

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

25 November 2020



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

- The Archbishop's weekly video
- Masks for outdoor services
- Private worship
- Length of indoor services
- Refreshments
- No indoor congregational singing
- Groups
- Children

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

The Archbishop's weekly video

"Back together with new opportunities", this week's video, is found [here](#).

We have been involved in discussions and drafting guidelines with the Premier's department and DHHS. We are awaiting confirmation of some more detail and hoping for further relaxation of rules in a couple of areas. If and when this is confirmed, we will communicate that promptly.

Masks for outdoor services

If a congregation is seated outdoors and can maintain 1.5m distance, then masks need not be worn. Congregational members who stand ought to wear masks.

Private worship

Private worship by individuals or families is allowed, but COVID safety must be ensured by the COVID-safety officer for the parish.

Length of indoor services

There is now no limit to the length of a service indoors.

Refreshments

We are awaiting clarification on this, but we believe that refreshments are allowed after services. However, do not share utensils and no self-service of food. Wash dishes thoroughly after use. To maintain social distancing, seating is preferred, or standing outside. The 4 sqm rule applies in any space where refreshments are served or consumed.



DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

25 November 2020

No indoor congregational singing

This rule also applies for funerals and weddings. As stated last week, up to five singers can lead a song or hymn, only one of whom can be unmasked.

Groups

The maximum group size is now twenty, subject to the 4sqm rule, for discussion groups, non-contact sport groups, meetings, etc.

Children

All children must be counted in the attendance number for general services. However, for weddings and funerals, children under 12 months are not counted.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip Freier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'P'.

Archbishop Philip Freier