

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

26 August 2020



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DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

We remind you that diocesan information and resources related to the pandemic is on the diocesan [website](#) under four main headings: online church, wellbeing, resources for ministry and mission, diocesan information. These pages also include the COVID-safe [checklist](#) for parishes and other links.

The Archbishop's weekly video

"The Sixth Day of Creation", this week's video, is found [here](#).

A reminder: COVID-Safe plans for metropolitan Melbourne

All churches that have permitted activity on their premises, with five or more workers (including volunteers) in attendance at any one time, must have a COVID-Safe plan with a nominated COVID-Safe officer. This includes hosting funerals. If you have such activities, please send details of the COVID-Safe Officer and the COVID checklist on the diocesan website to registrar@melbourneanglican.org.au, if you have not already done so.

Work permits for outside metropolitan Melbourne

If someone living in metropolitan Melbourne needs to work outside metropolitan Melbourne, please use this work permit [here](#).

Annual parish statistics

For annual statistics, parishes can leave blank figures for attendance or other matters that have not been functioning during the lockdown.

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Parish finances survey to determine eligibility for JobKeeper

MADC will shortly be conducting another survey to determine its eligibility to claim payments under the extended JobKeeper scheme for its employees after the current scheme ends in September.

We need every parish to complete the survey in order to provide full and appropriate results, regardless of whether the parish has eligible employees or whether the parish has experienced a drop-in income or not.

From the survey, if the parishes in aggregate demonstrate an expected decline in income of 15% or more in the December 2020 and March 2021 quarters, then MADC will reduce the parish payroll direct debits and remain eligible to receive JobKeeper for some 590 employees across the diocese.

Security warning from Victoria Police

With the evolving situation with the coronavirus pandemic, Victoria Police continues to provide services to all the community. With this in mind, we ask that church members consider the following in conjunction with the Victoria Police Business Security Kit information [here](#).

- review the premises' physical security, including all doors and windows.
- remove all cash and items of value, including laptops, from the premises.
- install a monitored security alarm system and surveillance cameras to deter offenders and assist police to identify offenders.
- prominently display signs indicating the presence of a security system and other measures such as 'No cash kept on premises', 'CCTV constantly monitoring premises'.

Victoria Police will continue to work with you throughout this situation.

Financial hardship

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

Wellbeing webinar on trauma-informed ministry

Bishop Kate coordinated a personal development training webinar for Area Deans on 'Trauma-informed ministry for times like these'. A recording is available [here](#). The handout is available [here](#).

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The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)

TMA is being published both in the usual print newspaper format and online, with all the news, book reviews, opinion pieces and other features you normally enjoy, as well as news stories and reflections on this time of global pandemic and its implications. The September edition will be posted to parishes early next month for you to distribute to parishioners as you are able. If you would like to amend the number of copies of TMA your parish receives, or the address they are delivered to, please email tma@melbourneanglican.org.au.

TMA can also be found online [here](#) in various formats for reading online and printing.

Review of clergy legislation

The consultation material is available [here](#) for your review. A second round of zoom consultation meetings is planned for the latter half of September. Please register your interest in attending by emailing clr@melbourneanglican.org.au no later than Friday, 11 September 2020, and specify whether you wish to attend meetings on all of the topics or only particular topics. Synod members can email questions or submissions to the same address until 30 September 2020.

Standing together

The Council of Churches of Victoria is hosting an online prayer service on Sunday, August 30, at 2pm. See details [here](#).

COVID and ministry webinar

The University of Divinity is running a seminar on COVID and ministry on Friday, August 28, 2pm – 3pm. Details are [here](#).

Questions or concerns about restrictions or work permits can be directed to Bishop Paul: bishoppaulbarker@melbourneanglican.org.au.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,



Archbishop Philip Freier