

At St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne, the experience of the Covid19 lockdown has created new ministries and new ways of doing and being a Cathedral community. We look forward to the time when we can meet again in person.

We know that our future won't look like the past. We'll be re-assessing our pre-Covid19 ministry programs and enterprise or business activities to see what's sustainable with the staff and resources available to us.

We'll draw on knowledge gained during the lockdown and develop new ideas. As we do so, we'll stay true to our vision. That vision is expressed in the Mission Commitments (MCs) and Strategic Goals (SGs) of our [2020-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

As we together look to the future, we will be

1. Intentional and act with integrity (SG 1.1 and 2.2)

We love sharing the good news that Jesus Christ transforms lives. We want all people to know that God loves us, sets us free, and calls us to discipleship. We'll make sure that we use as many opportunities as possible to share this message: in prayer and preaching, in our teaching and study, in our communication and our programming.

2. Welcoming and connecting (MC 2, SG 2.1)

We want to connect people with one another and God. We are proud to be such a diverse, multi-lingual and cross-cultural community. As we go forward, we'll continue to be welcoming, inclusive and hospitable. We'll particularly make sure that we remain as accessible as possible: for people from Covid19 at-risk cohorts, for people with health vulnerabilities, and people without internet access. We'll continue to live-stream our worship, and will also televise a weekly service on free to air TV. Even when we can meet face to face again, we'll continue to hold online fellowship and study.

3. Ministry-centred and draw on the gifts of all people (SG 1.1.1 and 1.1)

In our leadership we want to draw on the gifts of all our members and volunteers, and showcase the diversity of our community. When we can open again, we'll provide opportunity for ordained and lay leaders to be present and visible in the Cathedral. We want our worship, welcome, prayer and teaching to build a sense of belonging. We want to equip all our members and volunteers to be able to invite others to enquire and learn about our faith.

4. Balancing excellence and volume of ministry (SG 2.1 and 3.1.2).

We are an incredibly busy place. In all our activities – whether in worship and ministry, administration and business – we'll safeguard the capacity of our staff and volunteers. We'll make sure that all our ministry and outreach can sustainably be led by our team. We won't spread ourselves thin and instead will create and share resources to build up resilience. We'll seek help or support when we need it.

5. Sustainable and safe (SG 3.1.1)

When planning for re-opening we'll always prioritise the wellbeing and safety of our staff and members. We expect that our pattern of events and worship won't stay the same. We believe that such a change is positive. While we may suspend or discontinue activities or services that we used to run prior to Covid19, we'll also continue beneficial parts of our ministry begun during restrictions, and add new ideas and programs.

6. Diverse and delivering a broad curriculum (SG 2.2.)

We've experienced new ways of ministry during lockdown, and added in new pastoral programs. We'll continue to develop those initiatives. We'll also create new programs that will help us to become more mature disciples of Jesus Christ. We want there to be something to suit all comers. In English and other languages. From your first visit to the Cathedral to becoming a regular member. From becoming a volunteer or lay leader to entering into ministry or being ordained. For adults and kids. In person and online.

7. Enhancing our sense of fellowship and belonging (SG 2.1.2.)

One of the things we valued most during this pandemic was that we made time to be together. Even though we were separated physically we spent time with one another. We'll continue to make time. Together we'll invest time to build up a community of study, prayer, care and hospitality. We'll take the best of our fellowship programs before and during lockdown to build up the Cathedral community for the future.

8. Financially viable and fair (SG 2.3 and 3.2)

Our members and friends have been incredibly generous in digging deeper into their pockets to support our Cathedral. This has sustained our ministry at a time when visitor donations, and income from bookings and our shop have fallen away. It's also enabled us to do the right thing by our staff and our tenants. We've provided rent relief to the café and shops in Chapter House Lane, and been able to maintain employment for our staff. When going forward, we'll continue to act with justice and fairness, especially when we have to make hard decisions. We'll also continue to ask for help from our members and friends. We need and value the support of all and believe that it is when we help one another we can weather this uncertain time together.