



*Remain in my love  
Jn 15:9*

14 May 2020

To the Clergy, Pastoral Leaders and Parishes of the Diocese of Toowoomba

On 8 May 2020, the Queensland Government issued a 3 stage Roadmap to easing Queensland restrictions in regard to COVID-19. We are in Stage 1 now. Stage 2 commences on 12 June 2020.

**Given the preparation that is required, CHURCHES MAY NOT REOPEN for general Mass attendance until you have submitted a COVIDSafe Plan to me for approval.**

**When the Parish has its plan approved, we may be able to approve an earlier opening of Churches for other occasions (Private prayer, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament etc.).**

Please develop your COVIDSafe Plan, in consultation with your pastoral council, and in accordance with our diocesan guidelines, which are based on government regulations. You will receive them shortly. As Bishop and the chief diocesan governance "officer" held accountable by regulatory authorities, your plan needs to come to me for WHS approval.

In terms of numbers permitted at liturgies in the Church etc., we are going to have to be vigilant. There will be limited numbers and you will have to ensure physical distancing and rigorous hygiene and cleaning practices in your Parish.

Your response to this request is sought as a matter of urgency so please carefully work through the diocesan material, and prepare your Parish COVIDSafe Plan so I can assist you in the advance of opening our Churches.

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin

Bishop of Toowoomba

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