

## Welcome to weeks 6 & 7 of church at home!

How much longer we wonder?!

I keep coming back to one of my favourite verses which is from Romans 12:

**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.**

It has been good to step back and refocus, it has been good for each of us to stay in contact with each other and it has been good to connect with other Salvos through the online streaming services.

The **phone tree** is going well, though I apologise for any confusion around the weeks. They will all have dates on them from here on. Please keep it going. I have had good feedback from people who have really appreciated the phone calls.

As you are aware, May is usually very busy with fundraising for the **Red Shield Appeal**. This May will be different but possibly still busy! The Red Shield appeal is moving online and encouraging people to get creative with different kinds of fundraisers. You can simply share the webpage with everyone you know or be sponsored by friends and family for an activity like a marathon. Or maybe a read-a-thon.

<https://digitaldoorknock.salvationarmy.org.au/t/orange-salvos>

80% of what we raise is used for community projects locally. The remaining 20% supports the broader work of The Salvation Army. This includes centres for addiction recovery, homelessness and domestic violence refuges. You can create an online team and start fundraising through the whole of May.

The **online Bible Study** has started! There are two times: Mondays 10am & Tuesdays 7:30pm. This is a great opportunity to connect with others, read God's word together and talk about what it means for our life. The main way is through 'zoom'. All you need is internet and a device (phone/computer/tablet). **Also, you can phone in!** Let me know if you are interested, and if you would like help to set it up. I will send you the link before each session starts.

I would like to also encourage you to **keep giving** if you are able. For help with online tithing or to organise a time for cash giving, please call Diane Tues-Thurs on 6362 1870.

Currently our **Family Store** is closed. The Salvation Army set a general ruling across Australia to close the stores while restrictions are in place. We are hoping to reopen soon, but this is dependent on Salvos permission and having volunteers available. Our store managers at Bathurst and Orange are still working to clean, sort and rearrange so that they will be extra beautiful on reopening. A big thanks to all that they are doing – and to the couple of folk who are able to help them.

Until we meet again...

With love & Blessings,

Kate Cathcart **(0459 931 116 – please feel free to call me – and if I miss your call, I will call you back)**