

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

28 April 2021



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MELBOURNE

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Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

The Archbishop's weekly video

"Lest we forget", this week's video, is found [here](#).

Restrictions

After a zoom meeting on Monday with senior government and health officials, we can clarify a few points.

QR codes

It is of utmost importance that we ensure all people entering our premises use the QR code system (except people without smartphones). The government monitors compliance in all sectors, and the possibility of easing attendance restrictions depends on government and health officials' confidence in our compliance.

There are new signs from the government about using the QR code to check in. Those in English, Arabic, Dinka, Cantonese, Mandarin and Sinhalese can be found [here](#).

Shared books

Prayerbooks, hymnbooks and Bibles can be put to general use if parishioners sanitise hands on entry, or if books are used perhaps only once a week.

Cleaning

The recommendation is to clean frequently places often touched, such as handrails and doors. Other places, such as seats, are less critical, although the tops of seats where people might place hands should be cleaned regularly.



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Churches open for private prayer

So long as the parish can guarantee that anyone entering signs in, as above, that social distancing is maintained, and that the attendance capacity is not reached, then churches can open for private prayer. You must ensure cleaning after use.

Apart from COVID, churches open for unsupervised prayer need to conduct a risk assessment of the facility, remove items vulnerable to theft, consider using CCTV and intruder motion alarms, and having volunteer supervisors.

Buffet food

Contrary to earlier advice, the recommendation is for designated people to serve food with tongs rather than diners serving themselves with tongs.

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 in Christ Jesus,



Archbishop Philip Freier