

Bishop's Bushfire Recovery Zoom Meetings, Wednesday 8 January 2020

Coastal Parishes: Prayer Requests

Bega

- For the housing needed and land to locate the emergency housing
- For dealing with people's shock
- For people who have flashbacks to previous trauma events which can exacerbate the current trauma
- For people with pre-existing illnesses exacerbated by fires mentally and physically
- For some people hosting family, friends and/or others means they are unable to address their own loss and grief
- For the reconnection of basic services such as power and water and the need for information on the appropriate contact person and services availability
- For clergy connecting with Bega community (which is most likely dispersed) and the community connecting to others in the community

- **Sapphire Coast (Merimbula & Eden)** *(not as heavily impacted with property loss; in Merimbula mostly dealing with evacuees from other locations to three evacuation centres in Merimbula; town deserted; do not know the extent of losses due to isolation of many smaller communities; people are very emotional)*
- Thanks for the way clubs, Anglicare, Red Cross and others have come together to support those in need and the situation
- Thanks for the marine rescues/ transfers
- Thanks for all the volunteers from the church and other community organisations who are subject to high expectations and long working hours
- For rest and recovery for the volunteers who are now on the edge due to workload and hour worked
- For physical strength for volunteers for much of the work involves lifting heavy loads (crates and boxes) and fire fighting is physically demanding
- For the aged care facilities staff, volunteers and residents who are accommodating not only their own clients but the residents from other facilities that were evacuated in
- For clear skies as fear arises from looking out at smoke and red skies
- For counselling resources to deal with trauma

Batemans Bay

- Thanks for life and safety
- For wisdom and strength for the clergy and church leaders who need to stand firm and look safe and confident, not radiating anxiety when that is what they may feel inside. For their resilience in the short, medium and long term
- For clergy to give time to self-care so they can continue their roles in the medium to longer term

- For calm in the evacuation centres which are physically safe but noisy, busy places
- In the longer term for additional disaster recovery chaplains
- For recognition that (given the scale of the fires both in land covered and intensity) the trauma will go on for years – 3/5/7 years? To successfully reassure people that the church will continue to be there with them in the years to come
- For good communication with parish out centres eg nursing homes especially where those residents have been evacuated then returned
- For the combined churches working together and for a resource/administration person who can coordinate that coming together
- For warehousing space for the reception points to receive goods and forklifts etc to move goods around easily
- For good communication from Anglicare to the clergy and parishes so they know what is happening at the Anglicare end
- For clergy access to the outer church centres if possible as it is likely that access to those areas is restricted to residents only
- For improved phone communications
- For the visit of the Reverend Stephen Robinson, Head of the Disaster Recovery Chaplains Network, who will speak on *Initial Disaster Recovery Issues and Phases of Recovery* on Thursday 19 January 2020, 6.30pm-9.30pm, at Anglican Church Batemans Bay, 6 Herarde Street, Batemans Bay. This event is intended as an overview of the issues for local priests and senior leaders.

Moruya (*People in Moruya are doing OK*)

- For rain
- For housing for parishioners who have lost everything
- For St Peter's Anglican School Broulee where the administration building was destroyed by fire. (NB Thanks that the schools electronic backup records are available and physical records are being recovered)
- For more chaplains to assist in fire affected areas
- For calm, cooperation and reconciling communication as differing views are shared on a range of fire and disaster related issues
- For addressing the loss of parish income from visitors (holiday home owners and tourists) which would normally be received at churches regular services at this time of the year
- In the future for resources for liturgy dealing with fires and disasters
- For longer term planning for mechanisms to deal with loss of electricity

Narooma/Bodalla and Cobargo/Bermagui (*over 4000 people evacuated to Narooma*)

- Thanks for an experienced evacuation centre manager flown in to Narooma and this arrangement working so well
- For good management of the resources received
- For loss of tourism income to the area and the consequent likely flow on impact to businesses

- For continuing school enrolments at both St Peter's Anglican School and Sapphire Coast Anglican College in the light of the loss of income for businesses, housing loss etc and the possible impact on the capacity of parents to pay fees and provide student study needs
- For the weather on Friday 10 January 2020 to be less dramatic than is currently expected – for God's grace in this context
- For the south coast community and Archdeacon Carol Wagner's as Carol prepares to depart the region to be consecrated as our Assistant Bishop. This mutual loss will be more deeply felt on both sides in the current circumstances
- For safety for all in the Cobargo region as trees still smoulder and unexpectedly drop branches especially making driving in this area hazardous
- For relief from the constraints on transport due to fuel shortages
- For the dispersed Cobargo community because of evacuations
- For the many people who have stepped into the breach who are undertaking roles which they feel they have not really been trained for
- For permanent housing in Cobargo. Housing rentals are largely intermittent as much of the housing availability is seasonal with holiday rentals
- For the safe return of the Reverend Tim Narraway from overseas later this month
- Thanks to the RFS
- For mental health/first aid courses for parishioners to assist them in helpful conversations with people impacted by the trauma
- Thanks for the Anglicare volunteers
- For Facebook which has been an amazingly resilient option

Western Region Parishes – Prayer Requests

Tumut (*houses have been lost at Batlow, Tallbingo and Tumbarumba; those three areas were all successfully evacuated to either Tumut or Wagga Wagga*)

- For patience as the community waits to see what happens when the fires die down
- For reconnection of power and water to areas and for dealing with the fear that this may take some months
- For parishioners who are also members of the RFS and for all the fire fighters who are so very tired
- For Batlow due to the general state of anxiety in the parish
- For those in Tumbaruma on farms who have no power and water

Adelong/ Tarcutta (*Adelong - surrounding region was most affected and the town was unexpectedly suddenly evacuated on Saturday when the Dunn's Road fire re-flared; smoke hazard a problem*)

- For support for people from the parish who are fighting fires
- For the Adelong folk who have returned home to have peace to re-settle back in
- For fire fighters to keep strong in what they are doing and for them to be able to continue to stay calm

- For the Adelong church outreach day Thursday 9 January 2020 to assist evacuees with hospitality and information on how to contact Anglicare and other sources of assistance. There will also be an Open Day at the Adelong Church on Sunday 12 January 2020 for prayer and similar hospitality and assistance.

Cooma (*parish with the largest spatial area in the Diocese but of the areas affected by bushfires at this time Cooma is least impacted; Cooma is the central evacuation centre for the parish; town was covered in ash last Saturday*)

- Give thanks that no houses or church property lost of which we are aware; believe only one out building lost in Adaminaby
- For farmers defending properties in various parts of parish
- For Adaminaby area as the Dunn's Road fire is still close to the town
- For opportunities to assist evacuees if the need to do so arises

Berridale/Snowy Mtns/ Jindabyne

- Thank God that last Saturday weather was not as dangerous as was expected
- Thanks that the town is ready to respond cooperatively if the need arises. There is an active community ready to stop spot fires if needed
- For the snow resort/s badly impacted

Southern Monaro (Bombala; Delagate)

- Thanks that the area is not too affected and at present Bombala spared
- For a parishioner who organized a prayer meeting despite his own health difficulties
- For the precautionary measures the town has been able to undertake

Wagga Wagga

- For wisdom for the parish to know how best to support those in need in the parish and surrounding areas and at The Riverina Anglican College (TRAC)
- For wisdom on how to deal with the Wagga Wagga community's general state of anxiety and how to have a Christian response to the fires
- Give thanks for the Diocese family for its prayer and support of those affected by the bushfires.