

COVID-19 Safety Plan
(Updated 28/10/2021)

St Marys Anglican Church, North Melbourne

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This plan was initially discussed and approved by the Parish Council on Thursday 8 October 2020. The plan has been updated to reflect the current state government restrictions. The matter of Covid 19 safety will be discussed at all Parish Council meetings as an agenda item for the foreseeable future.

The Vulnerable

- We have established a network of communication through weekly bulletins to all parishioners so that we are able to advise them of any changes to procedure. This is particularly true for any vulnerable members of the congregation. Regular contact has also been maintained by telephone.

Signage and communication

- During the period when services are held congregation members will be given clear and precise instructions as to maintaining social distance, the absence of handshaking and how communion is to be received. Relevant posters will also be placed around the church. This plan will be posted on our Website.

Cleaning

- A record of all cleaning is now kept. The church is now fully stocked with sanitary products such as wipes and hand sanitiser, which are placed at every entrance.
- There are three services offered on Sunday, and cleaning of high touch areas is completed between them.
- Groups that use St Mary's facilities will be required to clean and sanitise all items and areas that they use.

Social distancing

- A distance of 1.5m is recommended between congregation members. It has been calculated that St Mary's can hold a capacity of 85 persons under the Victorian Government's four square meter rule.
- The parish will observe any regulations on numbers of people as specified by the Victorian Government and the Diocese of Melbourne.

Worship

- It is not the practice at St Mary's to share service booklets. Different booklets are produced for the two services, which include hymns and people are encouraged to take these with them as they leave. If not, they will be disposed of.
- As people attend services, they will be required to check in using the Service Victoria smartphone app. A computer kiosk has been made available for those who are unable to check in via the app.
- At least one welcomer will ensure that all people who enter the church have checked in, and where the service is for vaccinated people only, each person will have their status checked.
- A QR code for the church has been provided by Service Victoria. When church capacity is reached the doors of the church will be closed and a designated person assigned to turn any extra people away.
- In the event that services are conducted outside the same safety procedures will be in place.
- Communion will be distributed in one kind only and the priests will sanitize their hands immediately prior to the consecration and again before distribution.
- All servers and clergy have and maintain their own robes. No sharing is permitted.
- Masks remain mandatory indoors at this time. Welcomers will provide any worshipper who does not have a mask with one.

Private Prayers in Church

- The church will only be open when services are being conducted.

Other groups

- The Covid Safety Officer will liaise with any groups using church facilities to make sure they maintain Covid compliance at all times. We do not have an Op Shop.

Reporting

- The parish maintains a list of all volunteers and employee's vaccination status. Evidence must be provided to the Vicar or Covid Safety Officer before a volunteer is permitted to work.
- Any breaches of the above will be reported by the Covid Safety Officer to the Bishop. The Covid Safety Officer will immediately close the premises.