

Good afternoon Fathers, Deacons and Parish Staff,

We remain committed to protecting the health and safety our parishioners, employees and volunteers. To contain the spread of COVID-19 during this outbreak and mindful that many in our community may be feeling anxious during this time, I am recommending the following updates to liturgies across the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

- Masks are mandatory in indoor settings and choir singers and cantors are not exempt. As singing remains a high risk activity, cantors must keep their masks at all times during the liturgy.
- Hospitality is also a high risk activity during this peak infection time. It is strongly recommended that hospitality events and gatherings, including those after Masses, be suspended.
- If you receive a request for taking Communion to someone's home, please ensure that the individual (clergy or Extraordinary Minister of Communion) is reminded of the protocols:
  - Ask if the recipient or anyone living in the home has tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms. If the answer is yes then you must wait to visit until the isolation period is complete.
  - Wear a mask at all times, use hand sanitiser, and as much as possible, maintain social distance.
  - Do not attend if feeling unwell or experiencing any symptoms

Additionally, as a reminder, please note the current protocols below which remain in place:

### Occupancy:

- **Masses, baptisms, and other liturgies** (except funerals and weddings), whichever is greater:
  - 1 person per 2 square metres indoors
- OR
- 100% of seated venue capacity with ticketed and allocated seating.

It would be timely to remind parishioners of existing protocols such as maintaining social distancing when queuing for Holy Communion or exiting the church. Additionally, shaking hands at the Sign of Peace or after Mass should be suspended.

- **Funerals** conducted indoors may accommodate no more than 1 person per 2 square metres up to 200 people; or 100 % of seated venue capacity with ticketed and allocated seating (no maximum applies). Vaccinated and unvaccinated attendees may attend.
- **Weddings:** Only fully vaccinated guests and staff, or those with a medical contraindication which is recorded against their Qld Check In App, are permitted to enter and remain. In this case, there are no density limits.
  - If any persons attending a wedding are unvaccinated, including members of the wedding party and officials, a maximum of only 20 people can attend.

Places of worship must continue to ensure attendees are registered via the Check-in Qld app and operate in accordance with the COVID Safe Checklist.

**Masks:** Anyone entering a church or workplace (over the age of 12) are required to wear a face mask. This includes when people are seated or moving around. This also includes parish staff working in a parish office. The following exemptions apply:

- Clergy should wear a mask when entering, distribution of Holy Communion and exiting the Church. Clergy should wear a mask at all times except where clear enunciation or visibility of the mouth is essential during the liturgy.
- Clergy should wear a mask when entering, distributing Holy Communion and exiting the Church. The Reader may lower his/her mask for the readings.

### **Cleaning requirements remain in place**

If a COVID-19 positive person has attended a Mass Centre, it should be temporarily closed for the period of time long enough to perform a routine clean. Routine cleaning with standard household cleaning products is acceptable. Queensland Health has advised that a deep clean is no longer considered necessary.

**Precautions:** We encourage you to continue with routine precautions minimising the risk of transmission of COVID-19 including:

- Maintain good hand hygiene
- Stay home when you are sick or have symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, and sore throat.
- Maintain social distancing where possible (1.5m) when you're outside your home. Keep your distance if you can: at the shops, on public transport, at work, and when you're visiting with others. Shaking hands, hugging and kissing hello are still not COVID safe.

While advice is changing often, please find a helpful summary of the [testing and isolation protocols here](#) to assist you in understanding the timelines for those who receive a positive test or are considered close contacts.

Please be vigilant during this time as we seek to keep our employees, parishioners and volunteers safe.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+Ken



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