

Greetings everyone, and I hope you are making a satisfactory transition to lockdown. Please do contact us by email or phone if we can be of further assistance to you at this time.

I wanted to update you regarding our activity around the visit of the "Ruby Princess" to Napier. After I spoke with someone from the COVID-19 Helpline I was advised to email what follows to info@health.govt.nz which I have just done.

What follows is a timeline of the information I have about people who visited the Cathedral on March 15, plus a quote from the latest relevant article on [www. nzherald.co.nz](http://www.nzherald.co.nz)

The lunchtime TV update today (Thursday) briefly discussed visitors to Napier who were from the ship "Ruby Princess". On the list that follows you can see that the NZ Herald does not include a reference to visitors to the Cathedral.

Here is the timeline of the Cathedral's activity:

15 March: Safe practice guidelines were put into place and there was communion in one kind only (the bread) and no physical contact permitted, plus the social distancing required, as well as hand sanitization for any ministers of communion. Unbeknown to me at the time there was an Australian couple present for the Eucharist whom I spoke to in passing as they were leaving. I don't think they stayed for morning tea but I can't be sure of that. I can say that they were probably late thirties or early forties, and he was wearing a Union Jack t-shirt. After morning tea some visitors (fewer than 10, as far as I know) came from the Ruby Princess for a look around the Cathedral. They were given information about the Cathedral from 2 of our Cathedral Guides. The guides observed the social distancing requirements.

21 March: With heightened awareness of the threat I was informed by a senior parishioner about these visitors from the Ruby Princess. Nobody has suggested that any of these visitor were displaying symptoms of illness.

The same day I contacted the COVID-19 helpline and after a 40-minute wait was advised that since we had observed the correct health protocols we should only be concerned if a parishioner should become unwell.

I spoke with the Vicar-General (the Bishop's representative during his absence from the Diocese) and we agreed that in the light of this information we should cancel any services on Sunday 22. This was relayed to the parish and nobody came to church that morning (myself and my Warden – my representative - monitored this).

25 March: The Cathedral was shut to all after the valuables had all been put in the safes and the Cathedral Administrator took her work home.

26 March: We learn that contact tracing re the Ruby Princess has been put in place. If you encountered any of these visitors for more than 15 minutes and believe you may have symptoms, please contact your GP as soon as possible. This is the twelfth day since the visitors came and so far nobody has contacted me to say that they have been in touch with their GP in this regard.

Here is the relevant material from the NZ Herald website today:

“Dr Eyre said anyone who had COVID-19 symptoms and came into close contact for 15 minutes or longer with passengers from The Ruby Princess, which docked 15 March, Napier Port, and is now symptomatic should call their GP.

If someone was symptomatic and in isolation with others they should further distance themselves and have as little contact as possible with anyone else in their household, not share crockery and be vigilant regarding cleaning and hand washing.

While this case was still being investigated and Hawke's Bay DHB's Public Health team and the National Contact Tracing Service were following this up, it was known that places visited by the confirmed case while symptomatic were:

Gladys Mary Care Home, Tamatea, 17, 18, 19 and 20th March

Hohepa, Clive, 18 March

Harvey Norman, Hastings -19 March 10am

Cornucopia, Hastings,

Weleda, Havelock North, 19 March

Te Mata Bakery, 19 March

Mission Winery, 19 March

Dr Eyre said while the chance of infection being passed on while the person was visiting shops and wineries was low, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should call their GP.

Close contacts from these locations would already have or will shortly be contacted by members of the Public Health team or National Contact Tracing Service, if there was a greater risk of infection. Now everyone was in isolation, it would help prevent wider spread, Dr Eyre said.

I should add that nobody has suggested that any visitors the Cathedral received were displaying any symptoms of illness.

On another note, I hope tomorrow to send out some materials for prayer and worship this coming Sunday. I do hope you will join me in some time for this, and, as Archbishop Philip has requested, light a candle at 7.00pm and pause to pray for all caught up in the crisis.

Nga mihi ki a koutou,

Peace and all good.

Dean Ian