

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield
336 Wairau Road

**GUIDELINES ON LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS
AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

As we all know by now, on Friday, 22nd of October, the Government has introduced a new system of restrictions to deal with coronavirus pandemic,- the COVID 19 Protective 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 Protective Framework (CPF) to get a better understanding of the rules and restrictions concerning the 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, all of us **MUST** take a 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 of others.

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.

Liturgical Celebrations and Religious Services under the traffic light system are 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 restriction regulations.

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_bUSYeyM671mOBg

UNDER THE RED LIGHT

Limited to 100 (50 in Church & 50 in Hall)
No booking is required
Record keeping/QR code scanning required
Mandatory face covering
1m distancing

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

UNDER THE ORANGE LIGHT

NO limits to gatherings.
No booking is required
Record keeping/QR code scanning required
Face covering encouraged

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

UNDER THE GREEN LIGHT

NO limits to gatherings.
No booking is required
Record keeping/QR code scanning required
Face covering encouraged

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

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

1. No Holy Water in the fonts
(you may request a blessing of water for private use through the parish office.)
2. No reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice.
3. Holy Communion from the hand is strongly encouraged.
4. Individual Confession is available following the scheduled times and upon request. No to face to face confession.

Schedule of the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation

THURSDAY - 6:00pm

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 live-stream 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.
3. Park your vehicle horizontally in front of the spot where the priest is standing.
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.
7. It is essential that you spend some time thanking the Lord for His gift of Holy Communion.
8. 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.