

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

May 27 2020



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The latest news and information from the Diocese.

- Changes from June 1
- Checklist, COVID Safe Officer and reopening
- Church meetings and groups
- Attendance limits and records
- Refreshments
- Cleaning
- Singing
- Financial matters
- Playgroups and children's ministry
- Resources for reopening
- Coordinating care for vulnerable people during COVID-19
- The diocesan Prayer Diary App

The Archbishop's weekly video "Coming together across the boundaries of division", this week's video, is found [here](#).

Changes from June 1

From next Monday, June 1, the maximum numbers for attendance are increased. For funerals, 50 mourners; for weddings 20; and for general church services, 20. All other requirements remain in place: cleaning, attendance records, social distancing, and so on.

Checklist, COVID Safe Officer and reopening

The checklist sent last week is online [here](#). We have improved some of the links and listed the most important sections of others at the end of the checklist online to make them easier to navigate.

The Vicar and churchwardens together are the ones to appoint the COVID Safe Officer.

When ready, complete the checklist and send to: registrar@melbourneanglican.org.au. This needs to be done before any reopening, whenever that may be, or by next Monday, June 1, for those who have already reopened.

There is no pressure to reopen quickly. Every parish is different and, for most, reopening involves significant complications and compliance.



DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

May 27 2020

Church meetings and groups

The increased numbers for attendance mean church meetings and other non-sporting activities can occur in the building with a maximum of 20 people, socially distanced and with sanitiser and cleaning and attendance records.

Attendance limits and records

The limit of 20 after June 1 applies for each undivided space. (Note, this rule is different from NSW.) So, for example, from June 1, up to 20 adults could be in the church and up to 20 others could be in the hall for Sunday School. The 4sqm rule applies to each space, and you must then be careful that both groups do not merge indoors in the narthex or foyer before leaving the building.

We are legally obliged to record only the first name of each person attending and their phone number for contact tracing. We hope to have details next Wednesday of a new phone app for hands free recording of attendance and ensuring the maximum number is not breached.

Refreshments

Given that cafes can open with limited numbers from Monday, June 1, it is possible to have refreshments after services. Significant care for hygiene in the kitchen and in serving must be maintained and we urge great care and caution. Do not have biscuits or other food for people to help themselves. We recommend only drinks at first to be safer. Serve with gloves, including teabags, milk and sugar. Social distancing must be maintained over refreshments.

Cleaning

If a room, hall or church is used only weekly, we still recommend proper COVID-standard cleaning even though the virus dies within three days. When spaces are used more frequently, cleaning needs to be in between each use, and strictly follow the COVID guidelines provided.

The one-hour rule between services also applies to groups, other activities and tenants using the facilities. So, if a hall hirer has consecutive dance, karate or tuition classes, for example, the expectation would be a proper clean and a one-hour gap before the next class.

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

May 27 2020

Singing

There are several reports of heightened danger of infection through singing indoors. For the time being, there are to be no choirs or singing groups or rehearsals. Congregational singing is to be kept to a minimum, preferably just a final hymn or song, or consider singing outside before or after services as outdoors is safer. Do not share microphones without wiping them with disinfectant between users.

Financial matters

Payroll

Last week's statement about payroll and JobKeeper may not have been well understood. The diocese does not charge for central payroll. The 'labour cost recovery charge' mentioned last week is simply the monthly recovery from parishes of the amount that MADC pays parish staff through central payroll. The diocese will apply the JobKeeper payments that it received in May from the government to the June payroll. Any residual amounts will be paid to the parishes, or recovered from parishes, once the reconciliation of the first JobKeeper receipts are completed in early June. Thus, all JobKeeper receipts from the government will benefit the parishes in full.

Victorian Government Business Support Grant

Papers were sent last Friday, 22 May, to parishes inviting parishes to apply directly to the Victorian Government for this business grant. A subsequent email on Saturday, 23 May, corrected the JobKeeper receipt number as 2410325687169. Please use this number in your applications. The cut off is next Monday, 1 June. The grant is for \$10,000.

There are specific requirements about the ["acceptable forms of BAS"](#) that must be submitted with the application. Acceptable BAS evidence can be either:

1. A copy of your most recently lodged BAS for the 2019-20 financial year from the ATO's business portal with evidence of lodgement date (your tax agent will be able to assist), or;
2. If you cannot obtain the detail above, a copy of your most recently prepared BAS for the 2019-20 financial year with your ABN/TFN and evidence of lodgement to the ATO, such as a receipt or bank statement showing payment.

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

May 27 2020

Playgroups and children's ministry

At this stage, playgroups or similar groups cannot reopen. Please anticipate that this may happen after June 22 but, given the extensive preparation involved, Term 3 may be more realistic. Our children's ministry coordinator will have further details in the next week or two on checklists for children's activities.

Resources for reopening

A few resources to help clergy and parishes think about reopening:

- *The post-pandemic church*, by our diocesan theological advisory group is [here](#).
- Larry Osborne video is [here](#).
- Bishop Tom Wright article is [here](#).
- Article on crisis as an opportunity for strategic change [here](#).

Coordinating care for vulnerable people during COVID-19

Thank you to those who have shared information about areas of local need and ministry to vulnerable people during this pandemic. We have been able to provide material aid to people in significant need.

To help share your local knowledge and let us better coordinate our work to express God's care and justice, we ask that you complete the following brief survey developed in partnership with Anglicare Victoria, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Benetas via [here](#).

The information will be held in strict confidence, will enable you to be contacted if you request this, and will inform a response plan developed by the diocese, Anglicare Victoria, Benetas and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nick White, Archdeacon for Diocesan Partnerships, 0488 710 504, nwhite@melbourneanglican.org.au.

The diocesan Prayer Diary App

The diocesan Prayer Diary App provides a brief devotion and a prayer based on the lectionary readings for each day of the year, together with the TMA daily prayer diary. As church has moved online, and the isolation of lockdown set in, the Prayer Diary has provided a much needed and well-used spiritual resource across the diocese and beyond.



DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

May 27 2020

Contributions are now needed for August to December. Contributors take responsibility for one week of the year (seven days), and to provide, for each day in that week:

- A title indicating the theme or topic of the devotion
- A devotion of no more than 200 words
- A prayer in the form of a collect, which may be a prayer published in APBA or elsewhere.

The Prayer Diary is delivered via a free App. For Apple users, search the iTunes store for ADOM Prayer App. The App can be downloaded from the Google play store is available [here](#).

The editors are Bishops Brad Billings and Paul Barker. Please contact either if you can assist.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip Melbourne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'P'.

The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier
Archbishop of Melbourne