



# Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

23 September 2020

Dear Fathers, Lay Pastoral Leaders, Chaplains, Principals, Archdiocesan Directors

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, the Prime Minister made the announcement that most of New Zealand would be returning to Alert Level One. After several weeks of being in Alert Level Two we are now able to return to the celebration of Sunday Masses. This means that because there are not the restrictions of having only one hundred people present that Sunday Masses, Requiem Masses and other gatherings are able to be held. I am sure I do not need to remind you of the need to keep the safety practices in place. Please continue to remind people of the need to stay safe and not to take any risks at all.

I remind you that after a discussion at the Council of Priests in July it was recommended that for now we continue with:

- Communion under one kind only, therefore no Precious Blood is to be distributed in the meantime
- No physical contact at the Sign of Peace but an acknowledgment of some nature
- Communion on the hand only (Some parishes have established the custom of Communion on the tongue, if those receiving on tongue come up last in the queue for Holy Communion – this may continue)

I am very aware that the plans many of you have made in your parishes for the celebrations of Confirmation and First Eucharist have had to be changed a number of times and I know that has not been easy. While normally we do not celebrate these two Sacraments in the one ceremony you may like to think of doing that this year.

With all good wishes and every blessing.

Yours sincerely in the Lord

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John A. Cardinal Dew'.

John A Cardinal Dew

Archbishop of Wellington

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