



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

Church: 18 Vine Street
Fairfield NSW 2165
www.olfairfield.org.au

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Fairfield NSW 2165
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FAQ for Religious Gatherings during Stage 2 of Recovery

1. When will public Masses following the new regulations commence?

The first public Mass following the new regulations will be held on Saturday, 6 June at 8.30 am.

Public Masses following these new regulations cannot be celebrated prior to 6 June, as time is required to plan all the strategies that need to be managed in accord with the Government's new instructions.

2. How many people to attend each Mass under the new regulations?

The Government is now allowing 50 people to attend religious gatherings, not including those who are assisting with the ceremony and managing the assembly.

3. How do I attend a Mass?

If you wish to make a booking for a Mass, 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.

Although 50 people can now attend a Mass, only 20 people are allowed to book in advance; the remainder of the registrations will be made at the registration desk upon arrival at the church before a Mass you wish to attend. The reason for this procedure is to not overwhelm parish staff with booking requests.

4. 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.

5. Is there a procedure I must follow when I arrive at the church to attend a Mass?

The steps below must be taken in the following order.

1. Arrive 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Mass or earlier if you want to go to Confession.
2. Register at the table (one table is for pre-booked registrations and another two tables for registrations upon arrival)
3. Sanitise your hands
4. 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.

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

If you are 5 minutes late for a Mass you have booked, your seat will be given to another person if someone is waiting outside to register on arrival.

7. 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.

8. Can my family attend Mass?

Yes, there is no restriction to the number of family members that can attend a Mass with you. Nevertheless, all family members need to exercise social distancing, except for mothers who are nursing children.

9. How often can I attend Mass?

Attendees can attend Mass as frequently as they want; however, due to current Government regulations and to ensure that all parishioners can attend Mass on a regular basis, each parishioner must register for only one Mass at a time.

10. 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.

11. 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**

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is being made available as drive-through Confessions. You will need to drive your car through the gate on 20 Vine Street near the round-about. Then, drive through the Primary School car park towards the church. Just before you arrive at the Parish car park, park your car next to the Confessional to make your Confession. After you receive this sacrament, you can either park your car in the Parish car park, or drive out of the gate on 2 Weston Street if you are not entering the church. Anyone who is not going to Confession will need to enter the Parish car park on 2 Weston Street, not 20 Vine Street.

5. Are Catholics now obligated to attend weekend Mass?

No, despite the further ease to Government regulations, The Archbishop will still continue 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.