

**COVID-19 Update**  
**Monday 23 March 2020**

Dear Sisters and Brothers

On Sunday (Lent 4, 22 March) I, like you, did not worship in the usual way. Thank you to those who copied the Bishops in on letters written to parishes advising that all services had been suspended. I went to several virtual services and felt close to you all as members of Christ's body.

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced further restrictions and requirements for gatherings in which he spoke of churches closing. The Health Department's release advised as follows:

This would entail the temporary closure of registered and licensed clubs (excluding bottleshops attached to these venues), pubs, hotels (excluding accommodation), gyms, indoor sporting venues, cinemas, casinos, entertainment venues, restaurants and cafes (which will be restricted to take away and/or home delivery), *places of worship, weddings, funerals (other than very small groups with the 4sqm per person rule to apply).*

There have been some questions about the meaning of this directed into the Episcopal Office overnight. The General Secretary of the National Church is seeking clarification of the meaning of 'very small groups'. As soon as this advice is received, I will let you know.

There are a number of issues that are being considered by the Bishops and senior staff for life going forward in the Diocese which require careful thought and planning.

In this very stressful time you remain in my prayers for calm and reassurance in the love of Christ.

Peace and grace  
+Kay

**The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO | Archbishop**