



**Catholic Archdiocese of  
Canberra & Goulburn**

## **Updated Archdiocesan Protocols COVID 19**

### **Effective Immediately**

*Churches are open in both ACT & NSW.  
The following liturgical and pastoral protocols are in place.*

#### **NSW Parishes (Effective Monday 1 June 2020)**

##### ***Eucharist***

1. Masses (Sundays & Weekdays) are to be celebrated with ***no more than 50 people*** (excluding priest and those involved in liturgical ministries) until further notice.
  - a. Communion in the hand only.
  - b. 1.5metres distancing.
  - c. Customary/recommended hygiene practices.

#### **ACT Parishes (Effective Saturday 30 May 2020)**

##### ***Eucharist***

2. Masses (Sundays & Weekdays) are to be celebrated with ***no more than 20 people*** (excluding priest and those involved in liturgical ministries) until further notice.
  - a. Communion in the hand only.
  - b. 1.5metres distancing.
  - c. Customary/recommended hygiene practices.

#### **NSW & ACT Parishes effective immediately**

##### ***Communion to Sick People and Elderly Persons***

3. Communion to sick persons in hospitals, aged care homes or private homes is permitted.
  - a. Communion in hospitals is to be distributed only by hospital chaplains or hospital pastoral care team.
  - b. Communion in aged care homes will be subject to individual institutions.

##### ***Anointing of the Sick***

4. Permitted in general pastoral circumstances, including hospitals, aged care homes and private homes.

**a. In hospitals:**

- i. Restricted to hospital chaplains until further notice.
- ii. If the patient has *COVID 19*, hospital chaplains to use *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*, i.e., **gown, gloves, mask, goggles**. Chaplains to be accompanied by a medical health worker to ensure correct donning and doffing.
- iii. Laying on of hands above the head.
- iv. Oil of the Sick administered only with gloves, using cotton buds/swabs.

**b. In aged care homes:**

- i. If the patient has *COVID 19*, request one of the hospital chaplains to celebrate the sacrament.
- ii. Follow protocols in 3a. iii-iv.

**c. In private homes:**

- i. Follow protocols in 3a. iii-iv.
- ii. Persons with *COVID 19* would be expected to be in hospital.

***Funerals and Weddings***

5. A total of 50 people allowed for a funeral inside a church (excluding celebrant and people involved in liturgical ministries).
6. A total of 50 people allowed for a graveside funeral (excluding celebrant and people involved in liturgical ministries).
7. A total of 20 people allowed for a wedding inside a church building (excluding celebrant and those involved in liturgical ministries).

***Baptism***

8. 50 people permitted inside the Church building (excluding celebrant and those involved in liturgical ministries), with customary/recommended hygiene practices.
  - a. RCIA candidates can receive confirmation.

***Penance***

9. First rite of penance, with priest and penitent observing 1.5m spacing.
10. Second rite of penance suspended until further notice.

***First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation***

11. Suspended until further notice.

***Prayer and Social Gatherings***

12. No more than 20 people permitted to gather whether inside Church or other Church facility:

- a. 1.5metres distancing.
- b. Customary/recommended hygiene practices.

***Register***

13. Parishes and communities are to keep an accurate register of people who come for public prayer.

***Hygiene***

14. Frequently touched surfaces to be regularly cleaned.

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Daily Mass and other spiritual resources are available at:

[www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)

*Father Anthony Percy*  
*Vicar General*  
*29 May 2020*