



St Benedict's Parish

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Dear St Benedict's brothers and sisters,

As of last Wednesday March 18, Archbishop Christopher has sent **new guidelines** as to the practice of our faith, due to the serious nature of the Corona Virus.

The **Sunday obligation to go to Mass has been suspended**, which means there is no obligation for anyone to go to Mass on Sunday (or the Saturday Vigil) in our Archdiocese til further notice. People are encouraged to pray at home and find Mass online where available.

We intend, at least for now, to offer Masses in accordance with Medical and Archdiocesan Protocols, but **we ask the following people not to attend Mass:**

- the elderly and frail (explicitly those 75 and over)
- those who have low immune systems
- the sick, especially those who are displaying flu like symptoms
- Those tested positive for the Corona virus

If you know elderly or sick people please contact them, ask them if they need help and inform them of the Parish's new practices. If anyone needs practical, emotional or spiritual support please call the St Benedict's Emergency number. It may be helpful if some parishioners would like to set up a practical Support Group for elderly or vulnerable people.

All gatherings of over 100 people have also been suspended. First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion have been postponed.

For those who decide to come to Mass:

- please practice the highest level of hygiene
- Practice social distancing (seek to stay at least 1.5m from others)
- Last week's protocols are still in place.
- We will also change the way we do the collection. Baskets will be at different places in the church and people will be asked to go to them.
- we are hoping to Stream Mass in the Collins Wing if there are more than 100 people coming for Mass or we may need to have other arrangements.

The current situation may change at short notice and people may be asked not to come to Mass at all, as in other places. We will seek to update people as regularly as possible.

Remain safe and healthy and pray. We are planning to continue Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with a particular focus on praying for this situation.

Be assured of our love and prayers
Fr Dan Benedetti MGL PP