

30th November 2021

Kia ora koutou katoa e te whanau, Greetings Parish Family

As we all know, Auckland and the rest of New Zealand will be transitioning into the Covid-19 Protection Framework (“traffic light system”) shortly after 29th November. This will enable us to reopen and gather once more as an inclusive and welcoming community of faith under certain conditions; either in limited numbers if vaccination certificates are not required, or in potentially unrestricted numbers if people present proof of vaccination in the form of the Government’s official ‘My Vaccine Pass.’

From the second Sunday of Advent - Sunday 5th December onwards - our Parish will be providing Masses/Liturgies. There will be Masses and Liturgies for people with a My Vaccine Pass and also for people without a pass to safely attend. In the Red alert setting services that require a My Vaccine Pass numbers will be limited to **100 attendees** (including all ministers) and services that do not require a My Vaccine Pass will be limited to **25 attendees** (including all ministers). Masks must be worn at all services in the Red setting regardless of the use of My Vaccine Pass.

A full schedule is being prepared and will be circulated very shortly through our Parish Newsletter, Website and Parish Facebook page. There will be a registration system in place for all Masses and liturgies. Parishioners are asked to select a day of the week when they will attend. Once selected, parishioners are required to stay with that day, until alert level settings change. Masses and liturgies will only be held on weekdays and Saturdays while New Zealand is at the Red alert setting. Sunday Masses will recommence once we reach the Orange alert setting.

In keeping with the New Zealand Catholic Bishops’ guidelines (I recommend you read their recently released Pastoral Letter: [*Living, Caring, Worshipping and Ministering in a Covid-19 World*](#)), those of you involved in public-facing liturgical/public ministries (such as ushers, readers, Eucharistic ministers, collectors, lay leaders of prayer, communion ministers to the sick and home visitation) will need to be fully vaccinated at vaccination-only Masses and when performing other work where vaccination is required. Please consider the vaccination status of those you are visiting, as well as any health conditions of your own that may make you more vulnerable to the health consequences of contracting Covid-19. To minimise the risk of transmission and infection, we will be requiring the use of masks, social distancing, communion only in the hand, no holy water for blessing and no shared hymn or other books.

On behalf of our Parish Team, I thank you all most sincerely for your prayerful support, great material generosity and patient forbearance in these challenging times. Our efforts to preserve our community from within our bubbles will bear rich fruit as we grow in faith together, as a listening, praying, servant community. As we begin our Advent journey to prepare for the birth of Jesus and the rebirth of our Parish Family, may our loving God bless us abundantly and keep us safe with Whanau, friends and loved ones this Christmas. May 2022 be a safer, healthier and far less restrictive year for us all.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Fr James Mulligan
PARISH PRIEST

Catholic Church Papakura

Saint
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A listening, praying, servant community

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