

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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Large numbers expected back at Mass under eased COVID-19 restrictions

Sunday Masses will resume in Catholic churches across the state this weekend after the NSW Government announced a further easing of COVID-19 restrictions on places of worship.

Under the new rules introduced from 1 July, Catholic churches across the state are allowed unlimited numbers of attendees at regular Masses subject to a one person per four square metres rule.

The changes mean St Mary's Cathedral, with a dimension of 2000 square metres will be able to accommodate 500 people and several parish churches across the Archdiocese of Sydney around 100 people.

The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP said many parishioners were looking forward to returning to Masses this weekend for the first time in over three months due to COVID-19.

He said while many churches across Sydney had livestreamed Masses over recent months, this is never a substitute for attending these services in person.

"As Catholics, our highest prayer is the Mass and while going to 'church at home' had its upsides, we knew it was second best. Sunday Masses should now be resumed in all churches across the Archdiocese and in some cases they might be multiplied to meet the needs of parishioners while observing all the public health directives".

"We continue to pray for an end to the pandemic and for all those who have been affected, especially those who are sick or at risk, those who are isolated or anxious, and those who have lost their employment or who are experiencing financial hardship", Archbishop Fisher said.

A full copy of Archbishop Fisher's Pastoral Letter is available online:
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/>

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