

St Stephen's  
Catholic College



# St Stephen's News

Issue 19 - Term 4 - Week 8

**Principal:** Ms Kerry Manders  
**Deputy Principal:** Mr Simon Vaughan  
**Assistant Principal Religious Education:** Ms Janai Sugars  
**Assistant Principal Administration:** Ms Toni Smith (Acting)  
**Business Manager:** Mr Hadyn Flynn  
**College Leader Pastoral Care:** Mr Matthew Draper



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## The Spirit of Giving!



Following Thanksgiving Mass today, the Social Justice Committee were able to hand over Christmas hampers to representatives from St Vincent de Paul. Pictured above, from left to right are: Anna Pietrograzia, Solai Torres, Lauren Santucci, Sumit Mally and Eileen Rains.

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

As we say farewell to the 2020 school year, I am drawn to reflect on the journey that was 2020. I expected that my first year in a new community would be daunting, but I was not expecting a year like 2020. From the excitement of the start of the year, to the uncertainty of home-based learning, to the celebration of the colour games, to the surprise of a Year 12 Formal without dancing! Tumultuous, unprecedented, and emotionally exhausting are words that have been used to describe this year. Yet here we are, preparing for the Christmas season – we made it! - borders opening, tourists are returning and it is mango season once again. My feeling as I farewelled the students at Mass today is not relief but one of overwhelming pride, gratitude and humility. I am enormously proud of this community and the steadfastness of all members to ensure that the ‘best’ year possible was achieved.



I am very grateful for you, our parents and caregivers, who have worked tirelessly in partnership with us to help your children achieve their goals.

I am very grateful for our staff who have stepped above and beyond to ensure our students are engaged, learning and connected.

I am very grateful for our wonderful students from year 7 to 12 who have worked hard, helped each other and shown their flexibility to respond to everything.

I am grateful for the St Stephen’s spirit, the charism of service, courage and the trust in the Lord that has been our Beacon this year. It has shone constantly lighting the path through this tough year.

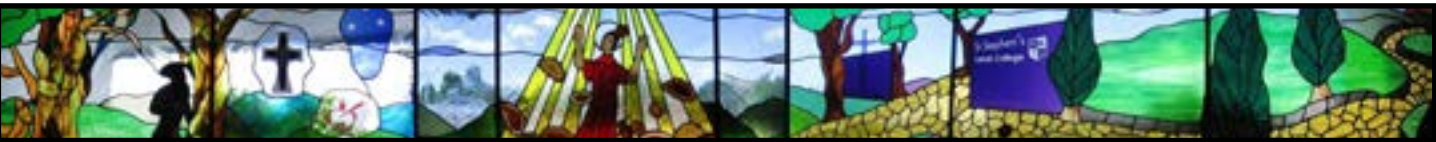
Most of all, I am humbled by the contributions of each person to support each other and keep moving forward as we have navigated the highs and lows of 2020. I feel very blessed to have been in this wonderful community this year.

### Leadership 2021

This time of year brings together the final preparations for 2021. We will have a new look Senior Leadership Team in 2021.

Principal	Ms Kerry Manders
Deputy Principal	Mr Simon Vaughan
Assistant Principal Religious Education	Ms Janai Sugars
Assistant Principal Students	Mrs Jayarani Salerno
Business Manager	Mr Hadyn Flynn

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr Matthew Draper and Mr Rohan Priestly for their work on the St Stephen’s Leadership Team. I thank Mr Draper for his hard work, drive and commitment to the College over the last six years. Mr Draper has been instrumental in setting the high expectations we have for our students. Thank you Mr Draper. I thank Mr Priestly for his commitment to the organisational components of the College. I know we appreciate his creative talents, good humour and the difference his contributions made to the good order of the College. Thank you Mr Priestly. I wish them all the very best for 2021



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONT)

We have also finalised the Middle Leadership positions for 2021. I congratulate these staff and look forward to working with them in 2021.

### Middle Leader Curriculum

Mathematics	Mr Christopher Ellison
English	Mrs Tamara Schincariol
Arts and LOTE	Miss Emma Ledlin
Science and Technology	Mr Norman Fenner
Student Diversity	Mrs Trudy Pretorius
Humanities	Mrs Prudence Vaughan
Engineering and Design	Ms Toni Smith
Religious Education	Miss Deanne Morrow
Pathways	Mr Paul MacCallum
Innovation	Mrs Prudence Vaughan

### Middle Leader Pastoral

Year 7	Miss Hannah Zazzi
Year 8 and 9	Mrs Nola Nunes
Year 10 and 11	Mrs Stacey Crockford
Year 12	Ms Sonya Barnes

I would like to thank all the 2018 – 2020 Middle Leaders for the efforts to make sure the students at the College are well prepared and positioned for future success.

### Farewells

The end of the year also brings some farewells from the College. We send our very best wishes to Mr Frank Caines and Ms Patti Crothers as they begin their well-deserved retirement. We thank them for their service to the College.

We also farewell Mrs Selena Dyer as she takes on her own classroom at St Thomas, we thank Mrs Dyer for her many years of work in Student Diversity and the love of learning she shared with us. We say farewell to Mr Dean Sullivan as he returns to work for Education Queensland and we thank him for his leadership in the HPE area.

### Christmas Message

Across this year we have heard so many inspiring stories so it is fitting that it should conclude with the most inspiring story of all – the story of God becoming human in the form of a defenceless child.

The joy of Christmas, in the gathering of friends and families, the buying and receiving of presents, the decorations and the carols, reminds us of just how special this event was in the history of humanity and inspires in us a desire to spread peace and happiness to others. We see signs of peace displayed at Christmas, a universal sign, Christians and non-Christians alike are drawn to a season of peace and joy.

I was drawn to consider what we mean by the peace of this season. When I am in a contemplative mood, I try to see what Sr Joan Chittister has to say on the subject, and these thoughts are attributed to her:



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONT)

*“there is another kind of peace. This kind of peace does not come either from the denial of evil or the acceptance of oppression. This kind comes from the center of us and flows through us like a conduit to the world around us. This kind of peace is the peace of those who know truth and proclaim it, who recognize oppression and refuse to accept it, who understand God’s will for the world and pursue it. This kind of peace comes with the realization that it is our obligation to birth it for the rest of the world so that what the manglers and crèches and crib sets (nativity scenes) of the world point to can become real in us—and because of us—in our own time.*

*The award-winning foreign film “Joyeux Noël” reminds us of another Christmas Eve. This one in Europe during the bloodiest period in WWI. Knee deep in wet snow and ice that jammed their weapons and froze their souls, two armies—one French and Scottish, one German—faced one another across a barbed-wired field. Hundreds of fallen soldiers had already died on both sides of the rough and blood-soaked land. Then suddenly, the Christmas truce began. The men put down their weapons, ceased for awhile to be soldiers, and bowed their heads while they listened to the other side sing Christmas carols.*

*That is the kind of peace—disarmed, foreign to hate, and receiving of the other—that was born in the manger we remember at Christmas time. That is the kind of Christmas peace we must ourselves seek to be. Then “Merry Christmas” will really mean something.”*

Extract from <https://johnmenadue.com/a-christmas-message-from-sister-joan-chittister/>

May this Christmas be a time of peace and joy for you and for all those you love. May you be inspired to share the peace that Christ brings to all you meet.

God bless for a safe, happy and holy Christmas

**Ms Kerry Manders**

**Principal**

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## MIDDLE LEADER YEAR 7 AND 8

What a year 2020 has been! Despite all of the adversities and challenges this year has thrown to us as a school community, both year 7 and 8 have handled everything with maturity and enthusiasm. I have truly enjoyed working, learning and growing alongside these students. Each cohort has developed and improved so very much.



Being a pastoral leader provides so many wonderful opportunities to develop and establish long-lasting relationships with students. As a teacher, you have the incredible opportunity to inspire and educate the people of our future, and it is such a blessing to be able to motivate and encourage the next generation. I am genuinely grateful for every child that has stopped at my door to say hi, walked in my classroom to learn and allowed me to join in their handball game. As the school year draws to a close, I would like to wish each student and their family a very safe and enjoyable Christmas. Also, to the students that are moving on to different schools and towns, all the very best for your future endeavours. You will be surely missed.

May 2021 be a great year with positive change and new beginnings.

**“Every success story is a tale of constant adaption, revision and change.”**

Richard Branson

**Mrs Jayarani Salerno**

**Middle Pastoral Leader - Year 7 and 8**

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## VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL AND SOCKTOBER

The global and local community spirit has been felt in term 4 at St Stephen's. A generous pile of Christmas hamper donations have been received from families and students across years 7-12. Thank-you to all have been charitable in sharing the joy of Christmas with those less fortunate. These non-perishable food and Christmas items will be donated to St Vincent de Paul Society Qld for distribution in our local community to families in need.

In year 11 Catholic Faith in Action, the students have been working to serve these families by putting forward their best craftsmanship in creating Christmas decorations, cards and jewelry to include in these hampers. The year 11 students are hoping that their personal touch is felt and that the recipients of these crafts feel the care and joy that was put in to each one.



*It is one thing to give charity. It is another thing entirely to give the sense of humanity, dignity and personhood. If the person you care for, leaves your care feeling more of a person than before you came along, you have succeeded. ONLY THEN.*  
St Vincent de Paul



Also occurring in term 4 was the highly anticipated Socktober challenge. Students in year 7 and 9 Religion learnt about advocacy and the work of Catholic Mission in Cambodia. Some year 7 students took up the challenge to raise funds, collectively raising over \$200.00 to help purchase food, school uniforms, books and sporting equipment for children with disabilities in Cambodia.

Year 7 students also challenged to make a difference by understanding how their brothers and sisters in developing countries play the international game of soccer. They created 'sockballs' out of recycled materials and saw firsthand the resilience, determination, creativity and hope that children of the developing world have when faced with adversity. This was even more evident in the interhouse futsal competition that the year 7 students played using their own created 'sockballs'.

In the game of Muluridji vs McAuley it became apparent that it wasn't enough to have just one backup 'sockball' as both the main and the backup fell apart during play! Things got really interesting when the players were just kicking an old towel around while the rope got caught around their legs. Nevertheless, the players got on with it showing great resilience. It was Augustine that eventually prevailed as the Socktober Champions of 2020.

**Ms Janai Sugars**  
Assistant Principal Religious Education  
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## YEAR 11 CFIA AND YEAR 7 SOCKTOBER





## BUSINESS MANAGER

### Facilities

**M Block Toilet Extension:** The planning process is ongoing. Many thanks to Mr Chris Gillies and Mr Adrian Gallo who are working extremely hard to ensure a successful project. With the growth in junior enrolment numbers we are endeavoring to provide modern facilities.



### Finance

It is very important for the College, operationally, to keep the fee collection rate high. Please ensure your fees are fully paid by the end of the year.

### 2021 Budget

The budget was presented to the Diocesan Board of Governance in October. The budget was within all benchmarks set by the Diocese and approval will allow us to continue to deliver excellent educational outcomes in 2021.

### Mr Hadyn Flynn

#### Business Manager

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## MIDDLE LEADER (ACTING) SCIENCE

A lot has happened since our last update from the Science lab at St Stephen's Catholic College. National Science Week 2020 saw students explore the theme on **Deep Blue: innovation for the future of our oceans**. Students explored pressure and buoyancy with cartesian divers, investigated materials with mermaid slime, and made a coral reef in a bottle cap!



Also in Science, year 11 biology students took to the mangroves to complete the field work component of their course. Students travelled to the Holloway's Beach Environmental Education Centre to collect data on the distribution of mangrove species. This is a mandatory part of the senior biology curriculum, and students had a great time meeting this requirement.



### Mr Norman Fenner

#### Middle Leader (Acting) Science

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## Country Poem

by Madi Stansby

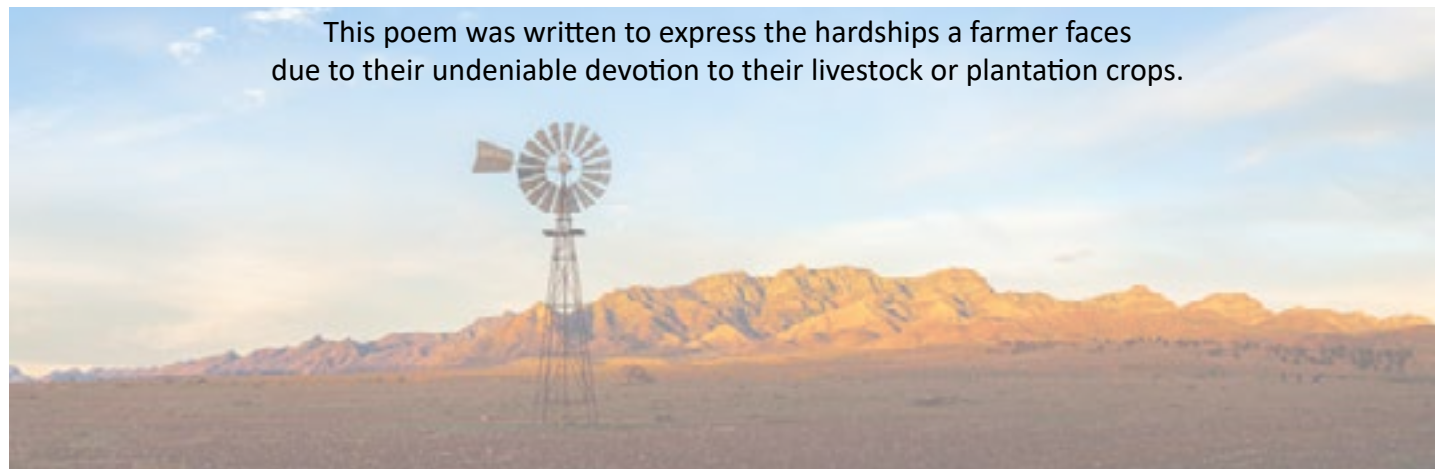
Cracks grew deep in the barren,  
Soil parched like a wizened old face.  
The demon drought had now ventured  
Into this once wonderous place.

As heat all-pervading crinkles up the ground,  
oinks and squeals are heard all round.  
Their round tubs of fat, flesh and blood,  
are constantly drowned in a sea of mud.

With a snuffle and a wiggle  
they're on their feet.  
Awoken by the smell,  
Of a nearby treat.

But as they lash their tails at the flies,  
another day without rain goes by.  
The pitter-patter farmers craved,  
had now said goodbye.

This poem was written to express the hardships a farmer faces  
due to their undeniable devotion to their livestock or plantation crops.



## The Bush

By Angela Montagliani

As the golden, hot sun beamed upon me, I start to stretch my roots deeper into  
the soil to find some water. When I find there is no water, it all of a sudden starts  
to get hotter. I look around at all of my friends realising they have a strong emotion  
that is not glee. Some start to shrivel and turn a different colour.

As the sun starts to fall we can no longer photosynthesise. We all hear the  
whistling of the cool wind. We start weeping of pain.  
Our eyes start to close as we hope that tomorrow will be a better day.

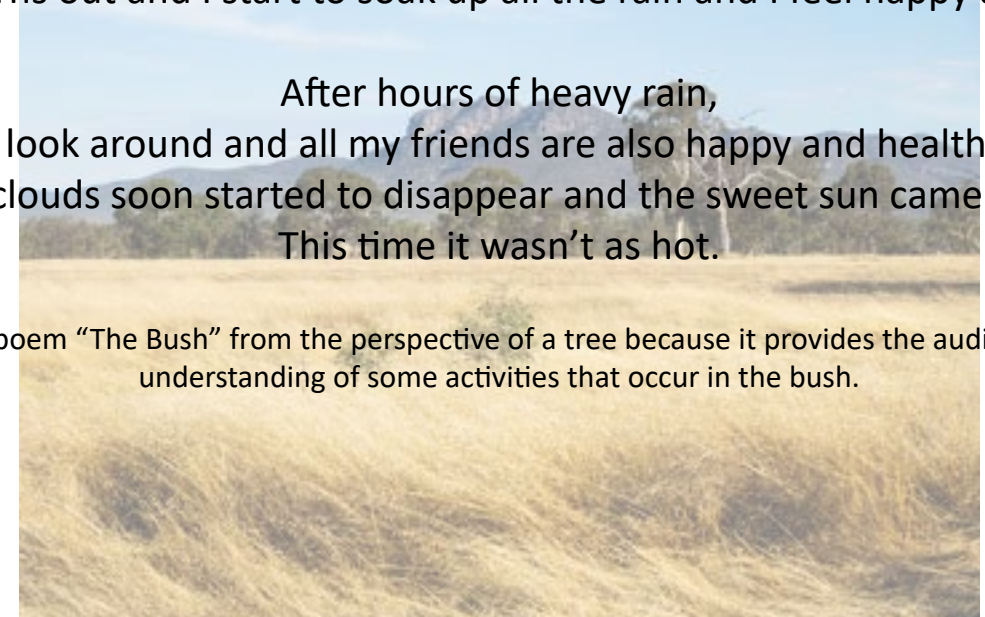
Late during the night, it is cold and as dry as sand.  
I see a man walking by and he starts to light a small fire.  
He sits there for a while and warms up.  
He then walks away without putting it out.

As I watch the small fire burning in the licorice atmosphere,  
It starts to get bigger and bigger.  
One of my friends start to yell as the fire has started to burn him,  
I then become worried.

Then the sun starts to rise,  
Many drops of glistening miracles fall from the sky.  
We all look up in surprise and are grateful.  
The fire burns out and I start to soak up all the rain and I feel happy and healthy.

After hours of heavy rain,  
I look around and all my friends are also happy and healthy.  
The clouds soon started to disappear and the sweet sun came back.  
This time it wasn't as hot.

I wrote the poem "The Bush" from the perspective of a tree because it provides the audience with an  
understanding of some activities that occur in the bush.





## MIDDLE LEADER INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

As we approach the end of 2020, it is a great time to reflect on the year that was. We have had plenty of challenges, and many successes. The Technology staff were amazing during the COVID lock down, and managed to continue delivering exciting and innovative lessons to our students, whilst learning how to navigate new software and technology.

Upon students returning to school our staff have dedicated lunch hours to ensure that all our students had an opportunity to catch up on any practical work that they wanted to complete. Additionally we were able to make some changes to our existing assessment items to better align to the online/face to face delivery methods that occurred. This has resulted in some amazing new projects.

Our laser cutter has been running hot this Semester, with our year 9 graphics students completing their clock designs, which were displayed during last terms Arts Night. Our year 11 graphic students were prototyping chair designs, our year 9 ITD class constructed their acoustic speaker designs, not to mention our year 11 and 12 Engineering classes who have been using the laser cutter to cut test pieces of materials to Stress test in our tensometer.

Unfortunately the Business Liaison Association's INTAD competition did not run this year due to COVID, but this didn't stop our department racing C02 dragsters – as you can see in the photo's below. For the third year running, students from our year 11 Graphics co-hort entered and placed in the BLA - Hutchinson's Builders / Architects Australia Aspire awards. Congratulations to Andrew Gallo and Kayleigh Cappella.

Milyana Bernardi was not with us for term 4, and we would like to sincerely thank Mr Felix Acha for replacing her this term. Felix ran an incredible program and will be welcomed back to St Stephen's Catholic College with open arms. Below you will see some photos of the incredible work completed during the year 10 Food Technology classes, in which they were taught to build and decorate Gingerbread houses. We look forward to Mrs Bernardi's return in 2021, and wish her a speedy recovery. Our students are incredibly blessed to have such dedicated teachers.

Wishing you a relaxing Christmas holiday, and a fruitful new year.

**Ms Toni Smith**

**Middle Leader Industrial Design and Technology**

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### FACT SHEET

## COVID Safe festive gatherings with family and friends

### Background

This holiday season take a few moments for yourself or enjoy time with others for a happier and more resilient you.

No matter who you are, where you live or how you're feeling it's important to reconnect, celebrate with friends and family or get back to the activities you used to enjoy.

To help make your event COVID safe and enjoyable, follow the tips below when arranging or attending a gathering.

### Tips for COVID Safe gatherings

- Check the [Queensland Health website](#) to determine the maximum number people allowed at your gathering or get-together.
- Get outside – where possible, hold your gathering or get-together outdoors or in a well-ventilated area (remember to be sun-smart).
- Spread out – maintain at least 1.5m between household groups.
- Hand hygiene – remind people to wash hands regularly or if handwashing facilities are not available, bring hand sanitiser.
- Respiratory hygiene – remember to sneeze or cough into your arm or a tissue (then put the tissue in the bin).
- Cleaning – wipe down frequently touched areas and surfaces with detergent or disinfectant regularly.
- Food and snacks – serve food and snacks on individual plates – avoid sharing utensils.
- Attending festive events and displays – keep 1.5m from other households, ensure you register your contact information, follow the directions of event organisers.
- Setting up a festive display in your home/garden – encourage people to practise physical distancing when visiting; discourage physical interaction (for example touching) to limit cleaning requirements; provide hand sanitiser; if offering snacks or treats, ensure they are individually wrapped.
- If there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in Queensland, further restrictions may be put in place that limits gatherings or events and activities. You can find the current requirements in the [Public Health Directions](#).



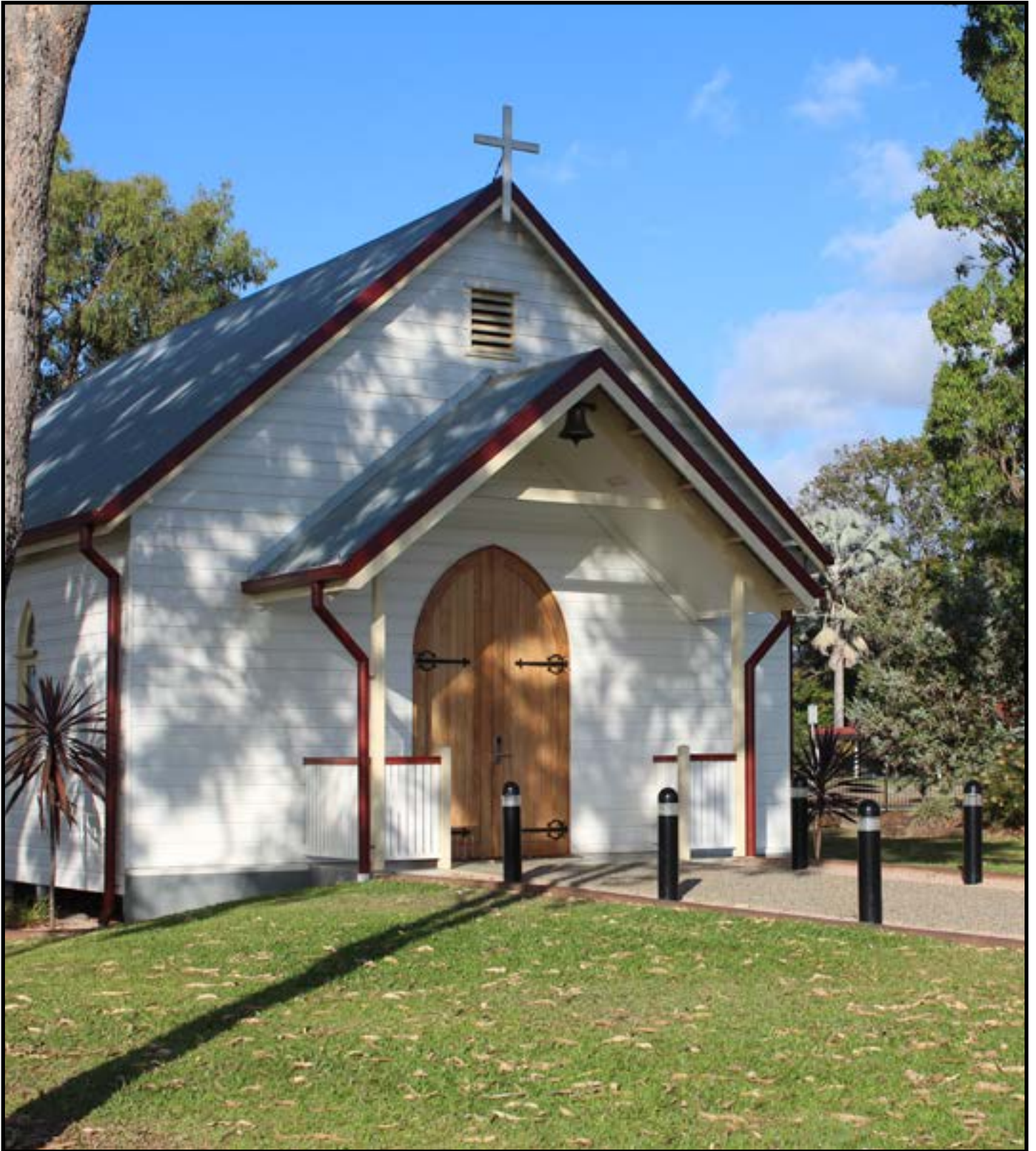
### Further information

You can find COVID-19 health advice on the [Queensland Government website](#), including the current status in Queensland and how to protect yourself and others.

If you are seeking clarification on a [Public Health Direction](#) or have any questions, please call 134 COVID (134 268).

Visit [Unite against COVID-19](#) for information about the Queensland Government response, including current requirements for social distancing, border closures and business restrictions.





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