

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

## **OUR LADY OF THE BAYS, PARISH MASS GUIDELINES UNDER THE COVID 19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK, “TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM”**

Dear Parishioners,

It has been announced by the Prime Minister that the “**traffic light system**” will be introduced across the country effective from **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021**. It is anticipated that our region will open at “**orange**.”

The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference has endorsed the “traffic light” system proposed by the government and have agreed to follow the government guidelines for vaccine passports. Where possible, the NZCBC has also asked parishes to provide Sunday mass options that might include unvaccinated parishioners.

Therefore, the following measures will apply for Our Lady of the Bays Parish from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021:

### SUNDAY MASSES WITH **UNLIMITED NUMBERS** PERMITTED TO ATTEND:

- **Richmond Sunday 9.30am mass**
- **Motueka Sunday 9.30am mass**
  - **Proof of vaccination** is **required** to attend. (printed or on phone)
  - Mass registration via the ADW website **not required**.
  - 1m social distancing **not required**.
  - Mask wearing encouraged

SATURDAY VIGIL/SUNDAY MASSES WITH **RESTRICTED NUMBERS** i.e., limited to 50 people:

- **Motueka Saturday 5pm Vigil mass**
- **Wakefield Sunday 8.00am mass**
- **Takaka Sunday 5pm mass**
  - **Proof of vaccination** is **NOT required** to attend.
  - Mass registration via the ADW website **required**.
  - 1m social distancing **required**.
  - Mask wearing **required**

WEEKDAY MASSES WITH **RESTRICTED NUMBERS** i.e. limited to 50 people:

- **Richmond, Wednesday/Friday 9.30am mass**
  - **Motueka, Tuesday/Thursday 9.30am mass**
    - **Proof of vaccination is NOT required to attend.**
    - Mass registration via the ADW website **not required**.
    - 1m social distancing **required**.
    - Mask wearing **required**
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- **Waimea West monthly Saturday 5.00pm mass:** Masses celebrated at this venue will be reviewed in the new year.
- **All people involved (including priests), in parish ministries (regardless of which mass they are attending) are required to be vaccinated. Your ministry coordinator will be in contact with you to confirm.** The only exceptions are cleaners, those arranging flowers, counters and those writing prayers of the faithful.
- **The above measures also apply to church gatherings/celebrations/hall hire on church property outside of mass such as baptisms/funerals/meetings etc.**

We are very aware that our region is a draw card over summer. As well as the above measures, it is imperative we continue with the current safety measures which have helped our region remain relatively unscathed by the pandemic. These measures include **scanning** or **signing-in** to the church before each Mass, hand sanitizing, wearing of masks prior to being seated, communion under one kind only (precious body of Christ), no Sign of Peace, no singing, no holy water.

All parishes throughout New Zealand have received a Pastoral letter from the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference outlining the reasoning for the above guidelines. This pastoral letter has been uploaded to the Parish website.

Thank you for your efforts in keeping all of us safe over these past months. We will continue to keep you updated as further information comes to hand.

God Bless, Fr Seph Pijfers  
Parish Priest, Our Lady of the Bays