



Diocese of Broome WA

Apostolic Administrator

10 June 2022

Dear Diocesan Leaders,

Over the last two years, places of worship within the Diocese of Broome have had to significantly adjust the way we worship in our churches and chapels as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on our nation.

During this time, the Diocese of Broome continued to support and comply with all government directives and associated public health advice to ensure that all necessary measures were in place for Catholic parishes to worship safely.

Though this has been a challenging and difficult time for us all, I would like to personally thank each of you for your continued clarity, pastoral care and the provision of ongoing accompaniment that you have offered your people in the midst of this pandemic.

As you would be aware, the Western Australian Government has transitioned to [baseline public health and social measures](#) which sees the modification or discontinuation of many restrictions related to:

- Venue Capacity
- Mask Wearing
- Proof of Vaccination
- Hospital & Aged Care Facility Visitations
- Travel

As a result of the new measures, it is now time for our parishes to return to the liturgical practices as they were prior to the pandemic, including use of holy water fonts and collections. Therefore, and with immediate effect, all COVID-19 restrictions within parishes of the Diocese of Broome are rescinded, with the exception of the Sunday Obligation for which a dispensation still applies.

Please note that as Western Australia deals with significant number of COVID-19 cases, I would like to encourage you to continue to promote safe hygiene practices (*wearing of masks for those who wish to and hand sanitisers*), social distancing as required and consider maintaining the following liturgical practices until such time as the COVID-19 case numbers reduce:

- Offertory gifts to be in closed vessels or, if not possible, vessels be appropriately covered.
- First and Second Collections may resume.
- The Sign of Peace to be given without physical contact.
- All priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion wash their hands in soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser both immediately before and immediately after the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Holy Water fonts may be used.
- No Communion under both kinds for the people.
- Individuals wanting to receive Communion on the tongue to come up last at the end of the line.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Most Rev Michael Morrissey DD
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR