

## Memorandum - Amended

TO: All Clergy, Parish Leaders, Leadership Teams, Parish Staff

CC:

FROM: Fr Andrew Doohan VG

DATE: 15/06/2020

ATTACHMENTS: 2

**SUBJECT: Easing of COVID-19 Restrictions for Funerals**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Sunday 14 June 2020, the NSW Government announced the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in connection with the celebration of funerals with immediate effect.

The Minister for Health and Medical Research has issued a blanket exemption for the celebration of funerals (see attached) to give effect to that announcement.

Under the conditions of the exemption, it is now possible to celebrate a funeral service with more than 50 persons present if the following conditions are met, quoting directly from the exemption:

- a) The occupier of the premises must develop and comply with a COVID-19 safety plan that addresses the matters in the checklist for funerals approved by the Chief Health Officer (see attached).
- b) The occupier of the premises must ensure that there is at least 4 square metres of space for each person at the Service unless the occupier falls within clause 3) of this exemption.

If, however, your church building is small enough that you wouldn't be able to have more than 50 persons under the provisions of the current Public Health Order, you are now able to have **UP TO** 50 persons attending the funeral providing you are able to meet the following conditions:

- Develop and comply with the COVID-19 safety plan per a) above, and
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that all persons attending the funeral, apart from those who are from the same household, maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from other attendees.

Essentially there would appear to be great flexibility around the arrangements for the celebration of funerals. The number of people who can attend a funeral now is significantly larger than what was previously permitted, but it is also not a blanket invitation for anyone to attend.

The onus falls on local leadership to determine an appropriate limit for your church buildings, and to accommodate requests from families or funeral directors in particular circumstances. Please be assured that you will be supported for the decisions you make generally or in specific circumstances.

I will be available to local leadership via my mobile phone if you need to talk through the implications of anything contained above or wish to seek clarification.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your ministry during this time of pandemic.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Doohan', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

(Fr) Andrew Doohan VG