



LITURGICAL MINISTRY OF CHOIRS DURING THE PANDEMIC:

ADVICE FROM THE NATIONAL LITURGICAL MUSIC COUNCIL

The impact of COVID-19 is affecting regions, dioceses and parishes differently across Australia. Official government advice (informed by chief medical officers) regarding appropriate local responses to containing or preventing the virus varies somewhat depending on the different circumstances of your region, diocese or parish. The resumption of choral ministries within liturgical celebrations in your region, diocese or parish will depend on the level of response required to comply with official government advice currently operative in your location. Recent studies have indicated that the virus can be spread easily among groups singing in close proximity during rehearsals, concerts or liturgies. Before recommencing choral ministries in your region, diocese or parish, official government advice regarding what it considered safe behaviour in your locale must be considered carefully and complied with fully.

The following sources of information may help to provide further understanding regarding approaches to the commencement of choral ministries within liturgies in the foreseeable future:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZss6EbVzTo>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/17/did-singing-together-spread-coronavirus-to-four-choirs>

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-06-01/coronavirus-choir-singing-cdc-warning>

<https://europeanchoralassociation.org/covid-19/>

Despite possible restrictions on the operation of choral ministries for liturgical celebrations, all liturgies should continue to include music as a normal element of celebrations, and musical leadership should be provided in the form of (at minimum) a trained cantor and accompanist to support the song of the assembly.

See information on the ACBC Media Blog [here](#).

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