



*Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Parish, Rosemeadow*

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5 January 2021

My dear Parishioners,

As I am sure you are aware, new directives in relation to Covid19 were released on Saturday 2 January 2021 which will impact directly on all Religious ceremonies.

From Sunday 3 January, in addition to the “**1 person per 4 square meter rule**” once again applying, we are now limited to a **maximum of 100 people for all religious services including Mass, Weddings and Funerals**. We are also required to maintain **1.5 meter social distancing** between people. It is also now **mandatory for everyone 12 years and older to wear a face mask in churches**. Registration is still required beforehand. If you have not registered, then you will need to use the QR code at the church entry with your mobile phone, *however for WEEKEND MASSES with the reduced number allowed it is highly unlikely there will be space if you have not registered beforehand*. Go to the parish website, [www.olhcrosemeadow.org.au](http://www.olhcrosemeadow.org.au) and click the **Register for Mass** button. Follow the prompts to whichever Mass you want to attend and complete the details. Because of the reduced number of people allowed at each Mass, **it is essential that if you register you attend that Mass, otherwise you will be stopping someone else from attending who could have**. I intend to wait to see how numbers go this weekend before making a decision as to whether to livestream one of the weekend Masses. I will make an announcement about this at Masses this weekend. While the Vigil Mass is the most popular, it is simply not possible for me to continue saying extra Masses on my own. Therefore, I encourage you to come to one of the Sunday Masses if the Vigil is booked out.

A reminder to Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion that these ministries have now recommenced and please attend when you are rostered on. Regarding Readers, for the moment only ONE Reader will do BOTH Readings and the Psalm. Please communicate between yourselves to take turns in doing this please. Would you please let me know before Mass that you are there.

Reiterating, please remember:

- **All registrations are online, not by phone or emailing the parish office.** We will be printing a list of all online registrations, so **you do not need to print your ticket**.
- Please **ONLY phone the parish office if you do not have online access**.
- You must still register to attend Mass to allow contact tracing by health authorities if required.
- **Please ensure you attend Mass you register for**, otherwise you will be stopping someone else from doing so when they could have.
- **Online registration will close at 3pm the previous day for weekday Masses, and 3pm on Saturday for the Vigil and Sunday Masses.**
- Health protocols still need to occur before entering the church. Therefore, please **arrive 15 minutes before the start of Mass** to prevent unnecessary delays. *Once Mass starts, the doors will be closed.*
- **Face masks are mandatory for everyone 12 years and older.**
- After Mass, please take a disinfectant wipe (provided on each pew) to rub over surfaces where you have been sitting or come in contact with and place them in the bins provided as you leave.
- Please note that **toilets will NOT be open**.

I sincerely thank you for your ongoing financial support of the parish during this extraordinary difficult time and remind you of the following matters.

- Since collection plates can no longer be used, **please place your offerings for both first and second collections in the marked containers in the foyer**. Changing our long-held behaviour patterns is difficult, and I want to thank you for your understanding and support about this. I am very conscious of

the financial strain of many people, but I sincerely ask that you try, if you are able, to maintain your usual offering as we cannot keep operating as normal without this financial support. Thank you.

- I strongly encourage parishioners who currently contribute by envelope to change to Direct Debit or Credit Card contributions to ensure the regular income of the parish continues. ***Please contact the parish office to arrange this.***
- ***If you are not yet coming physically to Mass, please drop your Planned Giving Envelope into the secure letter box at the front entry to the Parish Office each week.*** Please don't forget the first collection for the sustenance of the clergy (as we still have to live too!) If using the letter box, place this donation in a plain envelope and mark it 'First Collection'. ***THANK YOU.***
- If you are not in the Parish Financial System and would like to join to support the Parish, forms are available at the Foyer Notice Board, or contact the parish office.

While Weekend Mass is no longer livestreamed, for the benefit of sick, homebound and elderly parishioners, I am livestreaming the Tuesday 6.30pm Mass. The link to the parish YouTube channel is:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIQhkeubtYCBu\\_elfcglmaw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIQhkeubtYCBu_elfcglmaw)

A reminder that the parish bulletin, which contains all updates, is uploaded each week to the parish website. I encourage you to go to our website not only to read the weekly bulletin, but also to see the other links that are there to various aspects of our parish, as well as the Diocese.

Please pass on this email to fellow parishioners who may not have received it because we do not have their email address, and encourage them to contact the parish office to update their details so that in future I may be able to send these communications to them directly by their own email address.

Finally, I want to reiterate my sincere thanks to you for your support and cooperation during this unprecedented time, with everything we have had to do to ensure the continued operation of the parish and its various functions, as well as your financial support to enable all this to happen. As I said last weekend at all Masses, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, we are called as Christians to be witnesses of hope and light – the hope and light of Christ – to others in these times of dark shadows and uncertainty. As your Parish Priest and Pastor, I continue to pray for you all, especially in my daily Mass, for your intentions and welfare. May Our Lady Help of Christians continue to protect and guide you to Christ, our Lord: our stay and strength who promised to be with us always; yes, to the end of time. (Mt. 28:20).

With every blessing and grace for 2021. Please remember to pray for me also.

God bless you,  
Father Christopher G Sarkis  
Parish Priest.