

Memorandum

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

CC:

FROM: Fr Andrew Doohan VG

DATE: 05/08/2021

ATTACHMENTS: 0

SUBJECT: Extension of Lockdown Provisions to Newcastle and Hunter Areas

Dear colleagues,

As you would be aware by now, the NSW Government has enacted a lockdown for certain local government areas in the Newcastle and Hunter areas. These lockdown provisions are in place for an initial period of seven (7 days) from 5pm on Thursday 5 August 2021. Amendments to the *Public Health (COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak) Order 2021* ('the Order') were gazetted this afternoon. The effect of those amendments is to extend restrictions currently in force for the Greater Sydney area to eight (8) local government areas.

Affected Local Government Areas

The following local government areas are now subjected to additional restrictions:

- City of Cessnock
- City of Lake Macquarie
- City of Maitland
- City of Newcastle
- Dungog
- Muswellbrook
- Port Stephens
- Singleton

If your parish, or part of your parish, sits within one of the above local government areas you are now in 'lockdown' for the next seven days.

'Greater Sydney restrictions'

The amended Order imposes what is described as the 'Greater Sydney restrictions' in the above eight local government areas. A good summary of those restrictions can be obtained by visiting the relevant NSW government webpage (www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-regions).

The biggest impact of the new restrictions is the inability to celebrate public Masses and the need to close our churches except for funerals.

If, as hoped, the lockdown only lasts for seven days, it may not be prudent to immediately return to a widespread live streaming of Sunday Masses. The Cathedral will live-stream its 9.30am Mass this weekend (accessible via the Cathedral's YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton/videos) for those who may wish to tune in.

If the lockdown extends beyond the hoped for seven days, this advice will be revisited.

The quickness with which the lockdown has been announced and imposed requires a certain degree of nimbleness on the part of parishes. Please do your best to take care of yourselves and the people under your care in these interesting times.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions about the above information. Email would be preferred in most cases, but my mobile is available if the matter is more urgent.

Regards,

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

(Fr) Andrew Doohan VG