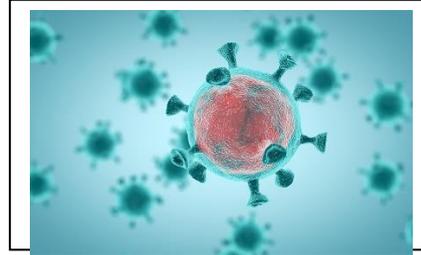




LCA Pastoral Care Nurse NOTES & NEWS

No 142 April 2020

COVID-19



Facing the Challenge

The escalating spread of the COVID-19 endemic has led to the cancellation of this year's Parish Nurse study tour to Alice Springs. Australia's borders have been closed to all but returning Australians, State borders are closed to all but essential services, and all 'unnecessary' internal travel is now banned. Church services have ceased for the time being, and attendance at both weddings and funerals is strictly limited. 'Social distancing' has virtually put an end to home visiting and Bible study groups.

Several Pastoral Care Nurses and Pastoral Carers responded to the invitation to tell what they and their congregation are doing to support people during this challenging time.

Shirley Klinge, Laidley, Qld

Retired DoN, Parish Nurse and Chaplain, Shirley is 'back in the saddle', doing relief chaplaincy at *Tabeel* aged-care home on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, as Pastor is not allowed to visit. Chaplain Rosie Boughen is on long-service leave for her wedding and honeymoon, which has been curtailed.

Tabeel is in shutdown with visitors greatly restricted. The temperatures are taken of all as they arrive on site.

Shirley is in community shut-out. She goes from home to *Tabeel* and straight home again.

She has been making face masks, for herself out of heavy CHUX. She says they are stronger than the disposable hospital grade ones.



The church elders have divided up the congregation's membership list and each has a number of people to phone each week to arrange some sort of DVD, USB, CD etc of Pastor's sermon. Shirley, who is on the team of elders, has 16 on her list ('All my dear souls', she says).

Glenda Butler, Minlaton, SA

Glenda wrote:

'Our St Andrew's church was only having visiting pastors occasionally prior to this pan-

demic. All members who are still active, (about 17 of us) are supporting each other by phone or email. The nursing homes are in lock-down, so I can't visit them at present. I continue to pray for them all, as well as the whole community. I am at a loss to know what else I can do.

In March we had our last Coffee Morning with elderly members of the community. They had found out everything they could on COVID-19 from TV and radio. They all used hand sanitiser on entering our hall, practised social distancing, and chose to curtsy rather than hug each other, as they normally would. We used disposable gloves for serving. We have now cancelled these gatherings until further notice.

On a personal note, I have retired as an employee of *Eldercare*, where I had served for 28 years, the last few as casual relief.

I shall continue to pray for everyone, and keep in touch with the LCA website. We are using this website in our homes for home services and continue to read our Bibles regularly. We also listen to *Vision Radio* daily.'

Lima Morofa, Goroka, PNG

On 16 February, one of the Goroka Parish Nurses – Lima Morofa – gave members of the St John's congregation a talk about COVID-19. The following Sunday, Pastor Grahame Baital prayed for and dedicated the *St John's* Parish Nurses for their ministry in 2020. Following the service, nurses conducted their monthly clinic,

offering basic health checks for Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar Level, and Body Mass Index.

As most of the Goroka Parish Nurses work at the local provincial hospital, they usually have a fellowship time during their lunch hour every Thursday.

Annette Stolz, Norfolk Island

Annette wrote: 'I have nothing to offer except that I pray for the people. I belong to a fortnightly prayer group who meet at 7:30am for about 45 minutes. This group consists mainly of the Ministers Fraternity, although it is open to any person on the Island. It has been going for around eight years.

We pray for Norfolk Island, with very general prayers. Not many individual names come up, but they have on some occasions. We also pray for various world situations, for our leaders on the Island, for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island nations.

We pray for hospital patients, the elderly who are 'on the verandah', for doctors, nurses, and auxiliary staff. We also pray for those who have been medically evacuated to mainland Australia, and for the skills of the doctors.'

Jenny Wood, Nuriootpa, SA

Jeny wrote: 'We are strongly encouraging full compliance with all instructions issued by the Prime Minister.

All single and housebound members are receiving a weekly phone call to check on their wellbeing and, if requested, receiving a copy of the bulletin and either a printed copy of the sermon or a DVD of the service Pastor Adrian Kitson is producing each week. This can be viewed online for some, but many members don't have computers. The DVDs are delivered on a Friday, so if people choose, they can watch it on Sunday morning. A large team is involved with this fairly mammoth task, but all are pulling together to make it relatively easy.

Dianne Jackson, Owen Sound, Canada

In Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada, Dianne Jackson delivered yarn at the door of a member in a retirement home so she could continue knitting .

She also dropped a jigsaw puzzle at the door of another member, rang the bell, and then waved from her car.



Useful links for making face masks

Several Parish Nurses in the United States have been making face masks to distribute particularly to health-care workers in their community. Jenny Johnson, of Shepherd of the Hills congregation in Rathdrum, Idaho, is asking quilters in her congregation to make masks that can be passed out to vulnerable members. Following are two links to videos that some Parish Nurses have found helpful:

Video #1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fySsaOojEVM&feature=youtu.be>

Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8HNYKvlaN8&feature=youtu.be>



LPNI Alice Springs tour cancelled

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, the Lutheran Parish Nurses International study tour to Alice Springs, scheduled for 8-14 July, has been cancelled. Refunds will be made to all who have registered.

The two LPNI scholarship recipients – Jennifer Chua Bee Kiaw of Singapore, and Richard Chung Sin En of Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia – have been offered the invitation to take up their scholarship for next year's study tour to Washington DC and Williamsburg in eastern USA on 15-21 September 2021. Registration forms for this tour will be available shortly.



Madang in Papua New Guinea will be the venue for the 2022 LPNI tour.

The possibility of combining this with a tour to Alice Springs is being explored.