

Home Communion During COVID-19

General

The COVID pandemic has highlighted the need for good hygiene practices when administering home communion. The visit must follow distancing and hygiene rules in place at the time. It may not be required under Government pandemic restrictions that face coverings are required in private spaces. Each situation should be risk assessed. The pastoral visitor/eucharistic minister may consider wearing a face covering or keep a 1m social distance. They should wash hands/use hand sanitiser before and after the visit. Records of who conducts all pastoral visits with Home Communion must be kept. If a shortened liturgy is followed, a paper copy of the liturgy should be given to the communicant. This copy should be left behind and kept for future visits or disposed of into the waste bin.

Reserved Sacrament

Only take bread for a single visit at a time. Before the visit, while preparing the sacrament, the pastoral visitor or eucharistic minister should wash hands/use hand sanitiser and place the bread into a pyx (container) to be taken to the communicant's home. The pyx should first be washed. If a face covering is not used for the full duration of the visit, it is advised that prior to distribution of the bread that a face covering is used by the visitor. During the liturgy, the bread should be placed on a paten or plate and offered to the communicant. They should take the bread with their fingers and consume it. After the visit the pyx and paten (if used) should be washed before any further visits.

Lay Ministries Group – November 2021