



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

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

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2 November 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

The NSW Government announced some changes to the reopening roadmap for the COVID-19 restrictions today. Based on the announcement, the indoor density limits will shift from 4 sqms to 2 sqms from Monday 8 November 2021 for those who are fully vaccinated.

According to the current Public Health Order, our churches have been allowed to reopen to all (regardless of vaccination status) for religious services. There is therefore some uncertainty as to whether we are allowed to move to the 2 sqm density limit due to this.

As places of worship were not specifically mentioned at the NSW Government's press conference this morning, we are seeking clarification as to whether the shift in the density limits from 4 to 2 sqms will also apply to places of worship.

We will endeavour to provide you with information on any changes that may impact our churches as soon as we can. The NSW Government announcement will have no impact to our Masses this weekend as it only comes into effect from next Monday, 8 November.

Weddings and Funerals

We have received some questions with regards to attendance at weddings and funerals inside our churches. As per current NSW regulations for places of worship, both vaccinated and unvaccinated people may attend the church for religious services. This includes wedding and funerals within the church. **The numbers are only limited by the square metre rule.** This is covered in the Places of Worship COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Weddings and funerals held at other locations like funeral homes (that is, not a place of worship) may require those in attendance to be double vaccinated. Otherwise caps of 5 people for weddings and 10 people for funerals will apply. This is because their COVID-19 Safety Plan is different to that from a place of worship.

Yours in Christ,

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