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Hello Everyone,

As you may have seen, the Victorian government announced the easing of some COVID provisions from midnight on February 26. For our gatherings in churches and chapels, the key change is that masks are no longer mandatory.

I offer the following summary of the current provisions for churches and chapels.

There is no overall limit on the number of people who can attend religious gatherings and ceremonies (including weddings and funerals). The number of people depends on the size of the church or chapel.

We still need to keep a record of the first name and contact phone number of each person who attends.

If we keep the record manually (using pen and paper), the density quotient is 1 person per 4 square metres. If we keep the record electronically, using a QR code, the density quotient is 1 person per 2 square metres.

Wearing a mask is no longer mandatory in churches or chapels. However, the government recommends that we wear a face mask when we cannot maintain 1.5 metres distance from other people.

Thank you for your cooperation with the provisions that have been in place at various times to keep people safe during the pandemic. Special thanks to those who have been serving our communities as needed, such as in keeping records and doing the extra cleaning of our churches and chapels.

I rejoice that we are able to worship together again in person.

Best wishes for these days of Lent.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul