



## COVID 19 Diocesan Protocols Effective Tuesday 9th February 2021

### 1. Covid-Safe Business

All Parishes must comply with the NSW Government requirement to complete a [Covid-Safe Plan](#) and register as a [Covid-Safe Business](#).

### 2. Maximum Attendance

- a. Attendance at Places of Worship is limited to one person per two square metres (excluding clergy and liturgical ministers).
- b. Physical distancing is to be practiced. People from different households are to remain 1.5m apart.

### 3. Hygiene practices

- a. Sanitisation of hands before entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.
- b. Wiping down of pews and common areas at conclusion of Mass or gathering.
- c. Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to purify hands with sanitiser before and after offering Holy Communion.
- d. Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to wear facemasks while distributing Holy Communion
- e. Limit the use of communal books. Ensure they are cleansed between use.

### 4. Register of people upon entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.

- a. Name, phone number and entry time to be recorded and kept securely (respecting privacy laws) for at least 28 days.
- b. Any paper-based records must be entered into electronic format (spreadsheet/database) within 12 hours.

### 5. Eucharist

- a. Holy Communion in the hand only.
- b. Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
- c. No touching at the sign of peace.
- d. No offertory procession.
- e. No collection plates are to be used. Collection points and electronic donations preferred.

### 6. Communion to Sick and Elderly Persons

Normal pastoral practice continues including Communion to sick persons in hospitals, aged care homes and private homes.

### 7. Anointing of the Sick

Normal Pastoral Practice continues.

- a. Anointing of the sick in hospitals, aged care and private homes if permitted to enter.
- b. If the person has COVID-19, please consult the Bishop's Office.

### 8. Singing

- a. **Indoors:** Congregational singing is NOT permitted indoors. Choirs of up to 5 people are permitted indoors and are to practice social distancing (see Item 2.b).
- b. **Outdoors:** Congregational singing is permitted outdoors with anyone over 12 years of age to wear masks. There is no maximum cap on choirs outdoors.

**Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI**  
Bishop of Wagga Wagga