



4 June 2020

Dear Parish Family,

Like you, I am excited that the NSW Government has announced that from 1 June we can gather with congregations of up to 50 people, with careful physical distancing and cleaning and hygiene practices in place. After discussion with the Parish Council, I am delighted that from this Sunday, Sunday 7 June, there will be two Masses at the Cathedral, at 8.00am and 11.00am.

There are many practicalities and requirements for us to work through as we take careful steps towards the resumption of these and additional congregational services at the Cathedral, caring for the health and well-being of all in our community. Please be patient with us!

Resumption of Sunday Morning Worship:

At this stage, we are able to offer two Masses on Sunday mornings: 8.00am and 11.00am. As restrictions continue to be relaxed, we will be able to offer more opportunities for worship. As we work together to ensure our care for each other, the wider community and ourselves, there are some practical protocols which will assist us.

At this point, the NSW Public Health Order limits us to a maximum of 50 in the congregation. This Order also requires that we keep a register with contact details of all who attend a service of public worship.

For this weekend, if you would like to come to worship at either 8.00am or 11.00am at the Cathedral, please ring the Parish Office (02) 4929 2052 to register. Our numbers are limited to those who have registered to attend.

I'm thankful to Fr Daniel Dries, whose directions for Christ Church St Laurence, I have adapted below with permission.

When you arrive on Sunday:

Arriving:

- Please arrive 15 minutes before the service. The Cathedral doors will be opened at this time.
- You will be greeted by a sidesperson, who will have a printed list of those attending.
- Please identify yourself to the sidesperson, who will invite you to be seated in a pew
- Before moving to a pew, please use the hand sanitiser that will be prominently located at the church door

Seating in the Cathedral:

- As you move into the Cathedral, you will find that some pews have designated seating areas, with an order of service sitting on the pew. These will be arranged to follow social distancing guidelines (not that Anglicans have ever had a problem social distancing in Church!)
- The order of service will be a previously unused service sheet, which will provide the text and directions for the liturgy.

The Very Reverend Katherine Bowyer, Dean

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Holy Communion:

- At the appropriate time, the sidesperson will direct you to receive Holy Communion.
- Hand sanitiser is available at the top of the aisle.
- Communion will be distributed in such a way that communicants are not required to be close together. There will be a visual guide available as well as verbal directions.
- Holy Communion will be distributed in one kind only (bread, but no chalice).
- If you would prefer not to receive Holy Communion at this time, please simply indicate this to the sidesperson.

Departing:

- At the conclusion of Mass, please take your printed order of service with you
- There will be an opportunity to make an offering in a collection plate near the door of the Cathedral, although the wardens and I are aware that a significant number of parishioners have changed their giving to direct debiting, for which we are very thankful.
- Please make use of the hand sanitiser lotion before leaving the Cathedral
- Please maintain social distancing when leaving the church (although distanced smiling is strongly encouraged).
- Please refrain from gathering in the carpark.
- The Cathedral will be closed 15 minutes following the conclusion of worship to allow for cleaning.

Weekday Masses have commenced at St Peter's Hamilton on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11.00am. Registration is required to attend these masses, and can be done by please calling Jenny by 6.00pm on the day before the service/s you wish to attend on 0499 983 336.

Weekday Masses will recommence at the Cathedral from Monday 15th June at 8.00am for Morning Prayer, and 8.30am for Mass. Registration will be required to attend these services.

After this weekend, registration for services at the Cathedral will be by (free) online booking, with phone registration available for those without internet access. More information about this system will be distributed next week.

Even if you have booked a place at a Mass, please do not attend if you are feeling even slightly unwell, or if you have been in close contact with another person displaying cold or flu-like symptoms. Please be assured that the clergy are making frequent use of hand sanitiser, and that we will also absent ourselves if we are not feeling completely well.

I am aware that this may seem complex and overwhelming, but please be assured of our prayers as we look forward to that day when we can all gather together once more! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

With my thanks and prayers,

Katherine
The Very Reverend Katherine Bowyer
Dean of Newcastle