



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

**Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia
Diocese of Parramatta**

Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta NSW 1750, Australia

T: 02 8838 3400 F: 02 9630 4813
E: peter.williams@parracatholic.org
W: parracatholic.org

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

NSW Health has revised the COVID-19 guidelines for places of worship.

Effective from 27 March 2021

There will be no restrictions on choirs and congregational singing in places of worship. This is subject to one person per 2 square metres. This means singing will be allowed for Palm Sunday.

Effective from 29 March 2021

Limits at places of worship will only be subject to the 2 square metre rule. Religious venues will be allowed at least 25 people before the 2 square metre rule applies.

There will be no caps on the number of people allowed to attend weddings and funerals. The 2 square metre rule will still apply at these events.

Outdoor Areas

Parishes might also consider using outdoor areas for Easter week, weather permitting. Outdoor spaces are subject to the 2 square metre rule.

COVID-19 Safety Plan

COVID-19 Safety Plans are still needed at all religious venues and apply to each building. Police and other compliance officials (NSW Health Officers) will be monitoring religious venues over the coming weeks. As a gentle reminder, Parishes will need to comply with the COVID-19 Safety Plans. Parishes in breaches of these regulations could be subject to fines of up to \$5,000 per parish and \$1,000 per individual for not complying.

Face masks

Wearing of face masks at places of worship continues to be strongly recommended, especially indoors and when social distancing is not possible.

With my prayers during these troubling times. Thank you for the work you do and the care you provide to your parishioners,

Very Rev Peter G. Williams
Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia