

Thursday, 21 October 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers

### **COVID-19 Update for the Period Commencing 18 October**

As you may be aware, the COVID rules have changed as the state has met the 80% vaccination requirement. This means that public worship is now open to vaccinated and unvaccinated alike within the 4 square metre rule and with up to 10 fully vaccinated singers able to perform.

However, vaccination requirements remain for funerals and weddings. While there is no cap on attendance if all are fully vaccinated, there are limits if any unvaccinated people are in attendance. The limits are 5 people for a wedding and 10 people for a funeral if any unvaccinated person is present. To clarify, this does not mean that you can allow 5 or 10 unvaccinated people in addition to the vaccinated number. They are mutually exclusive rules. If you are organising weddings and funerals during this period, you and your senior leadership will have to modify your COVID plan to ensure that you are following the Public Health Orders by ascertaining the vaccination status of any attendees until 1 December (or other date as advised by NSW Health). Please be aware that the 4 square metre rule, mask wearing and social distancing still apply.

With regard to proof of vaccination, we are not asking for people to retain copies of the certificates as they contain private and sensitive information. We are asking that a responsible person has sighted the proof of full vaccination. This applies to employees and volunteers as well as congregants.

We hope that this helps in clarifying what restrictions apply to places of worship at this stage.

Yours in Christ



Dr Murray Harvey  
**Bishop of Grafton**



The Ven. Tiffany Sparks  
**Diocesan Archdeacon**

