



Directives for Churches and Liturgies under Step One of the relaxation of restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, 13 May 2020

Notice for church doors and parish websites

From this Friday, 15 May 2020, in New South Wales:

- churches may reopen for private prayer and Confessions, as long as no more than 10 people are in the church at once (this must be supervised by the parish priest or delegate)
- religious gatherings are permitted with congregations of up to 10 for Masses, Weddings, Baptisms, Eucharistic adoration, the Divine Office, Rosary in common, Bible study etc.
- up to 20 mourners indoors or 30 mourners outdoors are permitted for Funerals
- contact details of all those entering the church (name, phone number, email address) must be recorded
- spatial distancing (at least 1½m from each other) and hygiene directions (including regularly disinfecting the church) must be observed; attendees are exhorted to take care when coughing or sneezing and to avail themselves of hand sanitizer provided
- the very elderly, those with symptoms, those with a compromised immune or respiratory system are asked to stay at home

Future relaxations of the CovidSafe provisions are expected over coming months, in at least two more stages, but this will depend upon infection rates not spiking and churches being able to demonstrate responsible behaviour.

Further special directives have been issued for the celebration of Baptisms, Confessions, Masses, Worship and Reception of the Eucharist outside of Mass, Weddings, Care of the Sick, and Funerals.

Priests must exercise judgment in deciding whether it is yet practicable to conduct public Masses. Even were Sunday Masses multiplied, the majority of the faithful will be unable to attend and so are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass. The faithful can keep Sunday holy by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion ('spiritual communion').