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Hello Everyone,

From next Monday (June 1), Victorian government restrictions on gatherings will be eased. The change will apply to the numbers of people permitted to gather at places of worship and the numbers permitted at ceremonies.

From Monday June 1:

Places of worship can open for private worship or small religious ceremonies for up to 20 people in a single undivided indoor space, subject to the four square metre rule plus the minimum number of people reasonably required to perform the service or ceremony.

20 people in addition to the celebrant and couple being married can attend a wedding. If a wedding is held in a home, a maximum of 20 people is allowed, including the celebrant and the couple.

50 people can attend a funeral in addition to the celebrant and funeral staff, subject to the four square metre rule. If a funeral is held in a home, a maximum of 20 people can be present, including the celebrant and funeral staff.

Please note that the current provisions about distance between people, signage, hygiene and cleaning, as well as keeping a record of attendees, will still be in force.

In all cases, the following requirements will still apply:

- Distancing of at least 1.5m between attendees
- Signage at the church door specifying the maximum number permitted at any time, allowing 4 square metres/person
- A register of attendees, including name, phone number, date & time of attendance
- A reasonable time between events to allow for cleaning between each service
- Cleaning by wiping with disinfectant:
 - Frequently touched surfaces (at least twice/day)
 - Whenever a surface is visibly soiled

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I thank all our local communities for your ongoing care for one another.

Best wishes as you arrange gatherings within the new limits.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul