

Dear Parishioners

It is with great sadness that I need to inform you that, due to us being moved into a Red Zone by the Provincial Government, the Corporation has had to take the tough decision to cancel in-church services for the immediate future. I know this is going to be tough because so many of us were looking forward to meeting up and were intending to be part of the Christmas services, but we feel that under the circumstances this is the wisest and most compassionate decision we can make. Many of our regional hospitals are at capacity and the rate of infection seems to have no signs of slowing down. In light of this ever changing reality we believe it is wise for us to reduce the rate of infection by self-isolating and limiting our social bubble and the most compassionate choice we can make by ensuring those who are the most vulnerable are not exposed to infection.

While there is a true joy in gathering with family and friends for worship, our capacity to worship on-line is no less valid or valued than us gathering in person. In light of this we will be recording and posting our weekly Wednesday and Sunday services as well as a service of lessons and carols for Christmas Eve and a Christmas day service. These will all be available on our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvY3uXpMNKg&feature=youtu.be>) via our website (<http://www.stmargaretbarrie.ca/>). In addition you can join us for coffee hour on a Sunday by following the following link. And, importantly, Norm Savill is coordinating daily devotions that are being emailed out on request. Please email Norm at nsavill@bell.net to be included on this posting and to join this very active and valuable on-line community. Finally, we will continue appropriate pastoral care and home communion on request and where possible.

Please know that you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless.

Simon