



Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

17 August 2020

Dear Fathers, Lay Pastoral Leaders, Leaders of Religious Congregations, School and College Principals

Last Friday 14th August the Government decided to continue with Alert Level Two for most of the country, and Alert Level Three for the Auckland region. Cabinet will review this decision on Friday 21st August.

After careful consideration and having taken advice I am now writing to say that while we are in Alert Level Two, it is permissible to continue weekday Masses and Masses on Saturday morning from this Wednesday 19th August. However, the following must be adhered to:

- Keep the social distance of two metres in each direction, and if needed the number of people present must be restricted to allow this to happen.
- The ability to track and trace MUST be available, either electronically or manually.
- Hand sanitiser must be available.
- Communion is to be the Body of Christ only and it is only to be received on the hand.
- There is to be NO sign of peace and NO holy water.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be provided as long as social distancing or a physical barrier is in place. Baptisms are to be delayed until we are at Alert Level One. Communion can be taken to the sick, but I strongly encourage the use of masks and sanitizer.

Requiem Masses and funerals can take place under Alert Level Two, with up to 100 people present and all other Ministry of Health conditions met. With the aid of the funeral director the number of people and the conditions should be able to be controlled, although the capacity of the church with social distancing will determine the actual number present.

Parishes should be ready to reintroduce Sunday Mass as soon as we go to Alert Level One.

If we stay at Alert Level Two, Sunday Masses will not be celebrated in the Archdiocese, as in

many parishes it is very difficult to ensure that only 100 people are present and to keep the necessary safety precautions in place.

With sincere thanks for all you are doing to keep yourselves and everyone else safe in these times.

With all good wishes and every blessing

Your sincerely in the Lord

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cardinal Dew". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

✠ John A Cardinal Dew
Archbishop of Wellington