

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

19 August 2020



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DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

- The Archbishop's weekly video
- Church security
- Parish annual meetings
- Interment of ashes
- Synod
- Permitted worker permits
- Financial hardship
- Jobkeeper 1.0
- Review of clergy legislation
- Doing ministry safely online
- COVID reflections

The Archbishop's weekly video

"Living faith in each generation", this week's video, is found [here](#).

Church security

Victoria Police has alerted us to a heightened security risk for church premises. It is acceptable on the permitted work permit to put essential security check for premises. If clergy or parishioners live close enough, then walking round the church to check is also acceptable.

Parish annual meetings

Archbishop in Council has approved some guidelines [here](#) for parishes to have annual meetings in October or November using zoom or some other electronic means. While the Parish Governance Act requires annual meetings to be face to face, the Archbishop in Council will not act against any parish that upholds the linked guidelines. We anticipate synod will endorse these guidelines in legislation, but is unlikely to meet in time for parish annual meetings.

When convening the annual meeting, please assist parishioners as much as possible to be able to attend online or via phones.

Interment of ashes

Please note that interring ashes is not regarded as a funeral. In metropolitan Melbourne, no interment of ashes can take place. In Regional Victoria, ashes can be interred, but by the minister alone and nobody else attending.



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Synod

Archbishop in Council has decided that Synod will not be convened until the State of Disaster has been lifted and it is clearer what gatherings are permitted by law. It appears unlikely that a session of Synod will be possible in 2020. Reports to Synod will be prepared and made available to Synod representatives in October or November 2020.

Permitted worker permits

We remind vicars that they must send copies of any volunteer and staff permitted worker permits to registrar@melbourneanglican.org.au. Vicars must also keep a copy themselves and be able, on request, to produce this record to an Authorised Officer, a Victoria Police Officer or a Protective Services Officer. All clergy, including retired clergy, and ASLMs must have their permit issued by the relevant bishop.

Financial hardship

For clergy facing financial hardship, please speak with your bishop about applying for some help through a trust fund.

Jobkeeper 1.0

There have been changes to JobKeeper 1.0 that apply until 27 September 2020. New eligible employees include those who:

- (i) between March 1 and July 1:
 - became new permanent employees
 - changed status from casual to permanent
 - became permanent residents
 - turned 18 years old
 - are 16 or 17 and are not full-time students or are financially independent
 -
- (ii) at July 1:
 - are casual employees with 12 months' regular and systematic service.

The ATO also released revised guidance on the regular and systematic test, and it may be possible for casual employees with reduced hours or gaps in work after 1 March 2020 to still qualify (ATO link here). The July 1 date provides an opportunity to re-test employees assessed as ineligible at March 1.

If you know of any MADC employees who are in any of the above categories, please ask them to complete the form here and return it to registrar@melbourneanglican.org.au by COB Monday, 24 August 2020.



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Please note that for Section A of the form the Employer Name is "Melbourne Anglican Diocesan Corporation" and the Employer ABN is "96 608 584 489".

Please note:

- there is no need to fill in the form if you have already nominated MADC as your JobKeeper employer, and
- there is no change to the eligibility date for eligible religious practitioners – it remains 1 March 2020.

Review of clergy legislation

Registrations for the first round of zoom consultations on this review closed on 14 August 2020. Details of further consultations, including registration details, will be released within the next fortnight. In the meantime, please review the consultation material [here](#). Any Synod member at any time can ask questions or provide submissions by email to clr@melbourneanglican.org.au.

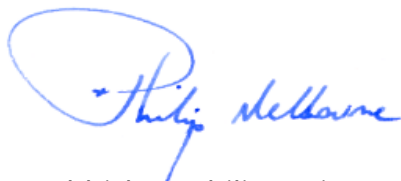
Doing ministry safely online

Amanda Lincke is co-leading a webinar in Child Safety Week with Liana Buchanan, Victoria's Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, on Thursday, September 10, at 5pm. See the flyer and booking details [here](#).

COVID reflections

The faculty of Trinity College has been posting COVID reflections throughout recent months which can be found [here](#).

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus



Archbishop Philip Freier