



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

#58 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Information Updated: 22 April 2022, 12.00pm

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These guidelines are in accordance with Victorian pandemic orders which have been extended from 11.59pm Tuesday 12 April for three months. The declaration was made under section 165AE of the *Public Health and Well Being Act 2008*.

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

VICTORIA	
Face Coverings	<p>From 11.59pm Friday 22 April 2022, Face Coverings are no longer mandatory within Places of Worship, workplaces, primary schools, early childhood or retail settings.</p> <p>Please note, however, Face Coverings remain a requirement of hospitals, airports, sensitive health and aged care settings, justice settings, and on public transport. Close contacts of positive cases are to wear face coverings indoors, and to avoid 'sensitive' or group settings. It is still recommended to wear a Face Covering when distancing cannot be maintained over a period of time.</p>
QR Code Check-in requirements	<p>As of 11.59pm Friday 22 April 2022, QR code check-in to Places of Worship, Parish Offices and other areas on Parish sites is no longer required.</p> <p>*Please also note below in regard to vaccination requirements for Staff and Volunteers.</p>

Vaccinations	<p>There are no longer vaccination requirements for the public at Places of Worship nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status for attendees at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, general Worship or for parish social activities.</p> <p>Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be up-to-date with their vaccinations and are required to show evidence of their vaccination status to their employer in order to continue working outside their home.</p>
Liturgical considerations	<p>Holy Communion is to be distributed to the faithful under one species only (i.e., the Sacred Host). At concelebrations involving a number of priests, communion for them should be by intinction of the Sacred Host in the Precious Blood.</p> <p>It is recommended that those who distribute Holy Communion continue to wear a Face Covering and sanitise their hands before doing so.</p> <p>Where there is physical touch as part of a Rite of the Church (for example, baptisms, confirmation and anointing of the sick or dying) the use of cotton buds is no longer mandated, but hands should be sanitised well before and after the Rite.</p> <p>Holy Water stoups may be filled, but care should be seen that the water is changed regularly (at a minimum of once a week).</p> <p>The use of hymn books and other worship aids are permitted as part of the liturgy, and Collection Plates may be returned.</p>
Maximise Ventilation	<p>It is recommended that windows and outside doors be opened, where possible, to maximise ventilation and to improve indoor air quality. Reduce or eliminate recirculated air and increase the use of outdoor air where possible.</p>
COVIDSafe Plan	<p>All workplaces and Places of Worship are still required to have a COVIDSafe Plan that supports a community to reduce the spread of the virus. The current changes provide a good opportunity to review what is in place. For guidance please visit: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-plan</p>
Cleaning of Facilities	<p>Places of Worship will not need to be deep cleaned between use, but good hygiene standards should be maintained according to a Parish COVIDSafe plan. This includes the continued availability of sanitiser throughout the venue.</p>
Care Facility and Hospital Visitors	<p>Please work with the care provider in determining what is required and permitted.</p>
COVID-19 Diagnosis	<p>It is an essential requirement to isolate for seven days following a COVID-19 diagnosis. Individuals must notify their workplace, in addition to informing their social contacts. Workplaces, however, won't have to individually identify and notify each potentially exposed worker/contact.</p>