



COVID 19 Diocesan Protocols Effective 27th March 2021

1. If you are unwell, stay home.

2. 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](#).

3. 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.

4. 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 is encouraged.
- c. Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to purify hands with sanitiser before and after offering Holy Communion.
- d. Limit the use of communal books. Ensure they are cleaned between use.

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

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

6. Eucharist

- a. Holy Communion may be received in the hand or on the tongue. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion on the tongue are to approach only after Holy Communion has been distributed to all those receiving on the hand.
- 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 passed around.

7. Communion to Sick and Elderly Persons

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

8. 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.

9. Singing

- a. **Indoors:** Choirs of up to 30 people are permitted indoors if they are 5 meters from the congregation and practicing social distancing (see Item 2.b). Congregational singing is permitted at Mass if:
 - i. the 4 square meter rule is observed; and
 - ii. all those singing wear masks; or
 - iii. there is less than 25 people in the congregation.
- b. **Outdoors:** There is no recommended cap on performers singing outdoors.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga