



Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

15 February 2021

To: Clergy of the Archdiocese
Lay Pastoral Leaders
College and Primary Principals
All Staff of the Archdiocese of Wellington
All Religious Orders

Dear All

Alert Level 2

Now that we are in Alert Level 2 until Thursday, we need to play our part in keeping the community safe.

Under Alert Level 2 gatherings are restricted to 100 people with appropriate social distancing. We know that for some of our churches, the need to social distance will mean far fewer than 100 people can be accommodated. Contact tracing and social distancing requirements would need to be put in place, and some way of limiting numbers.

As the Alert Level change is, at this stage, only for three days, until further notice we will follow the same procedure as we did when we were last in Level 2:

- There are to be no Masses or other liturgical events or parish gatherings in the Archdiocese. This includes weekday Masses. The Ministry Formation Day planned for Tuesday 16 February will not go ahead.
- There are to be no Ash Wednesday Masses or liturgies in our churches. If your parish planned to participate in an ecumenical service in one of your parish's churches, it is not to take place in that venue. If the other denominations participating wish to go ahead with an ecumenical service in their church, Catholics are free to make their own decision about joining them.
- If the Alert Level changes back to Level 1 on Wednesday night, we will look at having the blessing and distribution of the ashes at Masses next Sunday.

In the meantime, it may be helpful if you are able to get a message out to your parishioners to encourage them to do something at home to mark Ash Wednesday, to pray with the Scriptures and find ways to mark the beginning of Lent in their homes.

With all good wishes and every blessing

Yours sincerely in the Lord

John A Cardinal Dew
Archbishop of Wellington

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