

The Orthodox Christian Community of St. Constantine Emergency Newsletter Concerning the Coronavirus Pandemic

Dear Friends-in-Christ,

Why we are closing

Metropolitan Siloan has asked us to follow the instructions issued by the Patriarch for dealing with the Coronavirus epidemic. His Beatitude's very careful and loving statement about how we Orthodox Christians must behave in this time of crisis is available [here](#) in an English translation. There will be no further weekday services and the Divine Liturgy behind closed doors, with only a priest, chanter and server present; but the Liturgy will be served **"..on behalf of all and for all.."**

Because the York St. John Campus has been closed, your priests will serve the Sunday liturgy at home. For the moment we are asking you all join us in spirit on Sunday mornings by reading the Typika service, either in families, or individually, at 10 am when the Liturgy usually begins. In this way we can continue to pray together spiritually as a church family, even though we are apart. A copy of the Typika Service for each Sunday will be posted on our website for you to read online on download.

Let's remember that the Church is not simply a place where we go for a few services. As St. Paul has taught us "so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members who belong to one another" (Romans, 12:5). We must continue to keep each other in our hearts and minds even when physically separated. We look forward to your fellowship.

What we will do now

We are organising resources for both adults and children on the website to help both, with your prayer life and your faith knowledge. We are looking at how we might "stream" the Sunday Liturgy in the future. Moreover, we are also examining ways of letting you receive Communion or make Confession in ways that are safe during this time. We are also planning other ways for all of us in the parish to stay in contact, and we'll be telling you about them very soon. Please let us know too if you are in a difficult situation, or if you wish us to pray for loved ones. We will also try to put "podcasts" of our sermons on our website – although some might think that a mixed blessing! 😊 ●

Get more information about what will happen next.

If you did not get an email from us about this news, it means we don't currently hold your email address. If you would like to receive information from us in future about what we will be doing at St. Constantine's in the face of this great challenge, please use the Contact link at the top of our website page to send us your email address. We will add it to our secure mailing list. Thank you.

Remember that there are things you can do to keep yourself healthy physically and spiritually:

- **PRAY - OF COURSE!** For those who are working hard to limit this disease and seek vaccines; for those whose work brings them into danger on our behalf; for those individuals and their families who are suffering because of this terrible disease. Make your Icon Corner a family church.
- **HELP** those in need, where you can, while observing government health precautions
- **PHONE** your friends and family and keep an eye on your neighbours.
- **MAKE** sure that you are not a source of infection for others – very important!
- **REFRAIN** from panic buying or any sort of panic -trust in Almighty God. He will provide.
- **FOLLOW** Government guidelines (at least – it may be wise to be overcautious). This is especially important if you are told to "self-isolate".

If you have any further questions, concerns or suggestions please contact us. Don't hesitate. We will try to help.

Be comforted that this pandemic **will** end eventually and we can then re-unite in joyful praise of The Lord in the YSJ chapel - together again as one parish!

May Almighty God bless you all,

With love in Christ,

Fr. Æthelwine, Fr. Michael & Fr. Dcn. David

And remember - keep washing your hands! 😊 ●