

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

It has been six months since all of us have made changes to how we worship.

We thank you for the willingness and speed with which we have seen you embrace these changes, some of them difficult and possibly confusing. The positive response by the Catholic Community of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains was recently reinforced by NSW Health who are working with us through our Diocese to make sure what we do at church keeps us safe. We sincerely appreciate all you are doing to ensure that this happens.

We have witnessed how easily the virus can spread at churches, and we support the government's regulations and recommendations. Our Parish is a registered COVID-safe organisation, and in order to remain so, we need to follow certain practices. By now you will be used to parts of our plan such as setting a maximum attendance, pre-booking at Mass, recording contact details, sanitising our hands, and sitting in the marked pews. At the Saturday 5pm Vigil and Sunday 9.45am Masses, we are asking for two volunteers to help us with ushering services. Please contact the Parish office if you have 15 minutes free prior to either Mass.

We are also pleased to see so many of you wearing masks. This is a practical way you can show you care for the health of others, and we would like to see our entire parish to take up mask wearing whenever you come to church.

Thank you for following the advice issued so far. We are sure you will have heard this pandemic referred to as a marathon rather than a sprint. The bottom line is our concern for everyone's safety, and your compliance means you we are all playing an important role in keeping our community safe.

Thank you and God bless

