

COVID-19 SAFE PLAN FOR CHURCH SERVICES -

Effective from 4th March 2022

As the church maintains services of public worship under current COVID-19 restrictions, it is necessary to document the policy and guidelines that will govern the observance of COVID-19 safety procedures applying to those Services under current requirements of the Queensland Government's Plan.

The following guidelines will apply until further notice and may be amended from time to time as further Government and Diocese directives are issued.

1. WHEN ARE THE PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICES?

At Holy Spirit Church Kenmore there will be two services on Sunday, at times to be decided as deemed convenient to the congregations:

- Ministry of the Word – this will take the form of the Prayerbook Service of Holy Communion.
- SpiritLife – this will take the form of Inter-generational liturgy with Holy Communion.

At Good Shepherd Church, Brookfield, services will be held on Sundays at times to be decided as deemed convenient to the congregation.

2. WHO MAY ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES?

Anyone may attend these services – provided they do not have COVID-19 or Cold-like symptoms including cough, nasal or chest congestion, elevated temperature or are not feeling well. In such cases those people should stay home.

In addition, people in the vulnerable categories (i.e. over 70 years of age or with underlying health issues or chronic medical complaints) should consider the risks of attending and make their decision based on their own judgement or Doctor's advice.

3. WHAT WILL BE THE GENERAL CONSTRAINTS ON SERVICES?

The following restrictions will apply –

- Face masks are not required to be worn when indoors, but anyone who feels more comfortable in wearing a mask may do so.
- Attendance numbers are not limited except at weddings where unvaccinated persons are attending – when the limit of attendees will be 20 persons including the bridal couple.
- Social Distancing of 1.5m is still recommended

- No printed Pew Bulletins or Prayer Books will be provided at Holy Spirit Church.
- No physical contact will be permitted during the Greeting of Peace.
- There will be no shared communion vessels.

4. BEFORE ENTERING THE CHURCH?

Attendees at Services should-

- Check the availability of space inside and outside the Church - if in doubt ask a Sidesperson.
- Follow the directions to the Entry doorway.
- Maintain social distancing when queueing to enter.
- Sanitise their hands with the solution available at the entry.

No record of attendance or Check-in is required.

5. ENTERING THE CHURCH?

On entering the Church attendees should -

- Check any notices displayed about the COVID-19 arrangements.
- Place any offertory they may wish to make in the tray/bowl provided (There will be no physical offertory collection during the Service). People are encouraged to use the ANFIN or Direct Debit method of giving.)
- Leave any gifts they may wish to offer for Charitable groups in the basket(s) at the entry as usual.
- Follow the signs or directions of a Sidesperson to the seating area – Family groups may sit together. Others should keep 1.5m distance from others. If in doubt, ask a Sidesperson.
- Maintain social distancing when moving around the Church.
- Please note – NAME TAGS will not be available on a common display board for the time being.

6. WHEN IN THE CHURCH?

At all times when in the Church attendees should –

- Maintain social distancing.
- Remain in their seat. Do not move around and mix with others. Contain children to the family group seating area.
- Follow the Service proceedings and responses displayed on the screens in the Holy Spirit Church.
- Express the Greeting of Peace only by distanced acknowledgement (wave, smile, nod, “Peace be with you”).
- Follow the directions for taking of Communion.
- Congregational singing is permitted.

7. COMMUNION PROCEDURE

At the judgement of the Priest according to circumstances the following options may be selected:

- Queuing for Communion
 - Sidespeople will direct the movement for receiving communion.
 - Communicants will come forward in a line to receive the sacrament, keeping 1.5m between people
 - The sacrament will be received standing; there will be no kneeling
 - The sacrament will be in one kind only, bread (consecrated as full sacrament)
 - Communicants will put forward their hands to receive.
 - Communicants move back to their seat as directed by the Sidesperson.

- Seated Communion
 - The congregation will remain seated.
 - The Priest will move amongst the seating and distribute communion directly to communicants in their place (maintaining social distance until the point of presenting the sacrament)
 - The sacrament will be received sitting; there will be no kneeling
 - The sacrament will be in one kind only, bread (consecrated as full sacrament)

8. LEAVING THE CHURCH?

On leaving the Church attendees should –

- Follow the directions to the Exit doorways. If in doubt, ask a Sidesperson.
- Sanitise their hands with the solution available at the exit.
- Maintain social distancing - whilst gathering with others in the courtyard is permissible, social distancing should still be observed as well as refraining from physical contact.
- Hospitality in the form of tea and coffee will be available and buffet and self-service food may be provided.
- Standing for eating and drinking is permissible subject to social distancing rules.

9. PRIVATE PRAYER

The Holy Spirit Church will be open to individuals for private prayer at such times as the Parish Office is open for business. The same social distancing, sanitising and attendance recording rules as outlined above will apply to attendance during these times.

10. ADMINISTRATION

The following guidelines are provided for preparation by Clergy and helpers:

- An adequate number of sidespeople will be rostered for each service to supervise distancing in seating and communion queue.
 - Communion rails will be taken out to discourage kneeling.
 - Offertory bowls are to be provided at the Church entrance; Specific LA will be assigned to handle. Counting/banking will be attended to by nominated personnel only.
 - Name tag boards will be removed from the Church entrance.
 - The Sanctuary party will be confined to a maximum of four (4) only at Holy Spirit Church and two (2) at Good Shepherd Church.
 - Sacrament is to be in the form of bread only; the priest is to prepare and clean away – the only person to handle the sacrament and sacramental vessels (no sacristans at present)
 - Reading – Rostered Readers will be required to bring their own bible, or script and refrain from handling the lectern/microphone.
 - Hospitality facilities (tea/coffee making) will be put out after services.
 - LA's will attend to sanitising between each service – door handles, lectern, etc.
 - All rosters will be reviewed, checking on people's availability as well.
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- **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.** In the event of any of these events occurring at the Church(es) arrangements will be made to apply this Safe Plan with necessary adaptations but remaining consistent with the legislative requirements.

Rev. J. Crombie
Rector

Date: 4th March 2022