

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

18 November 2020



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

- The Archbishop's weekly video
- DHHS restrictions
- Driving people to church
- Changing service times
- Playgroups
- Shaping a New Perspective webinar
- Next update

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

The Archbishop's weekly video

"Affordable housing", this week's video, is found [here](#).

DHHS restrictions

DHHS released a fuller document of guidelines for religion and ceremonies on Tuesday which included a number of new things, but also inconsistencies. We have now been advised this document is being updated, but please note the following:

- Avoid all indoor congregational singing. This overrides our earlier advice on keeping indoor congregational singing to a minimum.
- A maximum of five singers can lead singing indoors.
- Only one person leading can have a mask off at one time. So, if there are singers leading singing, only one can have a mask off. This is indoors or outdoors.
- Anyone leading with a mask off must be at least 5m from other people, indoor or out. If you cannot be 5m away, then you will need to preach and lead with a mask on.
- Those who distribute communion must wear masks to do so.
- Where possible, clerics and ASLMs ought not work in multiple places on the same day. This is not always possible but please minimise multisite working as much as possible.

Driving people to church

DHHS has now advised that church members can collect another person to drive them to and from church. Passengers ought to sit in the back seat, everyone in the car is to be masked, open windows for ventilation, and the car owner ought to wipe the doors and handles, etc, before and after use. However, the document referred to above says not to carpool.



DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

18 November 2020

Changing service times

Several parishes are changing service times to adapt to restrictions. The Parish Governance Act provides that the vicar and parish council can decide to change the time of the principal service for a period of up to six months. If the change continues beyond that, a further meeting of the parish council convened for that purpose is needed to ratify the change. This only affects the time of the principal service.

Playgroups

Dorothy Hughes has provided a guide for safe playgroup activity [here](#).

Shaping a New Perspective webinar

Evan Engelzos is co-leading a free webinar on Tuesday, 24 November, with James Bryant from Lead Different. Details can be found [here](#).

Next update

We anticipate a COVID update next Monday, 23 November, as well as the usual Wednesday update on 25 November.

Diocesan information and resources related to the pandemic are updated regularly on the diocesan [website](#) under four main headings: online church, wellbeing, resources for ministry and mission, diocesan information.

Questions or concerns about restrictions or annual meetings can be directed to Bishop Paul: bishoppaulbarker@melbourneanglican.org.au. Please avoid asking other staff in order to save their time.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus



Archbishop Philip Freier