



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

## #54 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

### COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

**Information Updated: 15 December 2021, 5:00pm**

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These guidelines are in accordance with Victorian pandemic orders under the new *Public Health and Wellbeing Act*, which will come into effect from 11.59pm Wednesday, 15 December 2021, and will be in place until 12 January 2022.

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. We also look forward to the time when all people can join together in various locations, and for the many activities that truly unite us fully as communities.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

	<b>VICTORIA</b>
<b>Face Coverings</b>	Face coverings no longer need to be worn at weddings, funerals, or worship.  Face coverings continue to be required indoors in limited high-risk settings including retail, health care and aged care.  It is recommended that face coverings be worn if you are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.
<b>Numbers</b>	There are no limits on participants at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship – including the opening for private prayer.

<p><b>Vaccinations</b></p>	<p>There will not be any vaccination requirements nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship.</p> <p>Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be fully vaccinated.</p> <p>Please note that other activities outside of worship, particularly those activities that involve hospitality, will require full vaccination for participation and will entail QR code check-ins and COVID Marshals. This will apply to varying activities held within the parish-context.</p> <p>People under 18 years of age will no longer be required to show proof of their vaccination status.</p>
<p><b>Cleaning of Facilities</b></p>	<p>Places of Worship will not need to be cleaned between use, but good hygiene standards should be maintained according to a parish COVIDsafe plan. This includes the continued availability of sanitiser throughout the venue.</p>
<p><b>Care Facility Visitors</b> <b>Hospital Visitors</b></p>	<p>There are limits on attending high-risk settings, even when fully vaccinated. Please work with the care provider in determining what is required and permitted.</p>