

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



Saint Clare Church
138 Woodhouse Grove
Box Hill North VIC 3129

16 December 2021

Dear Parishioners,

The necessity to check vaccination status for our Church Services no longer applies and this will make a significant difference from this weekend. There are now no attendance or capacity limits on participants at places of worship for weddings, funerals, and general worship – including the opening of Churches for private prayer. It will still be necessary to ask people to check-in or be checked in with the Quick Response Code using the Services Victoria App.

There are 11,500 active cases of Covid19 in the community and we must expect to be visited by the virus in coming months. How we manage this event when it comes will depend on the swiftness with which we identify and isolate those who have had such contact. In the meantime, I believe our covid safety plan and sanitizing regimen will stand us in good stead.

I can appreciate that those immuno-compromised and or unvaccinated will be reticent to attend gatherings of crowds as these are particularly dangerous to them. Our Archbishop reminded us, “all Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays”.

The extensive and diverse timetable of Masses over the Christmas weekend hopefully will encourage smaller congregations with better prospects for social distancing. Face coverings (masks) are no longer required to be worn at weddings, funerals, or worship services. Face coverings continue to be required indoors in limited high-risk settings including retail, health care and aged care.

It is recommended that face coverings be worn if you are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19. We also recommend that face coverings be worn when social distancing is not possible.

Please note that other activities outside of usual worship activities, particularly those that involve hospitality, eg. Morning tea in the Friars Room, will require full vaccination for participation and will entail not just QR code check-ins but verifying vaccination status to our Covid Marshals.

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

Tonight at 8.30pm – 10.30pm Melbourne time (10.30am Rome Time) you are invited to the [WOMEN IN SYNODALITY](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88541258972) webinar on Zoom [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/88541258972](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88541258972). Sponsored by the Australian Embassy to the Holy See, Georgetown University and La Civiltà Cattolica, this event will be conducted in English and it features the key women working at the Synod of Bishops; Sr Natalie Becquart XMCJ, Sr Patricia Murray IBVM, Dr Myriam Wijlens, Prof. Susan Pascoe AM from Melbourne, and Sr Beatrice Faye CIC.

Please stay safe and take care.

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/c/GreaterBoxHillParish>

Correspondence to Parish Office

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