

## ASSEMBLY OF WORD AND COMMUNION

### RESTRICTIONS ON PLACES OF WORSHIP DURING COVID-19

Places of worship are able to open with the following current provisions about distance between people, signage, hygiene and cleaning, as well as the compulsory use of QR codes to check in. The use of the QR check in code applies for any gatherings in your parish.

#### **COVIDSafe update from August 9, 2021:**

- Religious gatherings and ceremonies are permitted for up to 100 people indoors and up to 300 people outdoors, excluding those required to conduct the religious ceremony.
- In general, a density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres applies. However, a venue smaller than 100 square metres can have up to 25 people per venue before the density quotient applies. In other words, even very small churches are permitted to have up to 25 people for a religious gathering. For a gathering of more than 25 people, the number would be calculated at 1 person per 4 square metres. COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure attendees check-in.
- Funerals (indoor and outdoor) are limited to 50 people, not including those required to conduct the funeral and infants under 12 months. You can travel anywhere in Victoria to attend a funeral. However, if anyone from metropolitan Melbourne attends a funeral in regional Victoria, no more than 10 members of the public can be in attendance, excluding those necessary to conduct the funeral and any infants under 12 months. COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure attendees check-in.
- Funerals held at a private residence in regional Victoria may only have 5 attendees excluding those necessary to conduct the funeral, anyone who lives at the premises or their intimate partners, and infants under 12 months. COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure attendees check-in.
- Weddings at a venue are limited to 50 people, which includes the marrying couple and two witnesses. A celebrant, photographer or infants under 12 months are permitted in addition to this limit. Weddings must also comply with restrictions in place at the wedding venue. COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure attendees check-in.
- Weddings are not permitted in a private residence except for compassionate reasons, and are restricted to 5 people: the couple, the celebrant and two witnesses.
- A person from metropolitan Melbourne can only attend a wedding in Regional Victoria held for end of life or exceptional reasons at a private residence and only involving 5 people: the marrying couple, a celebrant, and two witnesses.
- Masks must be worn indoors and outdoors except if at home or if an exception applies.
- Allow a reasonable time between events to allow for cleaning between each service.
- Cleaning by wiping with disinfectant:
  - Frequently touched surfaces (at least twice/day).
  - Whenever a surface is visibly soiled.
- Holy water fonts are to be emptied or removed. At the Sign of Peace, the practice of shaking hands has ceased. During this time the congregation will be asked to pray for peace.
- The distribution of Holy Communion will be in the hand only and not on the tongue. There will be no distribution of the chalice.
- All ministers of Holy Communion (both ordinary and extraordinary) are to use hand sanitiser before the distribution of Holy Communion commences and are not to physically touch anyone in the act of blessing.

Updates are available from <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>

# YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

## ALL SOULS' – YEAR B 2021

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

#### GATHERING HYMN

*Stand*

*A hymn expressing the unity of the community which is a song of praise, is sung as the first act of worship of the Assembly.*

*The Leaders move to the front as the hymn is ending.*

#### GREETING

*All make the sign of the cross.*

Leader 1: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

*The Leader addresses the people.*

Leader 1: Gathered here today we remember those who have gone before us in faith.  
Blessed be God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

#### WELCOME

Leader 2: On this Feast Day of All Souls', we assemble as the Catholic community of ..... in the parish of ..... to hear the Word, receive Communion and offer praise to God. As we gather in the absence of a priest, we are assured of our unity with all who celebrate the Eucharist on this day.

#### PENITENTIAL ACT

Leader 1: We are gathered here in the unity of our faith. As we begin our praise of God, let us not forget that we have sinned against the Lord and against one another.

*Brief pause for silent reflection.*

Leader 1: Lord Jesus, you have called us out of darkness into your own marvellous light:  
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader 1: Christ Jesus, you have clothed us with holiness and love: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader 1: Lord Jesus, you have made us a new creation in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader 1: May almighty God have mercy on us all,  
forgive us our many sins,  
and lead us home to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

## **GLORIA**

***The Gloria should be used on All Souls' Day.***

Leader 2: With people everywhere, let us glorify our God in joyful praise:

All: Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## OPENING PRAYER

Leader 1: Let us pray for all our departed brothers and sisters.

*Pause for brief silent prayer.*

Merciful Father,  
hear our prayers and console us.  
As we renew our faith in your Son,  
whom you raised from the dead,  
strengthen our hope that all our departed  
sisters and brothers  
will share in his resurrection,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*On this Feast Day, readings and Responsorial Psalms are found in Volume Three of the Lectionary, Masses for the Dead. One selection is listed below.*

**FIRST READING:** *Wisdom 3:1-9* *Sit*

*A period of silence, about one or two minutes, is recommended at the conclusion of each reading.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** *As in the Lectionary.*

**SECOND READING:** *Romans 8:31-35. 37-39*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *As in the Lectionary.* *Stand*

**GOSPEL:** *Matthew 5:1-12*

*One of the Leaders goes to the lectern.*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

*The Leader makes the sign of the cross on the book, then on forehead, lips and breast.*

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

*At the end of the Gospel:*

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## **SHARED REFLECTION**

*Sit*

- *A shared reflection explaining the meaning which these readings had for their original hearers, and indicating how these readings apply to this particular community, should now be given.*
- *The shared reflection may be led by one of the Leaders or another person from the Assembly.*
- *The reflection must be prepared beforehand and should be a sharing of what the scripture is saying to us today, rather than a 'sermon type' presentation.*
- *The reflection should only be of 3-5 minutes duration.*

*\* If this is not done, the following should be said:*

Leader: Let us now reflect in silence on the words of the Gospel and take them to our hearts.

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*Stand*

Leader 2: Sisters and brothers,  
let us now stand and reaffirm our faith, the faith of the Church.

*Allow time for the Assembly to stand then say:*

All: I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, **(all bow)**  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

*The people are invited to pray; after the Prayers of the Faithful, the concluding prayer is said.*

*It is desirable that the individual prayers be given by someone **other** than the Leader.*

### **Invitation to Prayer:**

Leader 1: My sisters and brothers,  
as we gather to remember those who have gone before us in faith,  
let us pray for them, for ourselves and for the needs of our world.

*Prayers of the Faithful as prepared by the community. It is recommended that a petition for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life be included in the prayers and a petition for the Plenary Council.*

*Praying with Pope Francis: Each month Pope Francis puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service.*

### **November universal intention: People who suffer from depression**

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

### **Concluding Prayer:**

Leader 1: Loving God,  
have mercy on those who have died believing in you;  
hear the prayers of your people which we commend to you  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **COLLECTION**

*Sit*

Leader 2: Please be seated as we now take up the collection  
which is part of our contribution to the life and work of the Church.

*As the collections are being gathered, a hymn could be sung.*

*As the offerings are brought forward, the Leader prays in these or similar words as the collection is placed at the foot of the altar:*

Leader 2: Loving God, we give from our hearts,  
in the name of Jesus, your Son,  
who calls us into unity by the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
who lives and reigns with you, Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

*After leaving the offerings in the accustomed place, the ushers return to their place in the Assembly.*

## **PRAYER OF PRAISE**

*Stand*

Leader 1: God holds our lives from birth to death with love and compassion.  
Let us now pray in praise and thanksgiving.

*Allow time for people to stand.*

Give thanks to Jesus Christ  
the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
In him all things were created  
in heaven and on earth.  
The Lord is great:

All: Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

Leader 2: Give thanks to Jesus Christ  
who is before all things  
and in him all things hold together.  
He is the head of his body, the Church.  
In him the fullness of God is pleased to dwell.  
The Lord is great:

All: Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

Leader 1: Give thanks to Jesus Christ.  
Through him God reconciles all  
on earth and in heaven.  
He has made peace  
through the blood of his cross.  
The Lord is great:

All: Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

Leader 2: Give thanks to Jesus Christ  
whose mystery was hidden through the ages  
but revealed in his coming as man;  
who calls all people to himself  
and proclaims a message of hope.  
The Lord is great:

All: Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

### **COMMUNION RITE**

*The Rite of Communion begins with the Lord's Prayer.*

Leader 1: Jesus invites us to call on his Father's name:  
Filled with trust in Jesus' power, we pray in his own words:

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Leader 2: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader 2: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader 2: In the name of Christ, let us pray for peace.

*If Communion is to be given, at the conclusion of the Prayer for Peace, the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion moves to the table and cleanses her/his hands with sanitiser. She/he then goes to the tabernacle, opens it and removes the ciborium with hosts, leaves the lid at the tabernacle and moves to stand behind the Leaders.*

## **ADMONITION TO UNITY**

*Kneel*

Leader 1: We are now invited to share in Holy Communion in the Body of the Lord.

We are part of the universal Church,  
who all across the world on this day of the Lord,  
recall the death of the Lord and those who have died in the Lord.  
We are in union with the whole Church.  
We are in union with our Bishop, Paul Bird,  
and our parish community.  
Let us be one in mind and heart,  
in prayer and service, now and always.

## **RECEPTION OF COMMUNION**

*The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion brings the Eucharist to the front of the Sanctuary, and taking the host, raises it for all to see, saying aloud:*

Extraordinary Minister:

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

*The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion holds the host in the view of each person and says:*

The Body of Christ.

*The communicant answers:*

Amen.

## **COMMUNION SONG**

## **COMMUNION REFLECTION or PERIOD OF SILENCE**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Stand

*The Extraordinary Minister of Communion leads the Prayer after Communion.*

Extraordinary Minister:

Let us pray.

*Brief pause for silent prayer.*

Having received this holy communion,  
we humbly implore you, O Lord,  
for your departed servants,  
that, cleansed by the paschal mysteries,  
they may glory in the gift of the resurrection to come.  
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

*"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"*

All: Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil.

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

*If there are announcements of note, this is the proper time for them to be made. In general, those who want announcements made should be invited to come forward at this point and make the announcements. People should then be invited to stand if they have been seated for announcements.*

## GREETING

Leader 2: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader 2: Let us bow our heads in silence and ask God to bless us.

*Brief pause for silent prayer.*

Leader 2: May the God of all consolation bless you,  
for in his goodness he created the human race,  
and in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son  
he has given believers the hope of rising again.

All: Amen.

Leader 2: To us who are alive, may God grant pardon for our sins,  
and to all the dead, a place of light and peace.

All: Amen.

Leader 2: So may we all live happily for ever with Christ,  
whom we believe truly rose from the dead.

All: Amen.

## **BLESSING**

*All make the sign of the cross.*

Leader 1: And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on us and remain with us forever.

All: Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Leader 1: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All: Thanks be to God.

*The Leaders bow to the altar and return to their places in the Assembly.*

## **FINAL HYMN**

*An appropriate final hymn is sung.*

### **Acknowledgements**

Material for the Introductory Rites, Opening and Communion Prayers, Profession of Faith and the Praise Prayer have been taken from or adapted from Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours, Catholic Conference of Canadian Bishops © Concacan Inc., 1995, LiturgyHelp [www.liturgyhelp.com](http://www.liturgyhelp.com). All rights reserved. This material is used with permission for the purposes of Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion in the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia only.

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