



Diocese of Armidale

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PARISH & SACRAMENTAL UPDATE: 15TH MAY, 2020

OPENING CHURCHES

The NSW government allows church to be open for religious gatherings/places of worship with up to 10 worshippers present.

MASSES

Priests are scheduling additional Masses to provide the maximum number of parishioners in the Parish with the opportunity to attend at least one Mass during each week.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Of course, religious services extend beyond Masses – the Church has a rich tradition of prayer, devotions and sacramentals. There can be up to 10 worshippers or participants in liturgies and prayers such as praying the Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Hours, Divine Mercy devotions and so on. Check with your local Parish for details.

OPENING CHURCHES

Churches are able to open outside the times in which religious services are conducted. Contact your local Parish to find out the times you will be able to come to the Church for private prayer. The following requirements will be followed

- i. No more than 10 persons are to be present at any one time and that social distancing is maintained.
- ii. A record of the name, email address and phone number of all persons entering the Church is to be kept. This is a regulatory requirement for the purposes of contacting people should an infection occur.

WEDDINGS

There can be up to 10 guests at a wedding, not counting the bride and groom.

FUNERALS

There can be up to 20 mourners at a funeral held indoors and up to 30 mourners for a funeral held outside.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms can have a maximum of 10 people attending and the social distancing requirements followed.

RECONCILIATION

The normal schedule for Reconciliation has returned with safeguards to ensure no more than 10 people are in the Church at any one time and that social distancing is maintained.

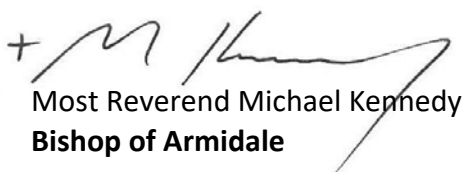
VISITS TO THE HOUSEBOUND & HOLY COMMUNION ROUNDS

Priests have recommenced visits to the housebound and the usual Holy Communion rounds. This includes those who are unwell or have symptoms and are unable to attend Mass personally.

NURSING HOMES & HOSPITALS

Priests will check with each nursing home and hospital as to their requirements as there is not a common approach across each of these facilities. *Where possible*, they will resume pastoral ministry to those who are in a nursing home or hospital.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Kennedy', with a small cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale