



Diocese of Armidale

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My Lords, Monsignor & Fathers,

RE: CORONAVIRUS & LITURGICAL PRACTICE

Please find attached the National Advice on Liturgical Implications in light of Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. These guidelines are for your information and to be shared with parishioners.

In the Diocese of Armidale the following are obligatory requirements and are to be implemented immediately and remain in place until further notice.

- i. When exchanging the Sign of Peace, individuals should be advised to avoid shaking hands but say "Peace be with you" and offer a smile, wave, nod or bow.
- ii. All Ministers of Holy Communion, including Extraordinary Ministers, should take particular care to wash their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion. Appropriate means should be made available such as alcohol-based gels or rubs
- iii. Parishes should cease distributing Holy Communion from the Chalice until further notice. The faithful should be reminded that Christ is fully present under either species.

The implementation of other recommendations from the Bishops Conference is left to your discretion as you deem to be appropriate at Parish level.

I will provide you with a further update as information comes to hand.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale