



Diocese of Wagga Wagga

McAlroy House
205 Tarcutta Street, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650
PO Box 473

ABN: 52 838 806 753

DIOCESAN OFFICES: (02) 6937 0004 BISHOP'S OFFICE: (02) 6937 0003

ACCOUNTS: (02) 6937 0018 FACSIMILE: (02) 6921 5157

Updated Diocesan Protocols COVID 19

Effective Immediately

- Churches are to be closed **24 hours each day**.
- There are to be **no** catechetical, spiritual or social gatherings in parishes.

Given that Churches are to be closed, the following liturgical and pastoral protocols are to be followed, without exemption.

Eucharist

1. No public Masses are to be celebrated until further notice.

Communion to Sick People and Elderly Persons

2. No Communion to sick persons in hospitals, aged care homes or private homes until further notice.

Anointing of the Sick

3. In hospitals
 - a. Priests to use *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*, i.e., **gown, gloves, mask, goggles**.
 - b. Priests must be accompanied by a medical health worker to ensure correct donning and doffing.
 - c. *PPE* must be used if the sick person has *COVID 19* or not.
 - d. Laying on of hands above the head.
 - e. Oil of the Sick administered only with gloves, using cotton buds/swabs.
4. In aged care homes
 - a. Priests to use *PPE*.
 - b. *PPE* must be used if the sick person has *COVID 19* or not.
 - c. If *PPE* is unavailable, anointing of the sick should not be given.
 - d. Prayers for the sick and dying are to be prayed remotely (with electronic means) using prayers from the ritual.



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5. In private homes

- a. Priests to use *PPE* if the sick person has *COVID 19*.
 - i. If *PPE* is unavailable, anointing of the sick should not be given.
 - ii. Prayers for the sick and dying are to be prayed remotely (with electronic means) using prayers from the ritual.
- b. Priests to use normal sanitising protocols if the sick or elderly person does not have *COVID 19*.

Training for PPE

<https://utmb.ensemblevideo.com/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/Nk9n7Q6H/view>

Funerals and Weddings

6. Graveside funerals only with a maximum of 10 people, including celebrant.
7. Weddings to be conducted outside the sacred space only, with a maximum of 5 people, including celebrant.

Baptism

8. Baptisms are suspended until further notice, including RCIA candidates, except in the case of emergency.
9. Remind the faithful of "baptism of desire" (CCC 1258).

Penance

10. First rite of penance should be conducted in an open space, with priest and penitent observing 1.5m spacing.
11. When the penitent is under 18 years of age, the confession should be witnessed by an adult, who can see, but not hear the confession.
12. Second rite of penance is suspended until further notice.

First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

13. Suspended until further notice.

Holy Week

14. There will be no liturgical celebrations with a congregation. Online resources will be forthcoming.



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Daily Mass is available on the *Catholic Voice* website online from 6am each day.

Additional resources for personal and family prayer are available on the *Catholic Voice* website.

Visit: www.catholicvoice.org.au

Rev Kevin O'Reilly
Apostolic Administrator – Delegate
25 March 2020