim who has found the way says in his thankful heart, I will run when I can, when I cannot run I will go, and when I cannot go I will creep”. Father George Congreve SSJE 1835 – 1918. (Email from SSJE Brothers, 9 August, 2020)

You might like to subscribe to the SSJE emails. Every day you will get a small reflection which is part of their daily sermon. If you want to read more you will be directed to the whole sermon.

I do hope that you are able to keep your spirits up in these very strange times. Please pray for us as we pray for you,

Blessings



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