

March 18, 2020

Dear People of St. Mary;

Grace and peace to you as day by day we adjust to a new reality in the way we live as citizens, as friends, family and as people of God. God surround you in peace and an assurance of God's presence in all places and in all times. +

Yesterday afternoon your parish council met via an internet platform called *Zoom* to discuss the directives send out from the Diocese office in light of Covid-19 which includes the closure of our building and the suspension of gathering in worship for the next 60 days. What does this mean for us?

We have contacted the groups that use our space to let them know that our space is no longer available for public gathering. Many of the groups were already in simultaneous discussions amongst themselves concluding the same.

Rachel, Shirley, Wally, Ed W and I will meet at the church (keeping a safe distance from one another) on Friday to record an abbreviated service of the Word and we will have a link available to you for Sunday morning. It will be sent by email, and will be posted on the church website and on the church Facebook page. This is an experiment so please reply with comments, with questions or even a quick reply to say that you received the email Any feedback would be helpful as we find the right way that works for the majority of us.

Office Hours at the church are currently Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Andrea will be checking emails and voicemail, paying bills, sending correspondence. Ed B will be making deposits. I will be working in the office and is available for pastoral care and prayer at a distance of two meters. There will be a basket on the front table in the foyer for you to drop your envelope offering off. If you prefer to mail in post-dated envelopes for the next weeks, please mail to

St. Mary of the Incarnation, 4125 Metchosin Road, Victoria BC. V9C 3Z6

For more information on using our parish **Electronic Collection Plate** please find the information and the form here: <https://www.stmarysmetchosin.ca/news/electronic-collection-plate>

Please check out our website for updates <https://www.stmarysmetchosin.ca>

Please keep up to date with updates on our Diocesan page <https://bc.anglican.ca/>

Know that we are keeping the Facebook page up to date as well

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmetchosin/>

Sharleen Thompson (Peoples Warden) is in the process of resurrecting the **phone tree**. If you have not yet had a chat with Sharleen please contact her at 250-478-2527 or sharleenthompson@hotmail.com She has been in contact with the Fire Chief, Stephanie Dunlop and with Dawn Carolee at SIRC (Senior's Information Resource Center) to make sure we're all on the same page, mindful of keeping in community contact.

Drop in Prayer from our computers at home: As we keep a safe distance from one another, one way for us to stay connected in prayer is by using an internet meeting platform called *Zoom* to gather. Here is the link to the site. Please check it out. <https://zoom.us> If you have not used Zoom before, click the signup free button and follow the link. If you would like someone to guide you through the download, please contact Ed Watson at edwatson@telus.net and he will give you a call or come by your home to help you set it up. Thanks Ed!

Our first Zoom Drop in prayer will be on Wednesday March 25 at 1:00 pm. You simply click on the link below and every week a new link will be sent to you. Again, if you are having difficulties joining, call pastor Aneeta at 250-812-5965 or email Ed Watson and we will get you sorted. It is fun to learn new things together! This too is experimental, but I believe it has the potential to be spiritually meaningful time together as we navigate our minds, our hearts and our spirits in these challenging times.

Here is the link for the Zoom Prayer Drop in on March 25 at 1pm. After setting up your free Zoom account click this link to join the prayer meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/433530736?pwd=dVBZQTg0eDA4QldkRDBteTlqNnF6QT09>
Password: 024239
Meeting ID: 433 530 736

Pastoral Care: I am available by text or phone for pastoral care 250-812-5965 or by email at asaroop@bc.anglican.ca I will try and keep Monday as my Sabbath day, using it to rest and be still in preparation for the week. I am available all other days. I will be checking in with everyone over the weeks to chat, to see how your Spirit is and offer prayer if needed.

None of us have had to navigate a time like this before and I urge you to check in with one another. To continue to walk with each other displaying patience, kindness, generosity and love. These are all marks of our Christian life together and signs of God's ever-present love. I leave you with a prayer:

May the mind of God, ever wiser than our minds, search us deeply and open us to the truths that make for our healing.

May the ears of God ever open to our prayers, listen for us deeply and hear, beneath our words, our honest yearnings.

May the heart of God, ever filled with costly love, cherish us deeply, mending any brokenness, isolation and affirming our worth as a world. May God keep us company this day and bring us peace at its closing. Amen.

In Christ's Love +

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Aneeta", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Aneeta

