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Hello Everyone,

Last Sunday evening I sent a message summarising the Victorian government's new provisions for religious gatherings during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The new provisions took effect from last Monday (November 23).

I noted that the number of people who can gather is greater now. However, I also noted that COVIDSafe practices, including wearing masks, record keeping and cleaning, are still in place.

Some have raised questions about more specifically Church practices that were introduced in the early days of the pandemic. In particular, people have asked about Communion from the chalice and water in holy water fonts.

Please continue the COVIDSafe practices in these matters until further notice. Only the priest should take Communion from the chalice. Others should receive Communion only in the form of the host. Also, please leave the holy water fonts dry for the time being.

While it is sad to have to limit our usual practices in these ways, it seems best in order to reduce the possibility of spreading the COVID virus.

Even with these limitations, may we find renewed inspiration through our liturgies and through all our prayer together.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul