



COVID 19 Diocesan Protocols Effective Friday 24 July 2020

1. Covid-Safe Business

All Parishes must comply with the NSW Government requirement to complete a [Covid-Safe Plan](#) and register as a [Covid-Safe Business](#).

2. Maximum Attendance

Places of worship are limited to 100 people, subject to the [one person per four square metre rule](#) (excluding clergy and liturgical ministers).

3. Hygiene practices

- a. Sanitisation of hands before entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.
- b. Wiping down of pews and common areas at conclusion of Mass or gathering.
- c. Priest and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to purify hands with sanitiser before and after offering Holy Communion.
- d. Limit the use of communal books. Ensure they are cleansed between use.

4. Register of people upon entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.

- a. Name, phone number and/or email to be recorded
- b. To be kept in a safe place (respecting privacy laws) for at least 28 days.
- c. Funeral directors to keep attendance register for funerals.

5. Eucharist

- a. Holy Communion in the hand only.
- b. Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
- c. No touching at the sign of peace.
- d. No offertory procession.
- e. No congregational singing.
- f. No collection plates are to be used, but money/envelopes placed at collection points.

6. Communion to Sick and Elderly Persons

Normal pastoral practice continues including Communion to sick persons in hospitals, aged care homes and private homes.

7. Anointing of the Sick

Normal Pastoral Practice continues.

- a. Anointing of the sick in hospitals, aged care homes and private homes if permitted to enter.
- b. If the person has COVID-19, please consult the Bishop's Office.

8. First Penance & First Holy Communion

Normal Pastoral Practice continues, respecting liturgical and pastoral protocols.

9. Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga is to be delayed until term 4. If all is clear at that time, Parish Priests will have delegated authority for Confirmations for this year.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga