



Archdiocese of Cape Town

Office of the Auxiliary Bishop of Cape Town

26th July 2021

To all Clergy, Religious, and Institutions in the Archdiocese

Lockdown level three: Re-opening of churches for worship

Following the announcement by the President on the evening of 25th July 2021, the Government Gazette volume 673 issued on 25th July 2021 indicates that, effective immediately, indoor gatherings with a maximum of fifty persons are permissible provided all safety measures are adopted. This means that we can resume our worship but with restrictions.

Whereas the State allows for a maximum of fifty percent occupancy, we once again revert to our Archdiocesan maximum of thirty percent of the seating capacity. The maximum of fifty persons is inclusive of the celebrant and other ministers who assist at the liturgy. The Archbishop's dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation is also extended until further notice.

We wish to reaffirm our commitment to promoting safety and well being and once again wish to point out that all who attend our liturgies must, in addition to all other safety protocols, wear masks at all times during the celebration – the only exception being for the brief period when persons consume the sacred host. To the extent that congregating in the sacristy can be avoided, this might also be useful a time to gradually re-introduce altar service. Here we depend on the discretion of the Parish Priest/Administrator.

Our notice about feeding the poor issued on 2nd July 2021 is still valid and we appeal to parishes to assist with this corporal act of mercy. Food is to be given on a take away basis only. Feeding the hungry is deemed an essential service and provided all safety protocols are observed, Church premises may be used for that purpose even when no liturgies are celebrated. Here again we rely on the pastoral discretion of the Parish Priest/Administrator as to how this is organised.

We thank all concerned for the patience and for the many sacrifices that have been made thus far. We urge Parishes and communities to fervently promote an increase in family/community prayer during this time.

Fraternally,

+ Sylvester David OMI

Bishop S. David OMI
Vicar General



Cathedral Place 12 Bouquet St, PO Box 2910 Cape Town 8000
Tel: +27 (021) 462 2417. Fax: +27 (021) 461 9330
Email: auxiliary@adct.org.za Web: www.adct.org.za