DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE
14 April 2021

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Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

The Archbishop's weekly video
"The connectedness of all living things", this week's video, is found ***here.***

Restrictions
The relaxation of restrictions on Friday, 9 April, does not apply to places of worship. We are still limited in our facilities to 2sqm, provided we use a QR code system that interfaces with the government system. However, we recommend that, in calculating the seating capacity, you include the area of aisles and sanctuary, etc. The 1.5m distance between people is a recommendation, not a requirement. We continue to lobby the Department of Health on this matter.

Food
Buffet style food is now allowed, though the government recommends that food is served. Queues should be socially distanced, and no sharing of utensils is allowed.

QR codes
All churches need to use the Service Victoria App or an app that is interfaced with the government for contact tracing purposes. Manual recording alone is no longer permitted. Any non-government QR system must be interfaced with the government by 23 April.

Churches must record manually the names and numbers of those without smartphones and keep those details for 28 days. Those names and numbers do not need to be uploaded electronically.

TryBooking, or similar, can be used for bookings but the Service Victoria QR code system is also required on attendance.

A weakness of the Service Victoria QR app is that it has no means of uploading multiple manual entries. Visitors without a smartphone need to be entered at the time of arrival, by someone else with a smartphone or tablet device.

Two paid alternatives that let a church get bulk data into the government contact tracing system follow. Both are being interfaced with the government.

(1) GuestTrack (*here*) allows users to copy and paste multiple rows of data from a spreadsheet layout of date, time in, name, phone number. This can be done after the service. Their basic plan is $9.90 per month.

(2) CovidComply (*here*) allows users to pre-register visitors before coming to the church through a website url. Visitors are allocated to a virtual 'waiting room'. On arrival at church for a service or event, the welcoming team (using a smartphone or tablet device) can locate them by surname or phone number and check them in. CovidComply charges $89 to Not For Profits +GST for a six-month licence.

The website for the diocesan COVID pages is *here*. If the question is not addressed there, please email Bishop Paul directly: ***bishoppaulbarker@melbourneanglican.org.au.***

Grace and peace

Archbishop Philip Freier

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Archbishop Philip Freier

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE