

# COVID-19 Safe Plan for Parish Communities

We are taking a careful and conservative approach to managing the easing of restrictions on the celebration of Mass and the sacraments. Guidelines for gatherings, social distancing and cleaning and hygiene will apply across all stages to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of parishioners, employees, volunteers and clergy. Please review the COVID-19 Safe Plan for Parish Communities for full details

Timing and requirements are subject to change according to State and Federal Government requirements - issued 20 May, 2020

## STAGE ONE

### From 23 May

#### Masses

Up to **10** people can attend including the celebrant, sacristan and videographer (where applicable)

Masses live-streamed from the Cathedral and some local parishes

#### Private prayer

Churches open for private prayer with a limit of **10** at one time

#### Funerals

Up to **20** people to attend indoors, or **30** outdoors (in addition to three people to conduct the funeral)

#### Weddings

Up to **10** people to attend (in addition to the couple and the celebrant)

#### Baptism

Up to **10** people to attend

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment with the parish priest. Parishes may offer set times, with attendance to be managed as per private prayer

Contact between priest and penitent must be less than 15 minutes

#### Parish offices

Offices are open with meetings restricted to **four** who must be clergy or employees of the parish

## STAGE TWO

### From 12 June

#### Masses

Up to **20** people can attend including the celebrant, sacristan and videographer (where applicable)

Parishes to manage Mass bookings

Masses live-streamed from the Cathedral and some local parishes

#### Private prayer

Churches open for private prayer with a limit of **20** at one time

#### Funerals

Up to **50** people to attend indoors, or outdoors

#### Weddings

Up to **20** people to attend (in addition to the couple and the celebrant)

#### Baptism

Up to **20** people to attend

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment with the parish priest. Parishes may offer set times, with attendance to be managed as per private prayer

Contact between priest and penitent must be less than 15 minutes

#### Parish offices

Offices are open with meetings restricted to **10** and may include volunteers and other members of the community

## STAGE THREE

### From 10 July

#### Masses

Up to **100** people can attend (for Churches which can accommodate that number considering while complying with the four square metre rule and social distancing requirements)

Parishes to manage Mass bookings

Masses live-streamed from the Cathedral and some local parishes

#### Funerals, weddings, baptisms and private prayer

Churches will be open for up to **100** people at one time, with guidelines for gatherings including social distancing, cleaning and hygiene remaining in place.

Preparation for and celebration of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation may resume.



#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment with the parish priest. Parishes may offer set times, with attendance to be managed as per private prayer

Contact between priest and penitent must be less than 15 minutes

#### Parish offices

Offices are open and operating as normal, with social distancing, cleaning and hygiene requirements in place.

Gatherings restricted to **100**

For information about Communion to the Sick, visitation of hospitals and school visits and liturgies please refer to the COVID-19 Safe Plan for Parish Communities

#### GATHERINGS

Gatherings include any occasion when three or more people come together. This includes masses and other liturgies, and both administrative and social meetings with parish staff, volunteers and other members of the community.

Government legislation requires us to record the name, address and phone number for everyone attending a gathering, and to keep these records for 28 days. Every parish gathering needs to comply with COVID-19 legislative requirements.

#### SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS

The square metre rules comes first  
One person per 4 square metres indoors - the way you apply easing of restrictions on numbers will depend on the space you have available.  
The WHS team will help you work this out.  
1.5 metres between people always

#### CLEANING & HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS

Hand sanitizer or hand-washing facilities to be made available in churches, parish offices and gathering spaces  
Follow the WHS cleaning protocols for all gatherings and private prayer

For advice and assistance contact the Work Health and Safety Team at [whs@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:whs@bne.catholic.net.au)