

# **DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY – COVID ‘Roadmap’**

## **REVISED – 8 October 2021**

**[These guidelines may be varied at any time as updates are received.]**

By now you will be aware of the NSW Government “Roadmap” from the current COVID restrictions. Broadly, this is envisaged in three segments:

1. From the **Monday after 70% vaccination rate** has been achieved (forecast to be Monday 11 October) various enterprises may open, including places of public worship, and be available for those who are vaccinated.

2. From the **Monday after 80% vaccination rate** has been achieved (most likely 25 October), further venues can reopen for those who are vaccinated. Places of public worship are exempt from this particular restriction.

**[PLEASE NOTE: At this stage, Public Masses will not be celebrated until the Monday after the 80% vaccination rate has been achieved.]**

3. **From 1 December 2021** when COVID vigilance applies to all, irrespective of vaccination status.

### **Guidelines for the Diocese of Broken Bay**

#### **From Monday 11 October....**

- **Churches reopen for private prayer and devotion only - for the fully vaccinated.** All must be mindful of government requirements for this stage of the Roadmap and engage this opportunity with a sense of responsibility and COVID safety.
- St Kieran’s Church - 9.00am – 4.00pm (Monday to Saturday), 11.00am – 4.00pm (Sunday); St Cecilia’s by arrangement with the Parish Office.
- **NO PUBLIC MASSES** will be celebrated during this time but Sunday Mass will be livestreamed at 9.30am on 10, 17 and 24 October and Weekday Mass will be available via ZOOM on Thursday on 14, 21 and 28 October at 8.30am.
- **RECONCILIATION** is available by appointment. Please contact the Parish Office or one of the priests.
- Up to 100 people who are fully vaccinated may attend **WEDDINGS and FUNERALS**. Where people are unvaccinated, number limits will apply.
- **Visitors** to our churches must use **QR code** to register their visit, sanitize, and always wear a mask.

#### **From Monday after 80% vaccination rate has been achieved...**

- **PUBLIC MASSES** will resume in all our churches according to their usual schedule, most likely from Monday 25 October. In accord with the government regulation, the vaccination status of people who attend our churches, or who undertake a ministry in them, will not need to be verified. Thankfully, this will enable us to go forward together as one community of the Church. As parishioners engage this opportunity, each will need to make informed decisions about their COVID safety.
- **SUNDAY MASSES** in our churches will most likely resume on the weekend of 30-31 October and **BAPTISMS** will resume on Sunday 31 October.
- During this stage, other services of prayer and devotion may be resumed – Rosary, prayer group, etc.
- **RECONCILIATION** will resume at St Kieran’s on Saturday 30 October – 5.00-5.45pm.

- **4 square metre rule** - The number of people who can attend Mass and other liturgies and services of prayer is based on the **one person per 4 sqm** principle (uncapped): St Kieran's 140; St Cecilia's – 80 (funerals and weddings – 100).
- **Congregational singing** – Guidelines to be advised.
- **COVID safe practices** related to the celebration of our liturgies must be followed, including:
  - Appropriate handling of objects by ministers;
  - **Holy Communion** for the Faithful under one species only;
  - The **Sign of Peace** should only be given by a simple bow or nod of the head.
- **Visitors** to our churches must use **QR code** to register their visit, sanitize, and always wear a mask.

**Please note:** Given that our parish facilities other than our church buildings will be subject to the status of people's vaccination, the Parish may need to limit face-to-face parish meetings, social gatherings, and use of facilities such as meeting rooms and halls until after 1 December. Where parish facilities are open during this stage, they will be subject to the vaccination status of those who use them, and the 4 sqm principle.

- **Visits to Parish Office** - It is important that until 1 December only those fully vaccinated or with medical exemption present to the Parish Office.
- **Resumption of Masses** – New regulations will be in place when public Masses resume. It will no longer be sufficient for people to record their names and contact details in writing. Everyone must use the QR code. It will be simple if people have the Service NSW App on their smartphone. If people do not have the Service NSW app on their smartphone, they can still check in using the parish QR code. For those who do not have a smart phone, check in will need to be done through a personal COVID check-in card that will need to be scanned as they enter the church. The card needs to be applied for online at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/create-covid-19-check-card>. Further information on this requirement will be advised in coming days.

### **From Wednesday 1 December 2021....**

- **2 square metre rule** - Density for gatherings in our churches will shift to **one person per 2 sqm** - St Kieran's 280; St Cecilia's – 160 for both indoor and outdoor gatherings;
- **Congregational singing** will be possible at our liturgies;
- **Parish facilities** - No restriction on the use of other parish facilities such as meeting rooms and halls.