



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Parish, Rosemeadow

80 Demetrius Road, Rosemeadow NSW 2560

PO Box 3010, Rosemeadow NSW 2560

Ph: (02) 4628 1385 & Fax: (02) 4625 7213

Email: rosemeadow@dow.org.au

Website: olhcrosemeadow.org.au

13 October 2021

My Dear Parishioners,

Last week in my email to you I updated you on the latest developments regarding *The Roadmap to reopening* and how it affects the reopening of our churches. While most of that information was correct, today there was a Diocesan Meeting which clarified certain important matters about which I now write. The Public Health Orders that regularly come out are both complex and often confusing, and in recent times are constantly changing. As a result of today's meeting, I must inform you of the following changes I previously announced in my email of 6 October 2021.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 The Public Health Orders allow **only Places of Worship to open for everyone (vaccinated, partially vaccinated and unvaccinated) once 80% double vaccination of the general population has been reached.** For all other gatherings, including in Parish Halls, this is NOT PERMITTED. Consequently, I must defer the previously announced commencement of lessons for First Holy Communion that would have started on 23 October. Until 90% full vaccination of the general population has been reached, we will not be able to hold these lessons. 90% is forecast to happen on 1 December, however recent announcements seem to indicate that it may occur earlier. If it does, I will announce at that time alternative arrangements. If not, then we will have to defer the Sacrament until next year.

FUNERALS may have up to 100 fully vaccinated people attend. However, if a partially or unvaccinated person attends, the limit reduces to 10 people, excluding the Priest and funeral directors.

WEDDINGS may have up to 100 fully vaccinated people attend. However, if a partially or unvaccinated person attends, the limit reduces to 5 people excluding the couple, witnesses and priest.

BAPTISMS will recommence on 31 October. I will baptise up to 6 children per ceremony (to catch up) with a limit of 25 guests per family including parents and godparents. At 90% vaccination level, the number of guests per family will increase to 50 people.

PARISH OFFICE I previously said the parish office could open from 12 October, but it has now been confirmed that **it must remain closed until 90% vaccination of the general population has been reached.**

MASS ATTENDANCE As previously announced the following requirements will apply:

- Attendees will be limited to 1 person per 4 square meters, meaning up to 200 people at Rosemeadow
- 1.5 meter social distancing wherever possible
- **Face masks must be worn**, and hand sanitiser used
- No congregational singing
- After Mass, please use a disinfectant wipe to rub over surfaces you have come in contact with and place them in the bins provided as you leave. ***Please wait until the priest has left the Sanctuary before doing this. Thank you.***

NOTE: When we reach 90% full vaccination these restrictions will be further eased, and relevant information will be published then.

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION All registration for Mass attendance **will be through** Eventbrite on the Parish Website or by using the QR Code at the church entry with your mobile phone. *Without doing this, entry will not be possible.* Its best to use Eventbrite as QR code entry is only possible if seats are available. **SO PLEASE REGISTER BEFOREHAND.** Go to the parish website, www.olhcrosemeadow.org.au or the Parish App and click the **Register for Mass** button. Follow the prompts to whichever Mass you want to attend and complete the details.

*Online registration closes at 3pm the previous day for weekday Masses, and 3pm on Saturday for the Vigil and Sunday Masses. Please arrive **AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE the start of Mass** to avoid delay. Once Mass starts, the doors will be closed. For all other parish gatherings, functions or meetings, registration will be by the QR Code only using your phone. Thank you for your cooperation.*

NOTE: MASS REGISTRATION WILL COMMENCE ON 18 OCTOBER.

Please remember to let the parish office know if you have changed your email or phone details so we can keep our records up to date. And let other parishioners know that this information has been received by you via email, and if they have not registered their own email address with the parish office, to please do so by contacting us and giving them to us. They will then be able to receive these updates directly themselves. All updates are also accessible via the parish bulletin which is uploaded every week to the Parish Website and the Parish App.

I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused my previous information to anyone. I assure you it was unintentional by me, but unfortunately the Public Health Orders are so complex and confusing, and also constantly changing. However, I am truly sorry for any misunderstanding I have caused to anyone.

I continue to pray for you all in my daily Mass and prayers; please pray for me also. May our Patroness, Our Lady Help of Christians, and great St. Joseph, pray for us.

God bless you all

Father Christopher G Sarkis
Parish Priest.