



Diocese of Wagga Wagga

FAQ's for Clergy (26 March 2020)

1. Can I still celebrate a wedding?

In accordance with government directives, weddings are limited to 5 people – for example: Bride, Groom, Celebrant and 2 Witnesses – and where the “1 person per 4 square metre” rule applies. However, the wedding cannot take place in the church.

2. What are the arrangements for funerals?

In accordance with government directives, funeral attendance is to be limited to a maximum of no more than 10 people and where the “1 person per 4 square metres” rule applies. However, the funeral cannot take place in the Church. It is to take place at the graveside.

3. How should I handle Baptisms?

Please postpone (including RCIA, Catechumens and Candidates.) Baptism only in a health emergency. Remind the faithful of Baptism of Desire.

4. Can I freely do baptisms in people's gardens with proper people distancing?

No. Please refrain from non-essential visits to people's homes.

5. Can I celebrate Mass outside e.g. in the school grounds?

*No. Public gatherings are **not allowed**.*

6. Can I have a Religious Sister or 2 attend my private Masses?

*Yes. But **not** celebrated in a Church. Please maintain social distancing ensuring the “1 person per 4 square metre” rule. Communion **in the hand** only. No Precious Blood. Limit of 2 Sisters at a Private Mass. Attend to hand sanitising.*

7. In what ways can we ensure our daily Communicants can receive Holy Communion?

*Distribution of Holy Communion is suspended at this time. Please encourage your people to participate in online or televised Mass, bible reading, prayer and the Rosary. Stress **Spiritual Communion**.*

8. Can we have Home Masses or Home Communion Services?

No. See above.

9. We have a private and secured Adoration Chapel (24/7). Currently only 2 people are allowed in at any given time. Is this still ok?

No. Non-essential gatherings, be they private or public, are not allowed. Churches and Chapels are to remain locked – not open to the public.

10. Can I establish a drive through Confessional?

*No. The faithful should accept the continuing importance of examining conscience and making an act of contrition while dispensed from their annual duties until they can be resumed. Priests may and should respond to individual requests for the Sacrament of Penance but **may not** advertise or open the church for confessions.*

11. Parish Quarterly returns are due next week. Should we still hand them (or part of it) in?

*No. For the time being, **do not send** your Parish Quarterly Returns at the end of March.*

I stress to you now, that the more stringently we follow these requirements, the quicker the restrictions can be lifted, and the sooner we will be returning to our normal practices. Please encourage your parishioners to do the same.