

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Pastoral Area

COVID MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTECTION SYSTEM

THE GOAL

Within the parameters set by Government legislation to control and manage the spread of Covid-19 in New Zealand, the goal of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Pastoral Area is to achieve maximum attendance at all church services, especially the celebration of Mass, in such a way as to protect all parishioners and meet their needs.

- Consultation with representatives of parish communities has taken place.
- Guidance has been provided by the Bishop of the Hamilton Diocese.
- The parish's interpretation of the legal requirements has been confirmed.

THE PLAN

Under **Red Light** Conditions

- Multiple Masses will be offered on weekends and at least once each weekday to enable the majority – those presenting a My Vaccine Pass – **and** those who do not wish to present a My Vaccine Pass or are unvaccinated to attend at least one weekday and one weekend Mass each week.
- The maximum allowed when a My Vaccine Pass is **required** is 100 persons, socially distanced.
- The maximum allowed at Masses where a My Vaccine Pass is **not required** is 25 persons per defined space, socially distanced.
 - St Mary's church enables the provision of two defined spaces: the church itself with entry from the Seddon St carpark, and the foyer with entry from the main door.
 - The doors between church and foyer will remain shut throughout.
 - Holy Eucharist will be distributed to the foyer attendees by a Eucharistic minister.
 - Both areas are to be cleaned after Mass.
- Record keeping is required at every Mass and other church attendance.
 - The booking system provides a record for weekend Masses.
 - At weekday Masses and at other times, attendees need to scan their Covid tracer app or write their names on the paper recording system provided in the church foyer.

- Every person including infants is counted, except for the priest and those who volunteer to provide other Mass services, such as greeters, collectors, leaders, readers, Eucharistic ministers, a musician and the sacristan.
- A booking system will be used for weekend Masses.
 - Parishioners need to book online or by phoning the parish office (07 3480289).
 - They will need to specify which Mass they wish to attend.
 - When booking for Masses **not requiring** a My Vaccine Pass, they must also state which specified area they will attend.
 - The names of those attending will be stated, to enable greeters to confirm their actual attendance.
 - The link for bookings will be displayed on the parish website and in notices outside both St Mary's and St Michael's churches. It will also be emailed to the parish mailing list.
- Persons attending Masses where My Vaccine Passes are **required** need to present valid proof that they have been vaccinated.
 - For parishioners known to the greeters, proof may be by My Vaccine Pass or a vaccine record card.
 - Visitors to the parish must have their My Vaccine Pass verified by the greeter.
 - Children under the age of 12 years and 3 months may be admitted without a My Vaccine Pass.
 - At least one greeter at each Mass must have the Vaccine Pass Validation app loaded on their phone so that visitors can be validated.
 - If greeters are confronted by people without valid documentation wanting to attend a Mass **requiring** a My Vaccine Pass, they are to call for assistance from other volunteers or the priest. The parish does not wish to turn people away from Mass, but has an obligation to comply with the legislation and protect other parishioners.
- Only valid Department of Health vaccination exemption certificates will be accepted.
- The wearing of masks is mandatory for the Priest and all volunteers.
 - For others, mask wearing is strongly recommended, in the interests of protecting everyone.
 - Those who choose not to wear masks or hold exemptions from wearing them, are asked to take seats distant from mask wearers.

Under **Orange Light** Conditions (from 31 December 2021)

- The same rules apply as for **Red Light** Conditions except that:
 - The maximum allowed at St Mary's services **requiring** a My Vaccine Pass (based on social distancing capability) is 200 persons, socially distanced.
 - The maximum allowed at St Michael's services **requiring** a My Vaccine Pass (based on social distancing capability) is 150 persons, socially distanced.
 - The maximum allowed at services where a My Vaccine Pass is **not required** (based on social distancing capability) is 50 persons in the main body of St Mary's church and 25 in the foyer defined space, socially distanced.
- The online booking system number limits will be amended accordingly.

Under **Green Light** Conditions

- **Record keeping** (manual or scanned) is required at every Mass and other church attendance.
- Booking for weekend Masses will not be required.
- Mask wearing is encouraged.

REVIEW

The effectiveness of this plan will remain under constant review. The plan will be subject to amendment if any aspect proves to be impractical or fails to achieve the stated goal.