



COMMUNION FOR THE MASSES

St John's Camberwell

As the pandemic took hold and people turned their thoughts to securing the basic necessities, the parish clergy wondered how we might continue to feed the congregation when the church doors were closed.

With some assistance from Carolyn Simm of Simm Design, the clergy prepared over 100 Communion Packs for the last Sunday in March, for parishioners to take home to continue to share in Communion with each other while we separated. Each Communion Pack included a small Prayer Book, with a brief Rite of Communion and a pouch of wafers from the Reserved Sacrament. More packs were delivered to people who had not made it to church in the last week before the lockdown, and those whose 'three-month supply' gradually dwindled with refreshed with new envelopes of wafers over the coming weeks and months.

Then on Easter Day, as much as the travel restrictions would allow, a small team delivered individual Paschal Candles to the letterboxes of all we could reach in the parish. A little light when the darkness was beginning to feel overwhelming!



LIMINALITY & HOPE

Gathering food for Mission House has been a small act of weekly thoughtfulness at St. John's for a long time. No surprise then that when the church doors closed abruptly in March, buying things for others was one of the first priorities that came to mind.

Each Monday and Friday morning and afternoon, many locals – some parishioners, some not – brought non-perishable food and toiletries to the church car park. No one even needed to get out of their car! At our best guess, easily \$12,000 worth of food has been donated for our partner agencies: Camcare, Mission House, The Brotherhood of St Laurence, and St Jack's in Malvern. And those who couldn't make it to the carpark gave online, so that in all we have been able to send a further \$12,311 so far this year to help buy food and other necessities.

One unexpected benefit of the Appeal was the face-to-face contact with those who came to leave their gifts. As people came to the carpark just before Morning and Evening Prayer, there were many opportunities to remember those in particular need, with immediate effect! Prayer and groceries, we found, go particularly well together!

– Rev'd John Baldock



This year has been full of many challenges – not least the lead up to Christmas

amidst constantly changing possibilities. Thank you for the many 'stories to inspire' you have shared: a testament both to the God who is with us always and your commitment and creativity. My intention is to continue this on a monthly basis in 2021.

I particularly witnessed your commitment and creativity this year in a variety of different ways with the privilege of my 'Sunday visits'. Please do contact Kathleen when you are able to make a booking for 2021 – I do understand that the exact nature of the visit may need to be determined closer to the time.

Our prayers for a blessed Christmas and refreshing January for both you and your families.

+Genieve & John



"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:23