

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

15 December 2021



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

- Archbishop Philip's weekly video
- Changed restrictions
- Shared utensils
- Common cup

Dear brothers and sisters

We apologise the earlier update was sent in error.

Archbishop Philip's weekly video

The link for this week's video message "Jesus, the answer to our searching" is [here](#).

Changed restrictions

Following the Premier's announcement this afternoon, the following applies from midnight tonight.

Vaccination status checks for services, weddings and funerals are no longer required. All services are open for all people. There is no limit on attendance. Masks are not mandatory. QR code check-in remains compulsory. This also applies for church-related religious activity and groups in church facilities.

We recognise some people may be anxious about being in services with people of unknown vaccination status. However, the health officials indicate the risk of open services is acceptable and we want to urge the unity of God's people in all services. Masks lessen risk and parishes could mandate masks to be worn. The Vicar with Parish Council make decisions locally but we request the full unity of all people in all services.

Only fully vaccinated people can have refreshments before or after services. Anyone serving refreshments ought to be masked.

Shared utensils

Shared utensils are allowed, though discouraged. We recommend having tongs for any food self-service.

Shared prayerbooks, hymnbooks and Bibles in pews are allowed. There is no requirement to clean them or pews between services.

Common cup

The common cup is no longer prohibited under health regulations. However, it remains a health risk and health officials have urged us not to share the common cup. We know that for many the lack of a common cup has been difficult. We pass on the recommendation not to use a common cup, however parishes and clergy are free to decide, knowing the risk.

The website for the diocesan COVID pages is [here](#). If the question is not addressed there, please email (not text message) Bishop Paul directly: bishoppaulbarker@melbourneanglican.org.au.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Philip Freier". The signature is stylized, with a large, looping initial "P" and the name "Philip Freier" written in a cursive script.

Archbishop Philip Freier