

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

17 February 2021



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MELBOURNE

- The Archbishop's weekly video
- Restrictions changes from Thursday
- Liturgical resources for Ash Wednesday

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

The Archbishop's weekly video

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

Restrictions change from Thursday

Church services can resume face to face with the 2sqm rule where electronic booking or QR codes are operating. Masks must be worn indoors and outdoors, apart from the one person leading/singing at that time.

Weddings and funerals can occur as previously under the same density rules for church services.

Only five visitors can be at a private home, inside or out, so this may affect small groups or home meetings.

Public gatherings are limited to twenty people but this does not apply to community groups, church meetings or religious services. However, such groups must be on church property and not in public places.

Liturgical resources for Ash Wednesday

It is sad not to be able to gather together to observe Ash Wednesday today. Many will miss greatly the annual rite marking the start of the Season of Lent, and the dramatic symbolism of the physical imposition of ashes.

To assist those who may be holding an online service, or who would like to make some liturgical resources available to their people, two documents are attached:



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- A slightly adapted version of 'The Liturgy for Ash Wednesday' authorised for use by the General Synod Liturgy Commission [here](#);
- A resource for 'The Imposition of Ashes at Home', authorised and published by the Church of England, that may be used with a congregational act of online worship and/or offered for use by individuals or individual households, [here](#).

We understand these resources are coming to you on Ash Wednesday itself, but offer them in the event they may be helpful to some.

Questions or concerns about restrictions should 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