



From the Bishop

25 March 2020

To all Clergy, Secretaries, Diocesan Councillors

COVID-19 Update No. 5

Dear friends in Christ,

Another day, another update regarding the COVID-19 Situation. Some of you may already be aware that the Prime Minister announced additional requirements in relation to Places of Worship. As a result, the following will come into effect from midnight tonight, Wednesday 25 March 2020;

Weddings – May be conducted but must be limited to 5 persons only; the couple, the celebrant and two witnesses. Social distancing recommendations must be complied with.

Funerals – May be conducted but limited to no more than 10 persons in attendance. Social distancing recommendations must be complied with.

The Prime Minister's directive was also specific about outdoor gatherings. People are not to congregate together in groups outdoors. It was suggested a group of 10 people was considered too large a group to gather outdoors, therefore we cannot use our church grounds for outdoor worship.

As I have already said to the clergy, with the advice for church buildings to remain closed already in place (including for private prayer), it is important to remember that this pause does not mean that church is paused. It is the people who are the Church, not the building. These challenging times mean that we need to work together even more to find new ways to continue the mission of God. We are still responsible for continuing the spread of the mission and ministry of the Lord Jesus to communities who desperately need to hear this message.

There are exceptions to access the buildings for live-streaming services, but it should be limited to those officiating/presiding and someone offering technical support – maintaining 'social' distancing and observing the required hygiene practices as a matter of course! If you can already live-stream your worship for members of your congregation you should do so. Please remember to let the Registry Office know what the link details are for accessing your live-stream, and the time it will be held, so that we can publish it on our online platforms.



Social Media is just one of the ways that we can stay social during this time. Encourage people to follow your Parish/Pastoral District Facebook pages or the Diocesan Facebook page. I have posted a video on the Diocesan page this morning and will continue to do this in the future. The video is also available on YouTube by following this link <https://bit.ly/2Uyt6ca> or via my twitter feed @Fr_KeithDalby which you are free to view and share.

With continued prayers for us all,

A handwritten signature in black ink. To the left of the signature is a small cross symbol. The signature itself is cursive and appears to read 'Keith Dalby'.

The Right Reverend Keith Dalby
Bishop of The Murray