



Weekly Newsletter 1 – Sunday 22 March 2020

Good Morning everyone,

Here we are on the first Sunday of our 'Coronavirus COVID-19' shut down. It is Mothering Sunday or as it is more usually called 'Mothers' Day, a day when we celebrate all mothers and usually, as families, mothers often get a 'day-off' with breakfast in bed, flowers, chocolates and families gathering for a happy day with mothers. ('Aye right', I hear some mothers say). So, let's still celebrate albeit we may not be able to gather together this year.

We are also still a 'Church Family' and although we can no longer meet together, some of our church family have been encouraging others and offering suggestions of how we can work together, pray together and worship together while not being together. It is great to note that people are keeping in touch with each other by various means, encouraging, sharing, showing little bits of videos of how others are coping, sharing fun, jokes and laughter.

Some have started a 'Prayer Alarm' where they have set the alarm on their mobile phones or other devices for 12 noon each day. At that time, they will stop what they are doing and spend a few minutes in prayer. You are welcome to join in this initiative.

At 11.00am today, Rev Attie van Wyk is live streaming worship from the manse at Lhanbryde and you are encouraged to access this on your computer, pad or phone at salucofs.wordpress.com.

As part of a National Day of Prayer, today at 7.00pm you are encouraged to place a lighted candle, or torch or some other light, in a window as "a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, the source of hope in this life." and say together the following prayer:

Dear God

For all that is good in life, thank you,

For the love of family and friends, thank you,

For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger, thank you.

May those who are vulnerable, hungry or homeless, experience support,

May those who are sick, know healing,

May those who are anxious or bereaved, sense comfort.

Bless and guide political leaders and decision-makers, with wisdom,

Bless and guide health workers and key workers, with strength and well-being,

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*Bless and guide each one of us, as we adapt to a new way of living.
And may the light shining from our windows,
across road and wynd, glen and ben, kyle and isle,
be reflected in our hearts and hands and hopes.
This we ask in Jesus' Name.*

(Please, if you are using candles, be careful to keep it away from anything inflammable, curtains etc)

We are only starting this journey and as yet are still finding our way. At the moment, we have a number of email addresses but if you have not personally received this letter on your electronic device and would like to receive further communications please get in touch with me, by email, and we can add you to the list of recipients. Please be assured this information will only be used to communicate with you and not for any other purpose.

If you have anything you would like circulated, then you can pass it to me and I will do the needful.

In the meantime, stay healthy, keep smiling and, SAFELY, keep in touch with each other.

May God Bless us all.
John