



Friends of Bethlehem **NEWSFLASH**

13 July 2020

Dear Friend,

I am writing to you in the hope that you and your families are still staying safe and well. We are all living in uncertain times and as a community need to maintain our vigilance with social distancing, good hand hygiene and staying at home if unwell.

At the time this newsflash went to print, we have had no cases of COVID 19 in staff or patients and staff have been diligent in following our policies and procedures. Our use of videoconference has increased dramatically as we continue to care for our patients and as we gradually see an increase in patients returning to our onsite clinics, we continue with extensive pre-planning prior to visits and all staff, patients and visitors to our facility are screened daily to ensure the safety of patients, visitors and our staff.

Thanks to our staff who have been innovative and flexible at this time and you can read about some of our initiatives below. Thanks also to the volunteers who have assisted us in reaching out to our Friends of Bethlehem in the last month, a number of whom have told us how much they have enjoyed their online consultations. Your feedback has been invaluable.

Dr Jane Fischer
General Manager/Medical Director
Calvary Health Care Bethlehem

Since March our video consultations have increased 500%. A patient in Rochester, 30 kms from the NSW border, commented on our Facebook page in June about the benefit of her telehealth consultations: *"As a rural client, I love the availability of video conferencing. It saves me a 400+km round trip and*

overnight accommodation \$s due to fatigue levels. And I know I'm getting care from great staff. Thanks"

Thank You!

A huge thank you to all those that donated to our May appeal. We have had an overwhelming response and are still busy processing. Your contributions will make a big difference to our patient experience and we look forward to updating you on just how in our next newsflash.



Livestreaming!



In another online initiative, for the last month we have been hosting an interactive livestreaming music concert by request every Friday lunch time for patients

and staff. We have been overwhelmed with requests and due to popular demand will be continuing in July. The program has been embraced by staff and patients alike since it started. Though it will never replace the power of the real thing the new initiative will enable us to reach existing and new patients in the far reaches of the state and even interstate in their homes in NSW, SA and even Tas. Join us for our next Friday Live stream [here](#).



Care packages!

Over the last few months, our Day Centre has been engaging with patients via phone calls and care packages that they send out every fortnight. Patients have been loving the interaction with staff and each other: "Thanks for the care package. It is great. Miss my Friday's with you all" said Diane.

The packages include art materials, cross word puzzles and the famous Day Centre Quiz to keep patients entertained and engaged at home. They also involve art projects. At the moment, in different parts of Melbourne from South Melbourne to Aspendale, patients are creating postcards with a theme and sending them into Parkdale to be collated and shared back with each other to keep them connected.

In other news our Community Advisory Council Meetings have recommenced albeit online, due to COVID however they have had to cancel the Annual July dinner. They are hoping to resume the popular networking breakfasts later this year and following the success of the inaugural golf day in Feb this year, they have commenced planning for the event in early 2021.

Whats on in our community

Home Library Services

If you can't get to the library, many libraries can come to you! Books, magazines, DVDs, CD's, eBooks, online education, IT phone support - and so much more! Services differ between libraries, so ask your local library about what they offer.

Bayside Libraries (www.bayside.vic.gov.au)

Kingston Libraries (www.kingston.vic.gov.au)

Glen Eira Libraries (www.library.gleneira.vic.gov.au)

PortPhillipLibraries (www.library.portphillip.vic.gov.au)

Stonnington Libraries (www.stonnington.vic.gov.au)

8 AUGUST - SAVE THE DATE

Let's Talk about Death ~~over dinner drinks~~ Zoom!

Hosted by Calvary Health Care Bethlehem

Computer - Cuppa - Chat

Saturday 8 August 2020 10.30 am - 11.45 am

Via Zoom from the comfort of your home

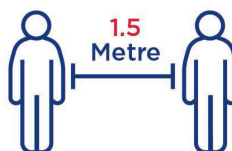
Register: To register your interest please contact Karen Bolger at karen.bolger@calvarycare.org.au or 9595 3402



**COVID-19
symptoms**



**Practise good
hygiene**



**Practise social
distancing**



**self-isolate
if you need to**

To receive newsflashes via email > friendsofbethlehem@calvarycare.org.au

If you'd like to donate click [here](#)