

**Saint Francis Xavier Church
Cnr Whitehorse & Dorking Rds
Box Hill VIC 3128**



**Saint Clare Church
138 Woodhouse Grove
Box Hill North VIC 3129**

1 October 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The Archdiocese released updated guidelines for the Covid-Safe operation of Melbourne Parishes last Monday and it has been a hectic time this week for parish staff as we reconfigure our services to conform to the next stage of the State Roadmap.

The Live streamed Mass with a skeleton staff indoors will continue each day and will be accessible on our www.facebook.com/GBHparish. In addition to the online Mass each day, starting this Saturday morning Fr Jossy and I will celebrate **Mass al Fresco** for people who book in with *SignUpGenius* . www.signupgenius.com/go/904084ba4a92fa5fc1-mass1. These outdoor Masses will be on the Sacristy porch at SFX and under the *Porte-Cochere* at St Clare's.

The times of these extra Masses are listed in this week's bulletin and on the sign up page. We are limited to five registered attendees at a time. These Masses will be simple in style. There will be no singing or processions. No-one has been able to explain how we can stop people from passing by but any unregistered person loitering at such a Mass might be liable for a fine.

Notable in the Diocesan update is the Archbishop's stipulation regarding receiving Holy Communion and this is to apply at both outdoor and indoor Masses.

As a provisional measure for the time-being only, the Archbishop asks that Communion be distributed in the hand only (and not directly on the tongue), as a precautionary step to protect against COVID-19. This is not done lightly, because in normal circumstances the Church in Australia does not limit reception of the Sacrament to one way or another. **This is not a permanent situation, and will be reviewed at each significant change in the Victorian Roadmap. The Archbishop will lift this requirement at the earliest opportunity.** Catholics who do not feel able to receive the Sacrament in this way due to personal devotion or piety are to be respectfully encouraged to make a spiritual communion.

The Distribution of Holy Communion:

The Priest or (minister):

- Sanitises hands before beginning distribution
- Wears a mask throughout distribution
- Each communicant comes forward to a place approximately 1.5 metres away
- Exchanges the dialogue, while both wearing their masks
- Places the host slightly above the outstretched and flat hands of the communicant
- Waits until the communicant has moved away before calling forth the next person
- Sanitises hands after completing distribution

The Communicant:

- Required distancing between communicants is maintained in the queue.
- Wears a mask.
- Sanitises hands at a dispensing station before coming to receive Communion.

Greater Box Hill Parish

St Francis Xavier & St Clare Parish Office
1087 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill VIC 3128 Australia
Telephone: (03) 9401 6371 Email: boxhill@cam.org.au

- Engages in the dialogue and receives the host in the hand, while wearing the mask.
- Steps several metres to the side, and away from the priest.
- Removes one side of the mask to place the Host in their mouth with the other hand.
- Re-positions the mask.
- Returns to their seat via a different pathway.

Some fine work by our maintenance manager, Malcom Bibby, has seen the construction of an outdoor confessional on the East Side porch at SFX. We will resume Reconciliation this Saturday at 4pm. The area will be sign posted, reminding everyone that it is important to maintain social distancing and to wear a mask at all times while attending for Reconciliation.

The Catholic Development Fund are currently working to simplify the CDF-Pay Parish Portal for online giving, so as to enable participation in special collections and one-off donations, to select weekly and fortnightly giving in addition to the monthly option, for people should they wish, to give anonymously, to navigate the payment process more easily and to see our parish name appear on their bank statement.

Finally, a word of thanks for the great work that our Parish Seniors Advocate, Colleen Kelly has been doing. Her sterling devotion in liaising with carers and service providers on behalf of our parishioners has been most valuable at a time like this. She herself has observed the marvelous benefit to isolated parishioners from our telephone contact teams and bulletin deliverers. Thank you for everything you do to brighten the day of those around you.

Yours in Jesus Christ,



Fr Tony Kerin EV PP
Parish Priest

Important Links and Direct Deposit Account details are:

Church: Name: Parish of Box Hill **Church Account BSB: 083-347 Acct No: 662202656**

Presbytery: Name: Parish of Box Hill **Presbytery Account BSB: 083-347 Acct No: 837114640**

You can also contribute via CDFPay via this link - [CDFpay for Greater Box Hill Parish](#).

Parish *Facebook* page <https://www.facebook.com/GBHparish>.

YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF7pNUOT1tfuoz6Fu3VwPvg>

Parish **ZoomRoom**: <https://zoom.us/j/2886463871> open Friday 5pm for Friday drinks and Sunday at 11.10am for virtual morning tea.

Correspondence to Parish Office

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