



St. Joseph' Parish Levin

Parish Policy and Plan Under the Red Traffic Light System

Introduction

Last Sunday, 23rd January, the whole of New Zealand went to the colour red of the Covid Traffic Light System. After receiving the letter from Cardinal John Dew, the Parish Pastoral Council convened and strategically planned our policy and strategic implementation.

Government's Covid 19 Protection Framework Guidelines for Places of Worship states that there will be limits to numbers of people in a gathering (Masses and liturgies).

- My Vaccine Pass Mass (Saturday 5:30PM and Sunday 9:30AM) are limited to 100 people.
- The Restricted Number Mass (Sunday 1PM), is limited to 25 people.

Booking System in Place

Because of the limit to the number of people able to attend Mass, booking system is in place. The different ways of booking are described below:

A. Online Booking

1. Please visit the website: www.stjosephlevin.com
2. Click the button for Sunday Mass Bookings
3. Click the button for the Mass you intend attend
4. Click RSVP.
5. Fill in the needed information.
6. Click agree with the policy.
7. Then click submit.
8. You will receive a confirmation in your email that your booking has been successful.

B. Telephone

You can also call the office number 06 210 2891 and leave a message for your booking. Please indicate the name/s of those who intend to attend, which Mass, and the contact details. This is for the confirmation of the booking.

C. Cellphone

In the same way, you can call or text Fr. Dennis in his mobile at 022 040 6399. Send or leave a message with the details needed: names and which Mass.

D. FB Chat

You can also go to our facebook page St. Joseph Catholic Parish Levin and send a chat message for your booking (name and which Mass)

Changes to the Policy

The usual hospitality (greeters, ushers, verifiers) will continue. Sanitizing hands is also essential as you come in. Coughing into your elbows is encouraged.

However, there are few changes to the way we do things in the Church (in both Mass and other gatherings).

1. ***Wearing mask is always a must*** except when receiving communion. Ministers and priests are also required to wear mask when serving/ministering. Priest can remove his mask when speaking. Lectors can remove their masks when reading.
2. ***1-metre physical distancing*** unless it is your bubble.
3. No singing.
4. Communion still to be served from the centre aisles then go back to the seat as usual.
5. Collection baskets will be in the foyer for your offerings as you enter in. Another opportunity is during communion. The baskets will be on front pew.
6. There will be no hospitality/after-Mass cuppa.
7. The Church double front doors will be opened after the Gloria for ventilation.
8. ***Friday Mass will now be a My Vaccine Pass Mass.*** Booking is not essential. Limit is 100.
9. Other Masses and Liturgy of the Word with Communion are Restricted Number Mass and also has to observe the policy.

Other Parish Gatherings

1. All parish groups are able to use the facility for their regular activities should they choose to carry on but must follow the above rules. Parish groups may serve food but people must be seated one meter apart and be served.

2. Bookings for birthday parties and weddings and other parish-unrelated/uninitiated gatherings will not be accepted/permitted.
3. For baptisms, the parents have to choose if the gathering is either My Vaccine Pass or Restricted Number gathering. The policy above must be observed.
4. For anointing, this can be requested and celebrated right after Mass.

This policy will be updated as soon as new developments from the Cardinal and the Ministry of Health are received.

It is possible that as the outbreak gathers speed, we will see a reduction in numbers at Masses because people are sick, close contacts or vulnerable because of age or health status.

Please do not come to Mass if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms. Please observe the rules around isolating.

Cardinal John Dew reminds that the ***dispensation from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass is still in place.***

We managed the many changes and challenges of last year, and we need to manage this new situation in a way which keeps every one safe.