



INDONESIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

94 Houston Road, Kingsford NSW 2032 Australia
Correspondence: P.O. Box 781 Randwick NSW 2031 Australia
ABN: 19 661 130 103

Wednesday 18 March 2020, 15:00

Dear Church Family,

We want to inform you that the Session of IPC Randwick have made the following decisions:

Effective immediately and until further notice, we are moving all our church services and gatherings online.

There are several reasons for this:

1. The Government recently made a decision to ban all non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 100 people. We have also been advised to practice social distancing (e.g. sitting 1.5 metres away from each other). Even though some of our services are less than 100 people, the Session felt it is in the best interest of the whole church to cease meeting face to face and move all our activities online.
2. The Session also wants to take precautionary measures to protect the most vulnerable in our church family and wider community. We feel that at this stage, this decision will help us do that.
3. We praise God that He has given us the technology to be able to keep worshipping God together even when we don't meet face to face. These tools and technology may be unfamiliar to many of us. But the Session is confident that with enough time and perseverance, we will all be able to use them so that we can continue to worship God and encourage each other.

We also want you to know that we do not aim to do the minimum at this time. Even though we are moving all our activities online, the Session has a vision for a thriving gospel community where people are passionately worshipping God together, encouraging, praying, speaking God's truth in love to each other, proclaiming Christ to the world and loving one another and impacting the world in real and practical ways. We are living in an extraordinary time, it is incredibly challenging but it also offers us incredible opportunities. The Session seeks to make the most of these opportunities that God has given us.

What will this look like as a start?

1. We will begin by publishing a pre-recorded sermon or service on our YouTube channel, which will be available at the appointed time every Sunday. We encourage you to join us with your family together worshipping God in your home alongside your brothers and sisters in their own homes. We will keep developing creative and interactive ways to engage you during the church services. We want this to be the place where God is worshipped, Christ is proclaimed and our faith strengthened.



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2. We will create Life Groups and allocate everyone in our church family in a life group. This is the place where relationships happen daily, where prayers are shared, and encouragement given. This is the place where we get to reflect and meditate on the Word of God in a smaller group. This is the space where we all get to serve one another in real and practical ways. These groups will be led by our elders and other appointed congregation leaders.
3. We will be putting much effort in training our elders and group leaders so they can pastor, care, teach, encourage, pray for, love and equip those in their group for works of service to one another.
4. We will also be creating a team of servants, whose responsibility is to care for those in our congregations who are vulnerable or are in need of urgent practical care. Our elders Pency Chan and David Lim will be leading this team.

What do you need to do now?

1. Please keep looking out for any announcements or news from the church. This will be done primarily through our WhatsApp groups, website and facebook. Important information, for example, how to access the YouTube channel, will be announced there. Things are changing so quickly so we will be updating you regularly.

If you have not joined our WhatsApp group. Please join **only one** of the groups below:

IPC Randwick Warta 1 : <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DCiqJPLNGSKKuYIW4e9xOV>

IPC Randwick Warta 2 : <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Fej52QZImw08MUzL2D9D85>

Kingsway News : <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Jrv55z6aFVsLS4IsbSTXZo>

Our Facebook pages are as follows, please like the page to get notifications:

IPC : <https://www.facebook.com/ipcrandwick>

Kingsway: <https://www.facebook.com/kingswaychurch.org.au>

Our website are as follows:

IPC: www.ipc.org.au

Kingsway: www.kwy.ch

2. If you are part of the Indonesian congregation, we need to get your contact details so the church can care for you and minister to you. More information on how to do this will be published soon.
3. We want you to participate as much as possible with your family in our online church services and life groups. Change is hard, we will need to keep persevering. But we will no doubt get through this by the grace of God. Many things have changed in the last few weeks but the most important things have not



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changed at all. Jesus died, He rose again and He is still returning. So these words of Scripture are still true:

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” - Hebrews 10:23-25

We will keep doing this even when we cannot meet face to face.

Please also remember:

1. We are still meeting together and worshipping God together as a church. We are just doing it in a different way. We don't know how long we have to do this. But the government has said that these restrictions may go for at least 6 months. So we need to set our expectations correctly and help each other adapt to this new normal. But as soon as things improve and it is safe for us to meet together face to face, we will do so immediately.
2. We need each other the most right now. God has given us each other so that we might weather this storm together. But more importantly, our responsibility to be salt and light to the world does not stop. We must keep doing this together.
3. God is sovereign. He is good. He has given us everything we need to live godly lives even in this extraordinary season.
4. Please keep praying for each other and especially the most vulnerable to this virus. Also pray that Christians will shine among this generation like stars in the sky.

On behalf of the Session of IPC Randwick, in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Darwin Agahari
Associate Minister

Elder Jeffrey Tjendana
Session Clerk