



St. Andrew's Cathedral

THE DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE

11 ST. ANDREW'S ROAD, SINGAPORE 178959

TEL: 63376104

FAX: 63376107 / 63391197

Bishop of Singapore & Dean: The Rt Revd Rennis Ponniah

Vicar: The Revd Canon Terry Wong

19 March 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord.

As you would have heard by now, a member of our church has been confirmed to have Covid-19 infection and is currently warded in hospital. Our brother-in-Christ had returned from work in the United Kingdom, on 14 March, and he attended the 9am English Service held in the Cathedral New Sanctuary (CNS), on 15 March. He had no symptoms of illness and passed the pre-Service precautionary screening comprising the health and travel declaration and temperature checks.

Additional precautionary measures to enable social distancing were in place at the Cathedral for the past weekend. This included limiting the number of worshippers in the 860-seater underground sanctuary so that seating could be spread out in the pews. The screening teams cleared and admitted 324 people into the 9am Service on 15 March; 250 of them worshipped in the CNS, the others were in various areas of the CNS block, including 30 people in the Pavilion who joined in the live-streamed Service.

Following this incident, we, together with our Bishop, the Right Reverend Rennis Ponniah, took the decision for all on-site activities and weekend Services at the Cathedral, to be suspended from 2359h on Wednesday, 18 March. Thus, the church is closed until 2359h on 3 April, leading into the Palm Sunday weekend.

During this period, the affected premises will be professionally disinfected. This recess will help "flatten the curve" of Covid-19 infection and enable us to further strengthen our measures against this virus as we prepare for our worship Services to resume. At the time of our writing this letter, we are also informed that our Bishop, aided by the prayers and counsel of senior leaders in our Diocese, has instructed for worship Services and activities at all Anglican parishes in Singapore, for the coming weekends of 22 and 29 March, to be suspended.

Should you have enquiries or if you are approached by members of the media regarding our situation at the Cathedral, please would you email secretariat@cathedral.org.sg.

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, at this time of difficulty, may we take heart in the promise of scripture, in Romans 8: 35-39 :

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We pray that you and your families will keep well and that the peace of Christ may rule in each of you. We pray too, that the Lord will strengthen each one of us that we will emerge strong from this pandemic. In this difficult time, let us be mindful of the needs of others, especially the elderly, the poor and the lonely. May we live out the tangible expression of Christ's command to "love your neighbour as yourself".

We wish to commend to you the following media for your encouragement in these few days ahead:

- "Reflecting from History" of "The Vicar Writes" in the English church bulletin.
- Our on-line sermons for this Sunday, 22 March.

The sermon in English can be heard at:

1. cathedral SG Live app
(available on ios and play store)
2. <https://cathedral.org.sg/sermons>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/user/standrewcath>
It will also be uploaded to our Facebook

The sermon in Mandarin can heard at:

1. www.sacm.sg

May the peace of the Lord rule in each of your hearts and we all shine forth the glory of the Lord.

Revd Canon Dr Titus Chung
Bishop-Designate

Revd Canon Terry Wong
Vicar

主内弟兄姐妹，

奉主耶稣基督的名向大家问安。

日前，大家应该已经收到消息，座堂的一名会友已确诊感染 COVID-19，目前在医院留医。这位弟兄因工作关系在 3 月 14 日从英国回返新加坡，之后在 3 月 15 日出席了座堂新圣殿 9 点的英文崇拜。他出席聚会时，并没有出现任何的症状，也填报了座堂的声明表格，体温测量也正常。

实际上，在过去的周末座堂已经开始执行保持社交距离的措施。这包括限制会友在有 860 座位的新圣殿聚会时密集就座，鼓励他们彼此疏离位置。3 月 15 日当天的 9 点崇拜，共有 324 位会友通过防疫检测；不超过 250 位就坐于新圣殿内，其余分散在新圣殿外其他地方，包括 30 位参与了在座堂新建聚会厅的现场视频直播观影。

在确诊案例公布后，我们旋即与教区主教潘仁义主教，决定将座堂内的一切信仰活动以及办公室的日常运作，从 3 月 18 日晚 11 点 59 分，关闭至 4 月 3 日晚 11 点 59 分，也就是直到棕枝主日前的周末才重启。

在关闭期间，受影响的设施将会进行专业的消毒。我们也希望此关闭措施能够削弱病毒的传播，也给予我们时间加强对疫情的防范措施，以便我们届时能够重新恢复主日崇拜。在写这封信时，我们也得知教区主教，透过教区资深牧者和领袖对外宣布，决定新加坡圣公会教区属下各牧区，在来临的 3 月 22 日以及 29 日的周末暂停所有的崇拜和教会活动。

若在这期间你有任何疑问，或有任何媒体向你询问有关座堂的任何状况，请发电邮至 secretariat@cathedral.org.sg 与我们联系。

主内弟兄姐妹，让我们在困难中，从上帝话语中得着力量。经文罗马书 8 章 35-39 节说：

“35 谁能使我们与基督的爱隔绝呢？难道是患难吗？是困苦吗？是迫害吗？是饥饿吗？是赤身露体吗？是危险吗？是刀剑吗？ 36 如经上所记：“我们为你的缘故终日被杀；人看我们如将宰的羊。”37 然而，靠着爱我们的主，在这一切的事上，我们已经得胜有余了。 38 因为我深信，无论是死，是活，是天使，是掌权的，是有权能的，是现在的事，是将来的事， 39 是高处的，是深处的，是别的受造之物，都不能使我们与上帝的爱隔绝，这爱是在我们的主基督耶稣里的。”

我们为着所有会友及家人的身体健康代祷，愿耶稣基督的平安永驻在我们每个人的心中。我们恳切祈求，愿主在这疫情中使我们更加刚强。在这艰难的时刻，让我们彼此体恤他人的软弱，尤其要关顾身边年老的、贫穷的或孤独的邻舍。愿我们每一位都能够活出耶稣基督的样式，“爱邻舍如同自己”。

在接下来的日子，你们可以透过以下的社交媒体平台，帮助大家继续信仰生活：

- 从英文部的布告栏，可以读到“牧正之言”的《反思历史》的文章
- 来临主日 3 月 22 日的崇拜视频：

英语部的网上证道

1. 手机应用程序 Cathedral SG Live App
(能透过 iOS 或 Google Play store 下载)
2. 链接 <https://cathedral.org.sg/sermons>
3. 链接 <https://www.youtube.com/user/standrewcath>
此视频也会上载到座堂的官方脸书账号

华语部的网上崇拜视频

1. 链接 www.sacm.sg

愿主的平安与你的心灵同在，也愿我们在生活中把荣耀归于主。

章剑文法政牧师
候任主教

黄宇聪法政牧师
牧正