



COVID 19 Diocesan Protocols Effective 12th July 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. Singing

Singing by congregants is not allowed. Up to 5 people may sing in a place of public worship in NSW (Regional and Rural areas). The singers must:

- Wear a face mask
- Keep a distance of at least 1.5metres from each other
- Keep a distance of 3 metres from the congregation.

4. Maximum Attendance

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

5. Hygiene Practices

- a. Masks are to be worn in all indoor non-residential indoor settings. (Liturgical Ministers may remove masks while on the Sanctuary.)
- b. Sanitisation of hands before entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.
- c. Wiping down of pews and common areas at conclusion of Mass or gathering is encouraged.
- d. Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to purify hands with sanitiser before and after offering Holy Communion and to wear masks while distributing Holy Communion.
- e. Limit the use of communal books. Ensure they are cleaned between use.

6. Register of people upon entering the Church, Hall, Prayer Room, etc.

- a. NSW Government Covid-Safe QR Code is the preferred record-keeping option.
- b. Name, phone number and entry time to be recorded and kept securely for at least 28 days.
- c. Any paper-based records must be entered into electronic format (spreadsheet/database) within 12 hours.

7. Eucharist

- a. Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
- b. No touching at the sign of peace.
- c. No offertory procession.
- d. No collection plates are to be passed around.

8. Communion to Sick and Elderly Persons

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

9. 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.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga