



Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Updated Archdiocesan Protocols COVID-19 CoronaVirus

Protocols Effective Immediately

The Federal Government has restricted gatherings to **100 people or less**. This applies to the celebration of the Eucharist, for Sundays and Weekdays, and sacramental liturgies. Each community is asked to develop their own method of restricting gatherings to 100.

Sunday obligation is **suspended** at this time.

But the faithful are encouraged to come to Mass, respecting the government restrictions, to pray and intercede for the nation.

For health reasons, it is **recommended** that the faithful who have reached 75 years of age should not attend Mass.

Daily Mass will be available beginning Sunday 22 March 2020 on the *Catholic Voice* website (www.catholicvoice.org.au) from 6am each day for the faithful who do not attend Mass.

In addition, the daily Gospel, daily commentary (*Living Word*) and prayers of intercessions will be available for personal and family prayer.

People who have the following symptoms **should not attend Mass**: Fever, cough, fatigue, sore throat, shortness of breath.

Updated Archdiocesan Protocols

Eucharist

1. Remove holy water from fonts.
2. The faithful are asked to sit 1.5metres apart, except for immediate family.
3. No touching at the sign of peace.
4. Priests, Deacons, Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to sanitise their hands **before** distributing Holy Communion and **after** distributing Holy Communion.
5. Holy Communion in the hand. No Communion on the tongue.
6. The Sacred Host, **not** the Precious Blood, is given to the faithful.
7. Recommended method of collecting monies: The faithful to place money in baskets placed around the Church at the offertory. Money placed in bags by those wearing gloves. Counted 24 hours after the event, with sanitisation of hands before and after.
8. No Communion to the sick in hospital, aged cared facilities or private homes to those who have COVID 19.



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Visits to the Sick and Elderly

9. Encouraged in private homes if they are not in isolation.
10. Visits to hospitals and aged care facilities are discouraged, except for immediate family.

Funerals and Weddings

11. Funerals and Weddings not to exceed the government requirement.

Anointing of the Sick

12. To be given in hospitals, aged cared facilities and private homes by priests following *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)* protocols.

Baptism

13. Celebrant to ensure he sanitise his hands immediately prior to the pouring of water and immediately after the anointing with the oil of Chrism.

Penance

14. First rite of penance should be conducted in the confessional behind a screen or only if the penitent is 1.5metres away from the priest. If the penitent is under 18, confessional door is to be open.
15. Second rite of penance is suspended.

First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

16. Suspended until further notice.

Father Anthony Percy VG
18 March 2020