

## **Prayer Link Guidelines St Catherine's Church**

### **Purpose of Prayer Link:**

The purpose of the Prayer Link is different than the Sunday prayers during Intercessions. The Prayer Link is meant to be more confidential, immediate, focused and for more urgent matters.

For example, if someone is having surgery or is very ill or perhaps dying or has just had some difficult news (a diagnosis of cancer or lost a job or a relationship has ended). If someone has just been diagnosed with cancer, they might need support as they start that difficult journey or they may have a specific treatment starting. These are not the only issues but just some examples of a more urgent and focused request for prayer.

The name can also be added to the Sunday Intercessions list for on-going support but the purpose of the Prayer Link is for a specific immediate event or issue to be addressed during that week.

It is also hoped that supporting each other through prayer during times of stress or crisis will strengthen the spiritual connections between us.

### **Confidentiality:**

The members of the Prayer Link will keep confidential the names and the issues requested. Prayer Link members will never approach a member of the congregation or anyone outside the congregation in the community whose name is on the list and say that they are praying for them or ask a question about how they are doing.

The names of the participants in the Prayer Link will not be published though members do not have to keep their participation secret if asked.

### **Communicating amongst the Prayer Link members.**

The Prayer Link group once it is established will decide how to set up communicating with each other. Likely a phone tree will be used where you call one or two people next in line. When Prayer Link members are away on vacation they will need to let the two coordinators know that they are not available for some period of time.

We will need sufficient participation in the Prayer Link so that when some people are away we do not need to decline a request for prayers. Perhaps 8 to 10 participants so that there are always at least 3 people available to pray.

We will need at least two coordinators to be at the head of the link to start the calling and receive the requests. We will need to determine how the prayer request is made. Likely this will be by calling one of the two Prayer Link leaders directly or emailing the co-leaders with a request that they call back to find out the name and issue.

It is anticipated that we are only passing on one or two names at a time for prayer not a long list of names. And some weeks there will be no names.

### **What information do I give to the Prayer Link?**

In order to preserve confidentiality, just give the first name of the person. You may include a brief phrase or sentence about the issue such as for “Jane who has just lost her husband”; for “Joe who is having surgery on Friday”; for “Mary who is highly distressed or suffering”; for John who has just had a diagnosis of cancer. Or you may wish to give just the name with no issue identified.

### **How long will the name remain on the Prayer Link?**

The Prayer Link will pray for the person for one week. The name may be resubmitted for any subsequent week if the need is urgent.

### **How should we pray?**

Pray in your usual fashion. There are no prescribed prayers to be used. Pray as often as you are able for one week.

### **Meetings of the Prayer Link members**

Once the Prayer Link group has formed, the group can decide if they want to meet and if so for what purpose and how frequently. Some churches have regular meetings of their Prayer Link members in order to deepen the group’s prayer practices. This can be discussed once we have a group formed.