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Hello Everyone,

As a follow-up to my message yesterday about the new COVIDSafe Summer provisions, I offer some further comments about using the QR (Quick Response) Code system for contact tracing.

Parishes are keen to have as many people as possible able to come to Mass, particularly at Christmas. As I mentioned yesterday, if we use the QR code system, we can have 1 person per 2 square metres, and so double the number we have had in recent weeks.

From my inquiries, I understand that it is easy for a parish to arrange a QR code for each church in the parish and it would be easy to use, even if some parishioners are not tech savvy. As long as some parishioners have mobile phones, they could use their phones to register themselves and other people. In this regard, younger members of the parish might be especially helpful. For example, when families arrive for Christmas Masses, younger members of families could use their phones to register older members of their families as well as themselves. We only need to provide a first name and a contact phone number for each person attending a religious service.

I encourage each parish to consider arranging QR codes for each location where they will be celebrating Christmas Mass. You can find information about the Victorian Government QR Code Service and obtain QR codes through the government website at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qrcode

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul