

## **ST MARY OF THE ANGELS TO REMAIN CLOSED FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE WEEKS**

A few days ago the New Zealand Catholic Bishops advised that with the move to a restricted Alert Level 2, following strict adherence to health and safety requirements of the Ministry of Health, churches could open for private prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Because of the gathering restriction of 10 people, public Masses will not commence again during this stage of Level 2. The Government will reconsider this restriction in two weeks.

The Parish Leadership Team has considered what is necessary for the St Mary of the Angels to open for private prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The health and safety requirements required by the Ministry of Health are complex and challenging. Some parishioners would need to be involved in ensuring compliance with cleaning and sanitisation, contact tracing, managing the restriction of no more than 10 people in the building and keeping people at a safe distance from one another. This would be a very significant undertaking and is not something that we should ask of parishioners. Therefore, St Mary of the Angels must remain closed.

We are disappointed that we are not yet able to open the church but our priority is to keep everyone safe. The need to protect and care for one another, especially those who are vulnerable, is foremost in our minds. Please phone or email the Parish Office if you would like to talk about this situation.

Prayerful good wishes,

Fr. Kevin Mowbray sm

Parish Priest,

St Mary of the Angels

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