



3 June 2020

Dear Parish Priests, Principals, Sacramental Coordinators and Catechists,

The Western Australian Government has released directives for Phase 3 of the COVID-19 Roadmap. The implementation of these directives will commence on Saturday 6 June 2020 and will enable the current restrictions to be further eased. Phase 3 will enable parishes in the Archdiocese to resume some sacramental celebrations.

Celebration of the Sacraments of the Church

- The celebration of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for school-aged children may recommence. Physical distancing of one (1) person per 2 square metres must be observed inside the church. Available seating must be clearly marked with signage to assist in maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 meters between people of other households.
- Confirmation for school-aged children remains temporarily suspended except for those in danger of death.
- Individual parishes may choose to celebrate the Rite of Christian Initiation with RCIA elect and candidates.
- In making preparations for the number of participants, the spacing requirements noted above must be taken into account. Consideration must also be given to ensuring there are no more than one hundred (100) people per single undivided space, and up to 300 people in total per venue over multiple spaces. (it is the presumption of the Archdiocese that a church building is classified as a single undivided space unless it has floor to ceiling moveable walls which completely isolate one space from another space).

Parish/school communities are strongly encouraged to work together in scheduling and celebrating sacraments, ensuring there is mutual benefit and a sense of community for candidates from both Catholic schools and the Parish Religious Education Program. Communication and collaboration is also required for local communities to make decisions about activities associated with the sacraments such as parent-child workshops and adult sacrament formation opportunities.

It is now possible for the Parish Religious Education Program to resume, with appropriate provisions made for physical distancing and cleaning regimes. Where the classes are held on Catholic school premises conversations between parish and school leaders would be needed to determine if and how classes may resume.

The Catechist Service Team is available to provide clarification for any of these matters as required.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB DD
Archbishop of Perth