



Pastoral Statement Regarding Resumption of Masses at St James the Apostle Parish

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We continue to experience the impact of the COVID-19 virus in many ways in our local communities. I want to express my gratitude once again to God for the courage of our first responders, medical professionals and public servants who work selflessly during these pandemic times.

Throughout this pandemic, we have always followed the directives issued by the Government based on the advice given by the Chief Medical Officer. All places of worship, including the Archdiocese of Melbourne, continue to navigate these challenging times. Last week, the Archdiocese of Melbourne issued the official guidelines (based on government directives) indicating that parishes can open for the fully vaccinated. The directives stipulate the need for COVID Marshalls and proof of vaccination status.

In accordance with these directives, we will open up on the first weekend of November. Our stance is consistent with directives given to us by both government and Church authorities for large gatherings.

As pastor of a diverse community with the care and responsibility of many souls, we will continue to offer pastoral care to the whole community, as we have always done. Whilst these directives are issued for regulating large gatherings, they have not prevented us from ministering pastoral care to the whole community.

For those who are unable to attend large gatherings, masses will continue to be live-streamed and the dispensation of the Sunday regulation remains in place. As restrictions on large gatherings continue to be lifted, we will continue to review our options for those whose vaccination status is unknown.

These challenging times have created much fear and division. If you are struggling in any way, I urge you to please contact the parish office on 9401 6367. Leave a message and I will return your call.

Let us remember that it is Christ who is the ultimate Healer. May we entrust ourselves in God's providence and care.

Yours in mission,

Fr Jude Pirotta mssp
Parish Priest



Come as you are

St James Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults