

*Last updated 18 January, Midday*

**The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

[#25 COVID19 GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES pdf / 0.64mb](#)

In response to the latest directives announced by Government as part of its Roadmap for the reopening of the State of Victoria, the following is operational from 11.59pm Sunday 6 December 2020, with additional updates brought in from 5.00pm 31 December 2020 and from 11.59pm Sunday 17 January 2021 regarding the number of people allowed at home social gatherings and the wearing of fitted face coverings.

Information is now to be understood as Statewide and we are in a “COVIDSafe Summer” phase. The restrictions in place are compulsory as issued under lawful direction of the Chief Health Officer of Victoria, where a State of Emergency remains in place until 29 January 2021.

As of 11:59pm Sunday 17 January 2021:

- All people must carry a fitted face covering when leaving home unless they have a lawful reason not to.
- The wearing of fitted face coverings is no longer mandatory in all public indoor settings. Face coverings continue to be mandatory in the following locations:
  - on public transport or when riding in a ride share or taxi;
  - inside shopping centres, including the retail stores inside shopping centres, such as clothing stores;
  - inside indoor markets;
  - in large retail stores (over 2000 sqm), such as department stores, electronics stores, furniture stores, hardware stores or supermarkets
  - on domestic flights to and from Victoria and at airports;
  - when working in or visiting hospitals and care facilities.
- It continues to be recommended that fitted face coverings be worn in other situations if physical distancing of 1.5m is not possible (including outdoor gatherings).
- Up to 15 people can visit an individual’s home per day. There is no limit on the number of households those people come from. Front and backyards are considered part of the home.
- Weddings, funerals and religious gatherings can occur with no limits on the number of guests or attendees. To ensure people can keep 1.5 metres distance the ‘venue’ must apply the two square metre rule. Anything conducted in a private home must apply the gathering limits for private homes of 15 people.
- Record keeping remains an important and critical tool for keeping all in the community safe.

Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting a COVID-19 test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.

## Questions?

Please email [covid-19@cam.org.au](mailto:covid-19@cam.org.au) or phone the COVID hotline (03) 9926 2469.