



Feast of the Annunciation 25 March 2020
Pastoral Letter to the Pastors in the Diocese of Toowoomba
Latest restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Last night the Prime Minister enacted Stage 2 Restrictions in response the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weddings will be restricted to five people – the Cleric Celebrant, the couple and two witnesses, observing the rules around social distancing of 4 square metres.

Funerals will be restricted to no more than 10 people observing the social distancing requirements.

Further to my previous notices on 4 March, 19 March and 23 March, I now advise:

Baptisms should be postponed for at least six months. If a child is in danger of death, the child should be baptised and confirmed by a Priest. If a Cleric is not available the child may be baptised by a layperson.

Churches are closed even for private prayer. If a Church is used for a funeral or wedding, pews, door knobs and obvious contact points should be sanitised afterwards.

Priests should continue to celebrate Mass on a daily basis on behalf of their people. They should ensure that parishioners can contact them in emergencies. As advised Julie See is available to be contacted regarding your own health. Do not hesitate to put your hand up for help.

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.

The following **Resources** are available and should be advertised to parishioners.

“Mass for You at home” is broadcast on Channel 10 each Sunday from 6am. There are several live-streaming and on-demand services for daily Mass both locally and from around the English-speaking world.

Our diocesan website, <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/>, has links to Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert and other resources from the Liturgical Commission.

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