

## Victoria's Roadmap and Vaccination

22 September 2021

Hello Everyone.

Last Sunday, the state government presented “Victoria’s Roadmap”, indicating stages on the road that will take us through the COVID pandemic. A key principle of the roadmap is that the more people are vaccinated, the more people will be able to gather in larger groups. This will include gatherings for worship.

For Regional Victoria, from October 26, people who are fully vaccinated will be able to gather for Mass in greater numbers. There will be a further increase in the numbers from November 5, but again, this will only be for people who can provide evidence that they are fully vaccinated. For gatherings where the vaccination status is unknown, the number will continue to be capped at 20.

This provides an extra incentive to be vaccinated. The basic reasons for vaccination are to protect our own health and the health of people around us. A further reason is so that we might gather in larger groups for liturgy and for the many other events that enrich our lives as communities.

So, I encourage everyone throughout our diocese to be vaccinated. I received my first vaccination in July and I have made my appointment for my second dose. I urge the priests and people of our parishes to be fully vaccinated as soon as possible. This will be good for our own health and the health of our families. It will also hasten the day when we will be able to come together again as local communities to praise God and share with one another in person.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul



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