



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

March 25, 2020
20/122

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I write to you again, all too conscious of the rapidly changing information and the deep impact it is having on our entire community.

You would be aware of the new directions issued by Prime Minister Scott Morrison last night 24th March 2020.

I confirm the following comes into effect from midnight tonight:

1. **Funerals:** are only permitted in the presence of up to 10 people. Hygiene and social distancing regulations are to be rigorously observed. All surfaces must be disinfected after use and two arm's length distance must be maintained between all present. Please continue work with Funeral Directors to ensure this. Non-compliance can result in legal sanctions.
2. **Weddings:** are only permitted in the presence of the bride, groom and two witnesses with the minister. Hygiene and social distancing regulations are to be rigorously observed. All surfaces must be disinfected after use and two arm's length distance must be maintained between all present. For this time permission is granted to celebrate in the surrounds of a church (ie outside a sacred place). The limits of five people present must still be rigorously observed.

It is also timely to make a decision in relation to baptisms and Sacraments of Initiation:

3. **Baptisms:** are not permitted for the time being. In cases of danger of death or urgent pastoral necessity a baptism may be celebrated with no more than the parents and two godparents present with the minister, ensuring that all hygiene and social distancing regulations are observed as outlined above.
4. **Sacraments of Initiation:** are to be deferred except in individual cases of danger of death or urgent pastoral necessity, in which case only the catechumen/candidate and sponsor may be present with the minister.

I am profoundly aware of the disappointment and sorrow some will experience as a result of these directions. You and your people are deeply in my thoughts and prayers,

With fraternal regards,

Fr Philip Marshall
Administrator Delegate