



Archdiocese of Cape Town

Office of the Auxiliary Bishop of Cape Town

To all Clergy, Lay Leaders, Religious, and Institutions in the Archdiocese Adjusted Alert level Two: Government Gazette No. 45156 dated 12/09/21

At the outset, we wish to thank all concerned for the collaboration shown during these difficult times. A special word of thanks needs to go to the Covid officers and those in charge of bookings in Parishes, who do their work with great diligence. We are also grateful for the pastoral zeal and prudent discretion shown by many Priests. Your attention to the wellbeing of the members of the flock entrusted to you and your strategic interventions when there were signs of danger are appreciated. It is this kind of prudent pastoral action that engenders confidence among the laity.

Following the announcement by the President on the evening of 12th September 2021, we wish to confirm that our directive **not to occupy more than thirty percent of the seating capacity** will remain in place until further notice. Churches which are large enough may now cater for a maximum of 250 persons inclusive of the celebrant/presider and the assisting ministers, provided that the number does not exceed thirty percent of the seating capacity.

The Archbishop's dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation is extended until further notice. All those who are prevented from attending Mass ought to follow the live-streamed Masses and make their "acts spiritual communion" as prescribed. It is also recommended that where live-streaming is not possible, the faithful follow the liturgy of the Word up to and including the intercessions and also make their "acts of spiritual communion". We ask Parish Priests/Administrators to offer guidance in this regard.

Attendance at funerals will remain at a maximum of fifty persons (inclusive of the ministers) provided that no more than thirty percent of the seating capacity of the church is used. All gatherings associated with funerals e.g. night vigils and "after tears" gatherings remain prohibited by law.

Also by law, the occupancy certificate forms issued on 26th July 2021 must be completed, signed by the Parish Priest/Administrator, stamped with the Parish seal and displayed at all entrances to the church. For ease of reference a blank form is included with this notice.

While we welcome the easing of restrictions we wish to point out that since people will be more mobile the threat of infections will still be a reality. We therefore appeal to all concerned to practice the recommended hygiene measures and social distancing norms already in place. We particularly request that the crowding of doorways during the entrance and dismissal times of our liturgies be avoided and that where possible people leave the church using different exit points. We also wish to reinforce the norm that singing be severely curtailed or omitted altogether. Where singing is allowed, it ought to be done by one or two cantors wearing masks. As indicated by the President during his address on 12th September, the current variant is airborne and this is where the danger lies.

We also wish to draw attention to the notice about feeding the poor issued on 12th July 2021 and once again make a special appeal to parishes to assist with this corporal act of mercy. As indicated at that time food is to be given on a take away basis only. Feeding the hungry is deemed an essential service and Church premises may be used for that purpose provided all safety protocols are observed. Here we rely on the pastoral discretion of the Parish Priest/Administrator as to how this is organised.

We thank all concerned for the patience shown and for the many sacrifices that have been made thus far.

Fraternally,

+ Sylvester David
OMI

Bishop S. David OMI
VG/Auxiliary Bishop



13th September 2021

NB: The pro forma Occupancy Certificate is attached and appears on the next page.

COVID-19 OCCUPANCY COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE



FULL
CAPACITY
OF VENUE

50%
CAPACITY
OF VENUE

NAME.....CELL.....EMAIL.....

AUTHORISED SIGNATURE.....DATE.....