

The Church is the People of God

COVID-19 ROADMAP FOR THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG AS OF 14 OCTOBER 2021

On the 27th of September 2021, the NSW Government released a roadmap regarding reducing the current lockdown COVID-19 restrictions. These gradual reduction in restrictions are outlined below. When considering these restrictions and our actions as we move more freely in our church communities, we must always act with a sense of love to our neighbours. The Catechism teaches that "Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good." (n.2288)

When following these guidelines, the faithful must consider the safety of themselves and others, compliance with the law and strict hygiene practices as core principles. All faithful in the diocese are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Mass on Sundays. (canon 87 §1, canon 1248 §2)

The following summary documents the key guidelines as we meet each milestone set by the NSW Government. It is important to note that these guidelines include decisions by the Diocese, apart from Government orders, that are designed to maintain the dignity and physical health of all within our church communities.

	70% Vaccination Stage 1	80% Vaccination Stage 2	90+% vaccination Stage 3
Churches open for Masses ¹	✗	✓	✓
Capacity / density limits	n/a	4 sq metres	2 sq metres
Public reconciliation	✗	✓	✓
Private reconciliation (by appointment)	✓	n/a	n/a
Baptisms	✗ (unless urgent)	✓	✓
Weddings (see #20)	✓ (max 100 or 5 unvaccinated)	✓ (max 100 or 5 unvaccinated)	✓
Funerals (see #21)	✓ (max 100 or 10 unvaccinated)	✓ (max 100 or 10 unvaccinated)	✓
Parish gatherings & meetings	✗	✗	✓
Sacramental preparation	✗ (unless online)	✗ (unless online)	✓
Congregational singing	✗	✗	✓
Choirs (see #25)	✗	✓ (up to 10 singers)	✓
Masks	✓	✓	Optional but recommended (see point 5 below)
Strong hygiene practices (see #5-14)	✓	✓	✓
QR Registration (see #23)	✓	✓	✗
Monitors (incl capacity monitoring)	✓	✓	✓
Visitation to Sick and Homebound	✗ (clergy only)	✓ (Double Vax Ministers only)	✓ (Double Vax Ministers only)
Churches open for private prayer	✗	✓ (only if Monitor is available and times are advertised)	✓
Parish offices open	✗	✗	✓ (Staff to wear a mask when greeting visitors)

¹ and other devotions held before or after the Mass (or devotions held outside of Mass - that would require a Monitor to be present)
DoW COVID-19 Guidelines 14 October 2021