



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

Church: 18 Vine Street
Fairfield NSW 2165
www.olfairfield.org.au
ABN: 23 096 810 740

Parish Office: 2 Weston Street
Fairfield NSW 2165
Tel: (61 2) 9724 5997
Email: admin@olfairfield.org.au

FAQ for Religious Gatherings during Stage 1 of Recovery

1. When will public Masses resume?

The first public Mass during Stage 1 will be the Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord on Saturday 23 May at 6.00pm.

Public Masses cannot be celebrated prior to 23 May, as time is required to plan all the strategies that need to be managed in accord with the Government's instructions.

Effectively, more planning is required to open the church for only ten attendees than for hundreds of people due to the Government's current requirements, as volunteers are required to carry essential duties.

2. When will public Masses commence?

The Saturday Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 pm. Masses on Sunday will be celebrated at 9:00 and 10:30 am and 6:00 pm. Weekday Masses will take place Monday to Friday at 7:00 pm.

3. How many people are allowed to attend each Mass?

The Government is currently allowing ten people to attend religious gatherings, not including those who are assisting with the ceremony.

A total of 10 people can attend Mass, not including the priest(s), those assisting with the ceremony and essential volunteers.

4. How do I attend a Mass?

To attend a Mass you must book the Mass you wish to attend no more than 2 weeks in advance; Please call or visit the Parish Office (within the Parish Office hours) or email the Parish Office at admin@olfairfield.org.au to make a booking to attend a Mass. Your booking will only be confirmed for that Mass once you have received a confirmation email or phone call. Please note that bookings are open no more than 2 weeks in advance. Persons can only book once per fortnight and toddler(s) can sit with parents.

5. How do I cancel the Mass I have booked?

If, for some reason, you wish to cancel the Mass you have booked (e.g. you develop flu like symptoms), please email or call the Parish Office no less than **48 hours** prior to your scheduled Mass.

6. Is there a procedure I must follow when I arrive at the church for my scheduled Mass?

The below steps must be taken in the following order.

- Arrive 10 minutes prior to the commencement of your scheduled Mass
- Register at the table
- Sanitise your hands
- Approach the usher who will direct you to your designated area. To ensure that all people in the assembly are exercising social distancing. Anyone who does not follow the usher's directions will be asked to leave the church.

7. What if I am late for the Mass I booked?

If you are 5 minutes late for your scheduled Mass, your seat will be given to another person if someone is waiting outside.

8. Do I need to be an Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield parishioner to attend Mass?

Yes, given our current circumstances, to attend a Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield, you must be a parishioner.

9. Can my family attend Mass?

A maximum of 4 family members can attend a Mass all of whom need to exercise social distancing, except for mothers who are nursing children.

10. How often can I attend Mass?

Due to current Government regulations and to ensure that all parishioners can attend Mass on a regular basis, attendees can attend Mass once every 2 weeks.

11. Why are these volunteers required for each Mass?

These volunteer roles are required to ensure that NSW Government regulations are being followed and that the Parish is doing its utmost to ensure the safety of its parishioners by reducing the spread of COVID-19.

12. How can I volunteer for a role in a Mass?

If you want to volunteer for any of these duties, unlike the faithful who simply want to attend Mass, rather than contact the Parish Secretary, you must register with the Liturgy Coordinator Philip Pham at: info@phamlawyers.com.au or 0433 165 160. Please note that if not enough volunteers register for these duties for any specific Mass, that Mass will not be celebrated in the church. The volunteers scheduled for a Mass may also attend that particular Mass.

13. What volunteer roles are required for each Mass?

Volunteers are required to carry out the following essential duties:

- 1 volunteer - Register attendees at a registration table at the door of the church;
- 1 volunteer- Provide security;
- 1 volunteer usher- to direct the faithful to the limited seats available in the church;
- 2 volunteers- be trained to sanitise the church after each time the faithful gather for worship.

If any of these essential duties are not nominated by volunteers, you will be notified at least 5 hours beforehand that the Mass is **cancelled**

14. Will the Mass still be live streamed on the Our Lady of the Rosary Fairfield Parish Facebook page?

The 9:00 am Sunday Masses and all the weekday 7:00 pm Masses will be live-streamed on OLR Facebook for the benefit of those who want to continue to self-isolate.

15. Can a scheduled Mass be cancelled?

A scheduled Mass will be cancelled if one of the below roles cannot be fulfilled by a volunteer(s):

- **Registerer:** register attendees at a registration table at the door of the church;
- **Usher:** be ushers to direct the faithful to the limited seats available in the church;
- **Cleaner:** be trained to sanitise the church after each time the faithful gather for worship;
- **Security:** to ensure that only those who have booked to attend the Mass, are assisting with the ceremony and volunteers for that particular Mass, are inside the church building.

16. How do I receive the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)?

Confession can be received in the following two ways:

- Before a Mass you have booked: Confessions will be available 30 minutes prior to every Mass. You can only receive confession before a Mass that you have booked to either attend or volunteer at.
- Making an appointment outside the scheduled confession times by calling or visiting the Parish Office (within the Parish Office hours) or email the Parish Office at admin@olrfairfield.org.au to make a booking for private confession.

To protect your anonymity, when recording your booking, only the number of people will be put in the priest's calendar (not anyone's names), as the number of penitents need to be managed.

17. Are Catholics now obligated to attend weekend Mass?

No, The Archbishop is continuing to dispense Catholics from their obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, as he is aware that with the current restrictions, not everyone can come to the church. This dispensation still requires all Catholics to keep the Sabbath Day holy by alternative means if you do not come to the church, such as watching a live-streamed Mass, meditating on Scripture, or praying the Rosary. It is recommended that if you are seventy years of age or older, you wait until COVID-19 is more contained before coming to the church.