

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

20 MAY 2020



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MELBOURNE

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Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

Archbishop Philip's weekly video

"Coming out of this stronger", this week's video, is [here](#).

COVID Safe Officer and checklist

This is the most important matter for this week.

All parishes and AACs need to appoint a COVID Safe Officer who has responsibility for ensuring the parish maintains all requirements for church buildings and activities to be safe. There are stringent requirements for recording attendance, cleaning, social distancing, holy communion, other groups meeting on site, and so on.

A checklist, with links to various government and other documents, is found [here](#) and also follows this newsletter. Parishes and AACs are to return these completed and signed checklists to the Registrar (registrar@melbourneanglican.org.au) by Monday, 1 June, or before any activities resume on site if that is after June 1.

The links after the checklist direct parish leadership to the detail of requirements and to posters for putting up in churches. All parish leaders and the COVID Safe Officers need to be aware and agree to these requirements.



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Financial Matters

1. The Crisis Management Committee has decided that MADC will reduce its labour cost recovery charge from parishes for the April-June quarter by approximately one-third. This means that parishes will not be charged for the June pay run.
2. The Diocese has received its first payment under the JobKeeper scheme, for April, which is good news indeed. After reimbursing 'top-up' payments already made by MADC and reductions in the labour cost recovery charges above, final balance payments will be made to parishes in the first week of June, as far as possible. The diocese will provide a full account to parishes which will ultimately fully benefit from this most welcome scheme.
3. Victorian Government "Business Support Fund" - The diocese is investigating our eligibility for this grant and will inform parishes as soon as we have a definitive answer
4. Finally, the Crisis Management Committee with the Finance Committee is finalising a strategic policy for financial support for parishes and Authorised Anglican Congregations, and will announce this as soon as possible.

Timesheets for Locums and Casuals

Locums and casuals must submit their timesheets each week to payroll. This enables prompt processing for the monthly payroll cut-off date of the 20th of the month and helps ensure that those on JobKeeper will not lose their subsidy.

Employment status changes

For anyone who has nominated MADC as their JobKeeper employer, please email jobkeeper.form@melbourneanglican.org.au if, between now and September, you cease being eligible for JobKeeper (for example, parental leave, ceasing being a locum or any other change in employment status). Employee eligibility requirements are listed in Section D of the [JobKeeper Nomination Notice](#).

Op shops

Parish Op shops may open for public trading after the Victorian state of emergency is lifted. The re-opening of a parish op shop is dependent on the following:

- Parish Council, including the parish COVID Safe Officer, has resolved to re-open, having considered the vulnerability of staff and volunteers.



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- the parish op shop COVID-safe plan is completed and returned to the Registrar (registrar@melbourneanglican.org.au).
- donations of new stock, including clothing, should be stored for an extended period or cleaned before selling.
- parishes should use discretion concerning the risks of existing stock, particularly stock which has been handled but not purchased.
- the following from Safe Work Australia is a helpful resource: [**Retail: Minimising the risk of exposure to COVID-19**](#)

See [this link](#) for further detail.

Clergy in financial hardship

Clergy who consider they are in financial hardship are welcome to ask their bishop for an application for financial assistance from a trust fund administered through Archbishop in Council.

Benetas requests your assistance

Benetas has eased visiting guidelines, enabling families and friends to visit their loved ones in their aged care homes for the first time in several weeks. But Benetas requires extra assistance to help implement strict screening protocols and limited visiting times (10- 12 noon; 1.30-3.30pm daily) so staff can continue providing care. If you are able to assist, please click [here](#) to find additional information.

Child Safety

Some comments from Amanda Lincke on the *Failure to Disclose Offence* are found [here](#).

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus



The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier
Archbishop of Melbourne