

## **BORONIA PARK UNITING CHURCH (BPUC)**

**From your Church Council: Official communication about reopening for worship**

**November 2020**

Dear Church Family members,

The Church Council has decided that we shall reopen for face-to-face weekly worship on Sundays at 9.30am, starting 29 November 2020, and in accord with Government Covid-19 requirements.

This date is the first Sunday in Advent. There was strong support from the Congregation for reopening.

**Your next action: As soon as possible, please tell your Elder whether you will be attending on 29 November and how many will be with you eg number in your family. You can email, text or phone your Elder.)**

### **How will we worship from 29 November?**

- You can attend the worship service at BPUC at 9.30am, **or**
- Watch the Zoom livestreaming of the service at 9.30am from your home, **or**
- Wait until the afternoon and watch the recording of the service that will be put up on the BPUC website, and use the hard copies of the service that will be supplied to you ahead of time by your Elder as usual.

### **If I'm coming to worship at the church, what must I do?**

1. Come a little early, especially on 29 November, so that the following steps can be taken before the service starts at 9.30am sharp.
2. On entry, you will need to:
  - provide your name and contact details to enable contact tracing. We will make this as easy as possible using information from our Church Directory to speed things up.
  - have your temperature checked (to give confidence to everyone else attending!)
  - wear a mask (spares will be available);
  - use hand sanitiser provided;
  - seating – families/couples to be seated together.
  - each group and individuals to observe 1.5m distancing from others.

### **If I will be participating in the service eg Prayers of the People, what must I do?**

Segments of the service eg Prayers, Kids' Talk will still need to be pre-recorded to include in the hard copies. Seung Jae will advise you.

### **What activities are not permitted when we worship because of COVID-19?**

- **Singing by the congregation is not permissible** owing to NSW Government Covid Safe protocols.
- However, Seung Jae has arranged with some of our Young People to sing for the congregation at a safe distance from the congregation according to NSW Government protocols.
- No wind/brass instruments may be used.

### **What about Communion?**

- Communion is permitted but the congregation must be seated. You will be served using individual glass cups and tongs will be used to distribute wafers in individual packets. Those serving will wear gloves as well as their mask.

### **What about morning tea?**

- Morning tea will be seated with tea and coffee available on several tables to avoid queuing.
- There will be a choice of two types of pre-packaged biscuits to be served using tongs/gloves/masks.
- 1.5m social distancing to be adhered to during morning tea and sweeping, cleaning.

### **What about cleaning?**

- All seating and any tables etc in church, church hall/s – all need to be cleaned using C-19 protocols.

### **Are other nearby churches reopening for worship?**

- A number of churches have already re-opened including Ryde, Epping and Eastwood. North Ryde has not, possibly due to large numbers that prevent required social distancing.

### **Other information?**

- Our BPUC Covid-Safe Plan is being amended to include gathering for worship.
- We have enough room for everyone who would like to attend by using the church AND the foyer to keep to the 1.5 metre social distancing rule.

### **If you want any further information?**

- Please speak with your Elder in the first instance, or
- Robyn Harvey who is our designated BPUC COVID-19 Officer, or
- our Minister Seung Jae Yeon. Contact details are in your BPUC Directory.

Thank you for your enthusiasm for returning to worship face to face, and for your understanding and commitment to the C-19 rules. It will be so lovely for our beautiful church family to gather together as Christmas approaches, with loving care for those worshipping from home.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Brook, Chair

On behalf of BPUC Church Council

13 November 2020