

**St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield
336 Wairau Road**

**GUIDELINES ON LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS
AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

On Friday, 22nd of October, the Government has introduced a new system of restrictions to deal with coronavirus pandemic, - the *COVID 19 Protection Framework* also referred to as the *Traffic Light system*. This new system, effective 3rd of December, operates with three different lights – green, orange and red. Each traffic light colour regulates restrictions and limitations for social gatherings imposed by the government’s vaccine mandate.

We encourage all to read and study the document of COVID 19 Protection Framework (CPF) to get a better understanding of the rules and restrictions concerning social gathering. It is available on the Ministry of Health website.

As we prepare to transition to this new system of COVID 19 restrictions, our priority, as it has been throughout this pandemic, is our need to care for and protect one another. While our parish will not segregate people in the church; will not celebrate a segregated liturgy, (e.g. mass for the vaccinated and unvaccinated) and will not check or demand proof of Vaccination Pass, I trust that all of us will take a collective responsibility with serious health and safety precautions when we come to gather for liturgical celebrations. We are morally and legally responsible to ensure that all of our Church gatherings are safe and yet without advocating isolation, separation, rejection and discrimination.

In the spirit of charity and solidarity, I appeal to all parishioners to respect and understand the unvaccinated members of our community. Let us assure them of our love, prayers and support. Likewise, I am reaching out to the unvaccinated members of our community, let me know in what ways I can “safely” serve you and attend to your pastoral and spiritual needs.

**General consideration for Liturgical Celebrations and Religious Services
under the traffic light system subject to the Government’s confirmation.**

1. All liturgical celebrations (e.g., Weekday Masses, Sunday Masses, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and Tangihanga) and other religious services (e.g., Private Prayer, Adoration, Devotions, Prayer Services) are allowed to take place under the traffic light system with corresponding restrictions based on the traffic light system.

We **STRONGLY ADVISE** the following people to **STAY HOME** if you are:

1. sick, at risk of sickness or concerned about being sick.
2. elderly, children and infants.
3. asymptomatic, a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19
4. self-isolating or waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
5. at higher risk of COVID-19 infection
6. overly anxious of getting infected of COVID 19 virus

2. Some of our Weekday and Sunday Masses will be livestreamed to cater for the homebound. You may want to subscribe to our parish official YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8aH3O99_bUSYeyM671mOB

UNDER THE RED LIGHT

Gathering limited to 25
(25 Church, 25 Hall, 25 Courtyard)
No booking is required
Record keeping/QR code scanning required
Mandatory face covering
1m distancing

1. **Weekday Masses** - (Morning Masses will also be livestreamed)
Morning - 9:15am followed by an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Evening - 7:30pm except Saturday
2. **Sunday Masses**
5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
8:00am
10:00am (will also be livestreamed)

UNDER THE ORANGE LIGHT

Gathering limited to 50
(50 Church, 50 Hall, 50 Courtyard)
No booking is required
Record keeping/QR code scanning required
Face covering encouraged

1. **Weekday Masses** – (Morning Masses will also be livestreamed)
Morning - 9:15am followed by an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Evening - 7:30pm except Saturday
2. **Sunday Masses**
5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
8:00am
10:00am (will also be livestreamed)

UNDER THE GREEN LIGHT

Gathering limited to 100
(100 in Church and 100 in Hall)
No booking is required
Record keeping/QR code scanning required
Face covering encouraged

1. **Weekday Masses** (Morning Masses will also be livestreamed)
Morning - 9:15am followed by an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Evening - 7:30pm except Saturday
2. **Sunday Masses**
5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
8:00am
10:00am (will also be livestreamed)

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Until further NOTICE, the following sensible health precautions are strongly observed in the Church:

1. Wearing of protective face covering is strongly encouraged and at times mandatory.
2. No Holy Water in the fonts
(you may request a blessing of water for private use through the parish office.)
2. Reception of Holy Communion is optional
3. No reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice.
3. Reception of Holy Communion from the hand is strongly encouraged.

4. Face to face confession is strongly discouraged. Confession will take place in the reconciliation room behind the confessional wooden wall. Individual Confession is available following the scheduled times and upon request.

Schedule of the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation

THURSDAY - 6:00pm and SATURDAY - 10:45am

5. From 2022, Parish Committee meetings, Sacramental preparation sessions (e.g. RCIA, RCIC, Baptism Preparation Course,) Prayer group meetings, (e.g. Legion of Mary, Bible Study etc.) and other parish social gatherings may take place, provided that sensible public health precautions are strongly observed.

6. For those people whom we have strongly advised to STAY HOME and are HOMEBOUND for other reasons, home visitation for Holy Communion and other Sacraments is available upon request through the Parish office. A scheduled livestream Mass is available, followed by a DRIVE-THROUGH RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION only for those who are able to come.

INSTRUCTIONS for Drive-Through Reception of Holy Communion

1. Ensure that everyone in the vehicle brings a face mask to wear.
2. Enter the church parking lot on St Thomas More Lane. The priest will be standing at the main entrance of the Church in front of the Holy Communion Station
3. Park your vehicle horizontally in front of the Holy Communion Station.
4. First ensure that everyone in the vehicle is wearing a protective face mask and then roll down all windows where people are seated. Do not exit your vehicle.
5. The priest will begin with the sign of the Cross, then will raise the consecrated Host while saying "*Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*" You will respond as usual with, "*Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*"
6. The priest will then administer Holy Communion by saying "*The Body of Christ.*" You should then reverently receive the Body of Christ and respond "*Amen*" You should then pull down your face mask and consume the Body of Christ. It is essential that you spend some time thanking the Lord for His gift of Holy Communion.
7. As you leave, a small table will be available where you may leave an offering/donation, and pick up our parish newsletter. You may also drop off your food donation for St Vincent De Paul food bank.