

# Return to Coro – 28 June, 2020

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17 June, 2020

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you all well and good in the Lord. It brings me great joy to bring you the good news that on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June** we will be opening our doors to gather together in person to worship the Lord, hear his Word, and fellowship with one another.

We are extremely grateful for God's mercy to us at this time. With the further easing of restrictions announced recently, the Elders and Deacons have prayerfully considered how we might begin to gather again in a way which will be practical and uplifting, as well as safe and sustainable.

There will be a number of changes for us to navigate in this new season, and I write to explain some of these to you.

The biggest change will be that we won't all be able to gather together at one time. While the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule remains our main meeting area only allows us to have 67 people in attendance plus some staff - service leaders and a few musicians. This includes the main worship area plus the Morning Tea space, which has been opened up to allow for greater numbers. To cater for this limitation **we will be holding two services each Sunday** – one at **9am** and the other at **11am**. They will be similar services, with the same preacher, and with a set time between services to clear the church for a surface clean and to try and keep traffic flowing in one direction.

To ensure we keep within our allowed numbers, and to keep a record of attendance as required, we will be using "EventBrite" – an online ticketing and registration site. This will feel a little strange I'm sure, purchasing a ticket for church! But be assured, it's free! *More details of where and how to register your attendance will be provided next week.*

We will aim to conclude the 9am service by 10:15am, allowing some time for folk to mingle afterwards, but with the intention to clear the buildings by 10:30am or soon after. We ask those coming to the 11am service not to arrive before 10:45am to allow time for cleaning, to keep numbers under the limit, and hopefully to keep traffic flowing in one direction.

For the time being, we won't be providing tea and coffee after either service, and we will be deliberately limiting any 'overlap' of attendance across the two services. We do plan to share Communion at both services on 19 July.

Whilst we recognise part of the wonderful blessing and nature of the Coro Church Family is the fellowship across all people and all generations, we also need to acknowledge the need for some compromise, as we have been with 'Church Online,' during these early stages of restrictions being eased. Dividing the congregation in half is far from ideal, but it is one way we can 'gather' in worship together, albeit with a smaller number than usual. I do want to encourage us all in this, and hope you will embrace this opportunity to gather again in this way.

We recognise that for health reasons some of you will need to, or prefer to, remain at home for some time yet. This is perfectly understandable. It would be good to hear from you if that is the case – just so we know. We want to continue to connect with you as we are able, and to provide a form of worship and the Word for you. To that end, we will be recording the first service each Sunday and putting this online later in the day for those who cannot or choose not to attend. This means there will be **NO Church Online service available at 10am each Sunday**, but we hope to have it up and **ready by 5pm**.

For the time being, there will be **no Sunday School classes**. With the new setup, these will have to wait a little while longer. However, **the 11am service will be tailored to cater more for families with primary-school aged children**. For this reason, young families will be given

priority to attend the 11am service. We ask these families to make the 11am service their preferred service and for others to attend the 9am service. There will be room in the usual Creche area, as well as the 2-4s room, for our pre-schoolers. If we are able to rally together some willing leaders and helpers for our 11am service, we may be able to have these little ones supervised for you.

The Old Library, or Hall, will be set up with a screen and sound to cater for any visitors who come without registering. But please, as regular members of Coro, we do ask that you register each week and please be aware, if need be we will be asking regular members to move to the Hall to allow room for visitors in the main area.

As you can imagine, there is much to work out by way of regulations, procedures and people involved, but we do feel this is a safe and sustainable way forward and would value your prayers, thoughts and input. The Elders & Deacons will regularly assess and adjust aspects of our gatherings as required.

Of course, as is the case across the nation at the moment, there will be **social distancing** and **hygiene requirements** in place. Families will be able to sit together but there will need to be some space between family groups.

Also, **and this is most important** - if you, or any of your children, do feel unwell, or have any cold or flu-like symptoms, even minor ones, PLEASE STAY AT HOME! Get tested too! That is what has been asked of us all.

- As much as we want to see you, and share with you in worship – this is one way we can exercise our love and care for one another and continue to stop the spread of the virus.
- We may have no Covid-19 cases in South Australia at the moment, but when borders begin to open, that will be the time our policies and procedures will be tested and will really matter. Please keep that in mind.

As we make the transition to gathering again for worship, let's not forget there are many around the world still suffering very much with Covid-19 and various difficulties that come with trying to manage the virus. Please keep Suresh and the ministry of India Village Ministries and other various missionaries and ministries in your prayers. IVM have been extremely busy and generous with their time and provisions over the past months and it sounds like the virus has now reached the villages where Suresh and his team live and serve. Please continue to pray for and support them as you are able.

Thank you for your patience and prayers over this season. We have greatly valued and appreciated your love and support. We trust you have known the Father's care and keeping, even when things have been difficult. Be assured, our Lord is good and his love endures forever.

I am really looking forward to seeing as many of you as are able to join us at 9am or 11am next Sunday 28th June. Remember, details for registering your attendance will be provided next week. Until then, God bless.

Ray (on behalf of the Elders & Deacons)

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#### **In short:**

- Church resumes Sunday, 28 June
- Two services: 9am & 11am
- 11am service priority for families
- No Sunday School
- Attendance Registration required (details to come next week)
- Church Online available after 5pm each Sunday
- Social Distancing Measures apply
- Please stay home if unwell and stop the spread.