

The **health and safety** of all people attending church services during this time is our priority. A number of liturgical and musical practices have been approved by the Bishop, to ensure appropriate **social distancing** measures are applied.

Requirements of the Parish:

The following directions have been given by the Bishop:

- ✓ You should not shake hands, hug or kiss as a greeting, farewell or during the greeting of peace.
- ✓ You will need to ensure a distance of 1.5 metres is kept between people at all times.
- ✓ For the Greeting of Peace, the same social distancing rules apply. The Greeting of Peace may proceed by saying the words “peace be with you” and acknowledging the other person. People should not move about in the church to greet others.
- ✓ A guide for the service should be projected on a screen or printed on a single use sheet or booklet rather than providing prayer books, or multiple occasion worship cards or booklets.
- ✓ There is to be no communal singing. A single cantor or singer can provide music. Careful attention to social distancing must be made with singer standing at least 5 metres from any other person. .
- ✓ There are to be no wind instruments used on site as part of a service or any other activity.
- ✓ The congregation should be encouraged to say the responses in the service quietly.
- ✓ The collection plate is not to be passed around. An alternate offertory arrangement should be made. Where cash is given, safe cash handling techniques including the use of gloves and handwashing need to be applied.
- ✓ Communion is to be administered as the bread alone. The priest alone should consume the wine. The bread should be placed in people’s hands only, not on the tongue. The priest should use hand sanitiser immediately before and immediately after distributing bread.
- ✓ People waiting to receive communion should stand at least 1.5 metres from another person. The only time this distancing can be relaxed is the precise movement of receiving the communion. Markings should be placed on the floor to indicate the 1.5 metre distance.
- ✓ Participants should be reminded that they need to return to their allocated seating after receiving communion.
- ✓ If there is a need to bless a person, the priest should have their hands over the person but not touch them directly.
- ✓ Each gathering should be limited to a maximum time limit of 60 minutes.
- ✓ There must be time for cleaning the space before there is another gathering.

- ✓ Careful attention should be given to the number of services in a day or in a week recognising the additional ministry load created by COVID19.

Wearing of Masks

- ✓ In line with NSW Government advice, all those who attend places of worship are strongly encouraged to wear face masks.
- ✓ When leading a part of the service or preaching it is permissible for the person to remove their mask temporarily in the conduct of their ministry but should be 3m distant from the congregation during this time.
- ✓ When receiving communion, a person should receive the bread, step back, remove their mask, consume the communion, and recover their face.