



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

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

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

As you are aware, we communicated to you last week that the NSW Government has shifted density limits from 1 person per 4 sqm to 1 person per 2 sqms.

For places of worship, all can attend regardless of vaccination status. However, we have now received further advice from NSW Health that there are some exceptions to the rule in relation to weddings and funerals which were not previously clarified. According to the new information sent to us, *“the number of unvaccinated at a funeral or wedding is the lower number allowed based on the venue type OR the activity type”*.

This means that a wedding or funeral will have capped numbers if there are people who are not fully vaccinated in attendance even when held inside a place of worship. The following will apply:

Weddings:

- If all attending are fully vaccinated: Weddings in the church are permitted capped only by the 2sqm rule.
- If there are attendees who **are not** fully vaccinated: 5 guests can attend. This does not include the couple getting married, the priest celebrating the wedding, two witnesses and a camera operator recording the ceremony. This means a total of 11 people can be present.

Funerals:

- If all attending are fully vaccinated: Funerals in the church are permitted capped only by the 2sqm rule.
- If there are attendees who **are not** fully vaccinated: a 10-person limit will apply if people who are not fully vaccinated are in attendance. This does not include the priest and funeral company representatives.

A person is considered “fully vaccinated” if they have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, or has a medical contraindication certificate, or a medical contraindication recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register.

Yours in Christ,

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