

COVID-19 DIOCESAN GUIDELINES

ENFORCED FROM 19 MARCH 2020 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA



Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta are from 20 March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (Canon 1248 §2 and Catechism 2181.)



Holy Communion can only be received in the hand.



Priests/deacons are not to invite parishioners to exchange the Greeting of Peace.



All Holy Water receptacles should be emptied.



Couples intending on marrying should speak to their priest in the first instance. It is suggested that only the bridal party and immediate family attend the wedding.



For funerals it would be best to speak with your priest directly. It is suggested only bereaved family members should attend the funeral.



The Sacrament of Penance should still be available with 1.5 meters between the penitent and the priest.



In the laying on of hands, it is recommended that the priest's hands are held above the head of the ill. The same applies to the administration of Viaticum.



Communion of the Precious Blood will be for the celebrant only.



All ministers of Holy Communion (both Ordinary and Extraordinary) are to use hand sanitiser before the distribution of Holy Communion commences.



In those parishes where 100 or less people attend a Sunday Mass, they continue to be held in the Church building providing social distancing is maintained. Church buildings will be available for private prayer.



In those places where Mass attracts more than 100 people, all Masses **MUST** be conducted outdoors provided social distancing is maintained.



Baptism of infants can proceed but only with the parents and Godparents present with the deacon or priest.



In anointing people, the priest will wash their hands with an appropriate solution both before and after the anointing.



For ministry to the housebound, it is preferable if only the priest or deacon visits for the purpose of Holy Communion. Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion should cease from visiting the housebound.



All meetings relating to parish life should be suspended until further notice. Parish offices shall remain open, as much as is feasible.