

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

30 September 2020



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MELBOURNE

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Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

The Archbishop's weekly video

"Getting through the dry stage", this week's video, is found [here](#).

We remind you that diocesan information and resources related to the pandemic are 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.

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

COVID-safe plans: updated requirements

Business Victoria has produced a template for COVID-safe workplaces. A COVID-safe plan is needed if you have five or more people attending the church premises for any permitted activity. We have adapted the Business Victoria template and incorporated some specific items for churches. This replaces the COVID-safe checklist we have used to this point.

What we request from each parish is as follows:

- Your COVID-safe officer needs to read through the Business Victoria documents:
 - The Business Victoria explanation of what is required is [here](#).
 - An adapted template for your parish to use is [here](#).
 - A workplace attendance record template is [here](#). The attendance register needs to record times in and out and not just first name and phone contact.
- Parishes need to complete this template and return it to Registry.



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- If you already have any activity onsite, including outdoors, you need to register that your COVID-safe plan is updated by Friday, 16 October.
- If you do not yet have a COVID-safe officer and agreed plan, then you need to do so before resuming any activity onsite, including outdoor activity.
- Your COVID-safe officer needs to ensure that all onsite regular workers and lessees know the COVID-safe arrangements for the parish.
- The parish must have a written copy of its COVID-safe plan available on each premises.

Regional Victoria restrictions

To clarify for parishes and church property outside metropolitan Melbourne, the following limits are current:

Churches and services

Outdoor gatherings and services can have up to ten people plus a cleric or ASLM. The rules for such gatherings and services were included in the newsletter on Monday, 28 September.

Weddings

Weddings are allowed with a maximum of ten attending, including the couple. The celebrant is in addition.

Funerals

Funerals can have up to 20 mourners plus those necessary for conducting the service.

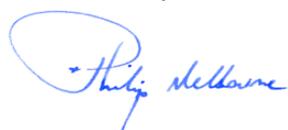
End of life activity

A dying person or their family can request special permission from the Chief Health Officer for an end of life activity, indoors or outdoors, with restrictions on numbers for Regional Victoria and for metropolitan Melbourne. Details can be found in DHHS Stay Home and Stay Safe documents, should that be required. This is not primarily for last rites but before entering hospital or a hospice, where the person is not expected to recover. The activity would enable people to say goodbye. If requested to lead a Christian service, please be aware of the restrictions that apply.

Ongoing parish support – Crisis Relief Grants

Applications for the second round of diocesan crisis relief grants close on Friday, 16 October 2020. Parishes may apply for grants of up to \$20K. Parishes will need to submit a written application including financial information and assessment returns. Further information is available upon enquiry to the **Registrar**, preferably before Friday, 2 October 2020.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,



Archbishop Philip Freier

