

EFCA Family Letter (16 March 2020)

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Greetings in Christ! The Deacons Board has been following the COVID-19 situation closely and looking at preventative measures that will keep our church and the community healthy. Following the Deacons Board meeting on Sunday (15 March) afternoon, we have made the following decisions, based on:

1. The spiritual, physical and emotional health of our church body as our priority
2. The church has a social obligation to help slow down the spread of pandemic by increasing social distancing

The general approach is to suspend all face-to-face church activities until further notice. Where possible, the church will adopt online alternatives. Where online alternatives are unavailable or inappropriate, then the activity is to be cancelled. We appreciate some might find this decision drastic, but we are driven by our concern (based on most recent medical information) that the risks of infection are serious amongst groups of any size due to close and prolonged contact. Hence, we prayerfully believe it is wise and loving to proactively make this hard decision, even before any government decision to do so. This means that:

1. Worship Services

All worship services will be replaced by live-streaming online. The online worship times starting from the coming Sunday 22 March are:

- o Cantonese 9am
- o English 11am
- o Mandarin 9am

We encourage brothers and sisters to join us online and worship God together. A recording of these services can also be viewed after these live streaming times.

As of the writing of this announcement, the url links to access the live-streaming on 22 March are:

- Cantonese 9am: <http://bit.ly/efca9am22Mar2020> (YouTube) | <http://bit.ly/efcaFacebook> (Facebook)
- English 11am: bit.ly/efca11am
- Mandarin 9am: To be advised

Please check the church website ([Cantonese](#) | [English](#) | [Mandarin](#)) for latest access information as these links may change and additional alternatives may be available.

We will continue to prepare for Good Friday Services using online mode for all 3 congregations.

2. Sunday School & SWITCH

- There will **NOT** be Children Sunday School. Materials will be provided to assist parents in holding Family Worship.
- SWITCH leaders will inform SWITCH parents and participants of the interim arrangement in the next week.
- There will **NOT** be Adult Sunday School.

3. All other church meetings

Effective immediately, all other in-person meetings, including fellowship programs, ministry events and committee meetings, cell group meetings, outreach activities, etc, whether held on the church premises or in other locations are to be suspended. Conference technology will be used to enable brothers and sisters to continue meeting together online.

To help facilitate online meeting, the church will subscribe to Zoom licences. These are mainly for use in larger gatherings but may also be used for cell groups. Rules regarding the usage of Zoom will be provided soon.

Prayer meetings are suspended. However, please continue to pray earnestly for the prayer items listed in the Cantonese and Mandarin bulletins, as well as the English monthly prayer list.

4. All other meetings outside church

- SWITCH retreat has been cancelled.
- Cantonese and Mandarin FEFCA retreat will be postponed.
- English FEFCA retreat (scheduled for October) is currently under review by the FEFCA committee.
- Street Evangelism will be suspended.
- It is up to brothers and sisters to decide whether they will meet up one to one or in small groups at home or outside. If you decide to continue, we would recommend you to increase interpersonal distancing.

5. Further correspondence

As the pandemic situation evolves, we will provide regular updates during our online worship. Please join us online.

6. Offerings

Expenses of the church do not stop because of the suspension of church activities. Additional spending may in fact be incurred due to the need to acquire equipment and licences to facilitate the adoption of online technology. We encourage you to give through [online banking](#). Please refer to the link for detailed eOffering guidelines, including EFT reference information required for our accounting and statistical purposes. The church bank account information is as follows:

Bank Name: Westpac Banking Corporation
BSB Number: 032-091
Account No: 35-1813
Account Name: Evangelical Free Church of Australia Inc

Alternatively, you can send cheques to the church office (payable to Evangelical Free Church of Australia Inc).

7. Technical Support

For those who have difficulty using the live-streaming or conference technology, please reach out to your cell group leaders or ministry team members. We will try to help as best as we can.

8. Church Office

Pastors will mostly be working from home. Pastoral visitations may still take place where there are urgent needs with careful precautions. Please do not hesitate to talk to your Pastors when necessary.

The church office will remain open at the moment but this may change with short notice.

Some of you will have questions. It is normal to feel grief, distress, sadness about the suspension of church activities. Please reach out to our pastors. They are available to help and talk. For your convenience their contact numbers are:

Rev David Tse 謝友德牧師 0403-267-663
Rev Bob Lee 李志強牧師 0413-868-239
Ps Florence Fung 李馮月芬傳道 0414-265-918
Ps Richie Kwong 鄺偉志傳道 0424-402-166
Ps Deborah Hung 孔家華傳道 0423-577-818
Ps Steve Li 李東傳道 0423-209-546
Rev Jon Phua 潘乃光牧師 0424-983-808

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self discipline.” (2 Tim 1:7). Our God is a Sovereign God. Let’s lift this pandemic in His hands as we face it and the many associated challenges together. Pray that God will stop this pandemic soon and grant peace and health to everyone.

Deacons Board
16 March 2020

澳洲基督教播道會靈福堂 家書 (2020年3月16日) 對新型肺炎大流行的應對

主內平安！執事會密切關注對新型肺炎疫情的進展，並作出相應的預防措施，以確保我們的教會及社區的健康。經過星期日 (15/3) 下午執事會議，執事會基於以下原則作出決定：

1. 教會肢體的身、心、靈健康為我們首要關注。
2. 教會有義務及責任去增加社交距離以減緩社區傳播的風險。

現決定所有現場會面的教會活動將暫停，直至另行通知。如若可行，事工活動改於網上舉行；否則該活動將會取消。我們明白這個決定似乎是十分嚴峻，但基於最新的醫療報告，我們擔心傳染的風險在任何人數的群體和聚會中都偏高，所以作出這些不容易的決定。這些比政府的要求更嚴謹的措施是基於我們對社群的愛心。我們相信這是一個明智的決定。對教會影響如下：

1. 崇拜

所有主日崇拜將作網上直播。從下週日(22/3)開始，網上崇拜時間是：

- 廣東話 9am
- 英語 11am
- 國語 9am

我們鼓勵兄弟姊妹加入網上崇拜，一起敬拜神。崇拜錄影也會在崇拜結束後上載網頁。在寫本報告時，下週日(22/3)的網址是：

- 廣東話 9am: <http://bit.ly/efca9am22Mar2020> (YouTube) | <http://bit.ly/efcaFacebook> (Facebook)
- 英語 11am: bit.ly/efca11am
- 國語 9am: 容後公佈

有關最新的網頁連線資料，請參閱教會網頁 ([廣東話](#) | [英語](#) | [國語](#))。各語言事工計劃使用直播及在線上舉行受苦節崇拜。

2. 成人主日學，少年崇拜(SWITCH)及兒童主日學

- 兒童主日學將會暫停進行。教會將提供材料以便父母在家舉行家庭崇拜。
- 少年崇拜(SWITCH)負責團隊將於日內就有關安排聯絡家長及少年人。
- 所有成人主日學將會暫停進行。

3. 其他教會活動

不論在教會或其他地點，所有團契、小組、事工、外展等現場會面的活動暫停。弟兄姊妹可使用視頻會議在網上繼續聚會。

教會將訂購 Zoom 視頻會議服務讓各事工共用。主要給較大的聚會使用。若有空間，小組也可使用。執事會將提供有關 Zoom 共用的守則。

各堂祈禱會也會暫停，鼓勵大家在家中根據程序表內代禱事項舉行祈禱會。

4. 教會以外活動

- Switch退修會將會取消。
- 總會舉辦的粵語和國語退修會將會延期。
- 總會舉辦的英語退修會(原定10月舉行)。籌委會將探討是否延期。容後公佈。
- 街頭佈道將會暫停。

- 弟兄姊妹可自行決定是否繼續在家或在外舉行小組聚會。如決定繼續聚會，我們建議增加彼此的人際距離。

5. 跟進聯絡

隨著新型肺炎大流行情況的發展，我們會在網上崇拜中報告教會最新消息。請參加網上崇拜。

6. 奉獻

雖然教會現場活動暫停，教會支出不會停止。由於需要新的裝備支持網上聚會，實際上會產生額外支出。我們鼓勵弟兄姊妹通過[電子資金轉賬作奉獻](#)。請參閱以上網頁的詳細指引，包括你需提供的轉賬資料，以便作會計及整體統計之用。教會銀行戶口資料如下：

銀行名稱: Westpac Banking Corporation
分行號碼 (BSB Number): 032-091
戶口號碼 (Account No): 35-1813
戶口名稱 (Account Name): Evangelical Free Church of Australia Inc

或將支票郵寄到教會辦公室（支票抬頭請付Evangelical Free Church of Australia Inc）。

7. 科技支援

若你對使用網上直播或視頻會議有困難，請與小組組長或事工領袖聯絡。我們將盡力協助。

8. 教會辦公室

牧者們將盡量在家工作。牧者們亦會在使用適當預防措施下繼續探訪有急需的肢體。如有任何需要，請聯絡牧者。

教會辦公室仍保持開放，但因應情況可能隨時改變。

若你因教會活動暫停感到焦慮、不安或有疑問，請與牧者聯絡。他們樂意與你交談。

Rev David Tse 謝友德牧師 0403-267-663
Rev Bob Lee 李志強牧師 0413-868-239
Ps Florence Fung 李馮月芬傳道 0414-265-918
Ps Richie Kwong 鄺偉志傳道 0424-402-166
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Rev Jon Phua 潘乃光牧師 0424-983-808

「因為神賜給我們，不是膽怯的心，乃是剛強、仁愛、謹守的心。」(提後 1:7)
我們的神是一位滿有權能的神，當我們面對新型肺炎大流行和許多連帶的挑戰，讓我們把這全球疫情交託祂手中。祈求神能儘快停止這場疫症，賜平安和健康給每一個人。

執事會

2020年3月16日