



Archdiocese of Cape Town

Office of the Auxiliary Bishop of Cape Town

To all Clergy, Religious, Laity and Catholic Institutions in the Archdiocese of Cape Town

Covid 19 Protocols: Easing of Restrictions

At the outset we wish to thank all concerned for their diligence and cooperation in creating and maintaining a safe worship environment during a rather difficult time.

The announcement by the State on 22 June 2022 (Government Gazette; #11447; vol. 684) that the number restrictions for indoor gatherings; as well as the mandatory wearing of face masks indoors be lifted, has been welcomed. Henceforth these legal requirements for our liturgical celebrations fall away. This also means that the occupancy certificate requirements are no longer needed.

However greater freedom also calls for greater responsibility. In this regard, we appeal for sensitivity to those who still feel unsafe and will be hesitant to shake hands or to hug others. Some might even decide to continue wearing face masks. We must also bear in mind that we still need to practice caution at all times and must **avoid the crowding of the entrance and exit points**. Those with any contagious illness such as influenza ought not to come into the liturgical assembly. Hand sanitization is a good practice and ought to be maintained. Brevity in our liturgical celebrations is also encouraged.

We encourage celebrants to wear face masks during the Eucharistic rite so as to minimise any danger caused through droplets being spread. The Priest/Deacon/Extraordinary Minister who distributes holy communion may decide to wear face masks while giving holy communion as they come into face to face contact with others – but this is left to the discretion of those concerned. We still request that communion be given under one kind only and that the chalice be reserved to the celebrant, concelebrants and the deacon. In this regard, intinction is to be practiced with the last person drinking from the chalice and doing the purification.

We wish you well in your efforts to stay safe and to promote an atmosphere of wellness. May our Lord continue to bless us with strength as we move through the winter.

Fraternally,

+ Sylvester David
OMI

Bishop S. David OMI
VG/Auxiliary Bishop



23 June 2022