

RETURNING TO CHURCH

Hello to our patient, caring, generous, longsuffering church family!

You will be well aware by now of the easing of restrictions on organised large gatherings as our state navigates its way out from a lengthy period of lockdown of people movement subsequent to the COVID-19 Pandemic. At Beaconsfield Baptist Church we will be following the requirements of the DHHS and the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Victoria (BUV). A brief summary from the BUV website is included at the end of this document and you can check ongoing updates from them on their [BUV Advice on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) link](#).

WHAT'S HAPPENING UP TO DECEMBER?

As we move to a "Covid Normal" existence, your church experience will look, feel and be different. So, for the present we are operating under the limit of 20 people attending a Religious Ceremony. More detail will roll out as we move along but here is a brief summary:-

- Maximum of 20 people at an indoor service.
 - Limited to 10 people in 2 groups.
 - The 2 groups must be at least 5 metres apart.
 - Physical Distancing of 1.5 metres within the groups must be observed.
 - Masks are compulsory unless you have a lawful exemption.
 - Worship and A/V teams are included in the 20 people.
 - Contact Details must be recorded.
 - No mingling before or after the service.

- The faith leader is not included in the 20 attendees.
- Singers and wind instrument players on the platform must be at least 5 meters from the congregation as they won't be masked.
- To refine our systems and processes and to provide the opportunity to train extra A/V and Broadcast volunteers, our first couple of services will have invited worshippers who do not have access to online streaming.

AND IN DECEMBER...

The next anticipated level is 40 Worshippers (subject to group distancing regulations). To accommodate more we will need to use our Auditorium and Multi Purpose Hall with internal live streaming as well as broadcasting to homes. As more information is released on the ongoing restrictions we will communicate and implement them. We will also ask for responses from those who will express an interest in attending in person and those who prefer to continue with their live streaming experience.

Outdoor Ceremonies would not enable us to live stream to those at home.

Please feel free to email any questions to me at seanmc3806@hotmail.com or call me on 0409352232.

Sean McMahon (Deacon for Property)

BUV Advice on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Third Step restrictions apply across all of Victoria from 11:59pm on Sunday 8th November. The same restrictions apply in regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

- **Outdoor religious gatherings** can be held near a place of worship with up to 50 people plus a faith leader.
- **Indoor religious gatherings** can be held with up to 10 people per group (plus a faith leader), and 20 people per facility.
- **Funerals:** 50 people (outdoors) and up to 20 people (indoors). This limit doesn't include infants under 12 months of age, or the people required to conduct the funeral.
- **Weddings** are limited to 10 people including the two witnesses. The couple, celebrant and photographer are not included in the 10-person cap.
- A wedding or funeral held in a private residence will be limited to the members of the household and up to two visitors, plus the people required to conduct the ceremony.
- **Ceremonies and services** can still be recorded or broadcast live from the place of worship for viewing online. Those who are necessary to conduct the ceremony can be on site to record and live stream services.
- **Essential public support services** continue to be open. Essential public support services include food banks, help for the homeless or other essential activities.
- **Pastoral visits/ Home and Prayer groups**
 - You can have up to two people visit you at home each day. Infants under 12 months are not included in this cap, and other dependents can also attend if they cannot be left unattended or cared for in another setting. The two people may be from different households and may visit separately. This replaces the household and single social bubbles.
 - It is strongly recommended that you wear a face mask and keep a record for contact tracing
- **Can I sing at a place of worship?** Yes, but small choirs or singers should only perform in well ventilated indoor settings and must be limited to a maximum of 5 singers or wind instrument players. Performers must be 2 meters apart and 5 meters from the audience. Singing outdoors is strongly recommended.